CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 202
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5010 • FAX: (808) 768-5011

ANN H. KOBAYASHI
COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT 5
CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5005
FAX: (808) 768-1227
EMAIL: akobayashi@honolulu.gov

MEMORANDUM

Date: November 12, 2010

To: Council Administration

From: Councilmember Ann Kobayashi

Subject: Trip to the City of Portland to study their homeless prevention efforts and sidewalk ordinance.

From October 25, 2010 to October 27, 2010, we were very fortunate to be able to travel to the City of Portland, Oregon to meet with stakeholders of Portland's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness and City officials. Our trip allowed us to extensively study the community's homelessness prevention efforts and examine how the City of Portland enforces its sidewalk ordinance. Commissioner Nick Fish, City Commissioner-in-charge of the Portland Housing Bureau, was kind enough to organize an itinerary for us. During each session block we met with various municipal employees, City attorneys and nonprofit directors to discuss supportive housing projects, funding, client coordination initiatives, and Portland's sidewalk ordinance. Our site visit included a tour of the downtown area to demonstrate how Portland's sidewalk ordinance is implemented.

Attached are brief highlights and findings of our travel to the City of Portland, Oregon to study their City's initiatives to handle and end homelessness.

Please feel free to call me or my Senior Advisor, Michele Sansone, if you have any further questions.

Thank you.

1. **Highlights of Introduction Session with Commissioner Nick Fish**

During this session, City Commissioner Nick Fish provided an overview of the City of Portland's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness. He stated that in 2004, the City of Portland and surrounding counties approved the ten year plan. The plan calls for prevention of homelessness for all homeless populations, creation of new permanent housing, and providing supportive services to those who need them to maintain a sustainable lifestyle. Last year, the City budgeted a quarter of a billion dollars towards permanent, supportive housing and other initiatives related to homelessness. The City of Portland contracts with various non-profits to build or maintain supportive housing.

Commissioner Fish listed three key elements that have contributed towards the success of Portland's homeless plan. 1). Unique collaboration with all interested stakeholders; 2). Innovative non-profit commitment; 3). The implementation of an innovation tax increment financing system (TIF) to help local dollars fund housing.

In closing, Commissioner Fish described the City's new One-Stop Clinic for the homeless. This city project cost $50 million dollars and is scheduled to be opened in the coming months. The One-Stop Clinic will serve to be a central service center for all persons from all the different populations of homelessness. The clinic will feature employment assistance, housing assistance, youth building programs, shelter, health centers, hygiene amenities, educational tools, etc.

2. **Highlights of Educational Session**

During this session, various City officials and non-profit directors provided information about the various policies, programs, and legislation involved in the City of Portland's homeless prevention plan.

Sally Erickson of the Portland Housing Bureau detailed the funding policy of the plan. She said that since the inception of the ten year plan, 30% of the tax increment financing system (TIF) is annually set aside by the City Council by policy. These funds are invested into housing and other capital construction related to homeless projects and programs. By policy, the City Council also sets aside $120 million in General Fund annually. After appropriation, an advisory committee from each urban renewal district decides how the funds are spent. The City of Portland and surrounding counties are currently in the process of developing a new, centralized advisory committee to oversee all spending decisions.

Dave Woboril, City Attorney for the City of Portland, spoke of how Portland implements and enforces their sidewalk ordinance. Honolulu's newly passed sidewalk law is closely modeled after Portland's version. Mr. Woboril explained that initially the biggest concern from Portland's City Administration was the

funding of the legislation. He explained that city engineers worried about the cost of implementing the regulations and surveying the boundaries of the pedestrian use zone to make it strong enough to withstand potential lawsuits. In this discussion, it was extremely encouraging to know that Portland officials had eventually agreed that the implementation of the law should be predicated on the principal to protect pedestrians. He stated that Portland's police officers have been trained to take an eyeball approach and use their best discretion to determine when someone is obviously regulating the provisions of the ordinance. Further, Mr. Woboril said that Portland only had to survey certain hot spots, and that Honolulu should take the same approach as it is cost effective.

3. **Tour of Downtown Portland's Sidewalks**

During this tour, Officer Friedman kindly accompanied us to certain hot spots or heavily used sidewalks within the downtown area. During the walk, Officer Friedman demonstrated how police officers determine where property lines begin and how far the boundaries of the Pedestrian Use Zone extends to. He stated that many officers use measuring tapes to determine if someone is in compliant with the ordinance. He also stated that on many occasions, a simple verbal warning is all that is needed for someone to comply with the law and move. During this tour, we were able to see that the sidewalks were definitely clear and used strictly for pedestrian usage.

Form CCLTRVL03(06/07)
(revised 11/10)

City Council
City and County of Honolulu

CLAIM FOR TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Date: November 5, 2010

Traveler: Ann H. Kobayashi

Event: Discuss Sidewalk Ordinance with Portland City Officials in Efforts of Homeless Prevention

Location: Portland, Oregon

Dates: From October 24, 2010 To October 27, 2010

Description	Amount	Notes:
1. Registration Fee		
2. Airfare	$464.00	Depart: 10/24/10/Return: 10/27/10
3. Hotel	$305.54	
4. Meals	$ 30.70	Charged to hotel room - see attached room receipt
5. Ground Transportation	$ 72.00	Receipt attached
6. Tips		
7. Other	$ 58.43	Appreciation tokens from Hawaii-receipt attached
Other		
Other		
8. Adjustment		
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT	930.67	

This is to certify that the above data, based upon receipts submitted to Council Administrative Support Services via a CCLTRVL02 form, is accurate. Further, I am claiming reimbursement for expenses associated with a trip in which City business was conducted and personal funds were used to advance payment:

Ann Kobayashi
Signature of Traveler

November 5, 2010
Date