



Commissioner Nick Fish
City of Portland

To: Stakeholders of PDC and BHCD

From: Nick Fish

Re: New City Bureau of Housing

Date: January 16, 2009

Three weeks ago, Mayor Adams and I announced the creation of a new City of Portland Housing Bureau. Last week, Portland City Council approved the ordinance formalizing the creation of the new bureau. We will present a transition plan and implementation timeline to Council by the end of February, 2009. The Council provided me with authority for governing the transition process, and I will be the Commissioner in charge of the new Portland Housing Bureau. We intend to have the new bureau up and running on July 1, 2009.

The new bureau will be a combination of the housing personnel of the Bureau of Housing and Community Development (BHCD) and the Portland Development Commission (PDC). We have a tremendous opportunity here. When the policies, programs, and human and fiscal resources of the two bureaus are aligned, we will be ready to carry out an ambitious housing agenda, securing Portland's reputation as America's most livable city. Our agenda includes:

- Ending chronic homelessness;
- Protecting our most vulnerable residents;
- Preserving and expanding our affordable housing supply;
- Assuring housing stability;
- Promoting homeownership; and,
- Connecting our investments in housing to other strategies that support families and schools throughout Portland.

This is an ambitious list. It illustrates, in a very concrete way, why Portland's prosperity depends on the work we will do together.

Open communication is key to the success of the new Portland Housing Bureau. I will communicate with you through this newsletter, a new blog and website, and meetings with staff and the community.

Today, I have three very important pieces of information:

- 1) **Staff contacts.** Staff contacts at PDC and BHCD remain the same for the near future. As new roles are identified, new contact information will be shared with the public.
- 2) **Budget process.** The 2009 budget process (for FY 2010-2011) will remain the same for both BHCD and PDC. We will create a new budget process for the new bureau after July 1, 2009. For more information on the budget process already underway, please go to www.portlandonline.com/omf/index.cfm?c=26061. Staffs of both bureaus are doubling efforts to ensure an efficient and effective budget process.
- 3) **Pending projects.** We have tasked key staff members with moving pending projects forward as planned.

BHCD and PDC have many things in common. Both organizations have strong traditions of community involvement, out-of-the-box thinking, and working to the highest professional standards. I intend to build on these strengths as together we serve the housing needs of our community,

Sincerely,



Nick Fish
Housing Commissioner

P.S. As we continue on this transition together, please tell me what information you need to hear, and send me your questions and concerns. Your input is important to me. Please contact me at nick@ci.portland.or.us.