PHB Budget Session Remarks April 4, 2011

Good Afternoon.

I'm proud to submit to you PHB's budget requests, our second presentation since the creation of the new bureau last year.

I want to thank Director Margaret Van Vliet and her team for their terrific work.

I also want to thank each of you for your continued support as we continue to weather this historic economic storm.

One of the lessons of this recession is that we have little control over the feeders that contribute to homelessness and economic insecurity.

The collapse of the housing market, the broken mental health care system, the subprime mortgage scandal, and cuts to federal and state budgets that fund critical services did not originate in Portland and won't be solved in Portland.

But we can continue to invest in long-term, cost-effective programs to help our community through this storm.

I am grateful that we live in a community that values and supports our work.

And that I serve on a Council that has made significant investments in safety-net programs during this recession.

Today, we are continuing to build upon our past successes while confronting new challenges.

PHB Director, Margaret VanVliet and her team are building a strong bureau and, together with our community partners, we are making solid progress to achieving our long-term goals.

At the same time, our challenges are only getting bigger. We face a rising tide of need at a time of declining resources.

And the biggest threat on the horizon is the socalled TIF cliff, which combined with projected reductions in federal funding, will limit our capacity to respond to this crisis.

The budget Margaret will present to you today reflects these harsh realities and explains how PHB plans to meet these challenges.

I look forward to our conversation today.

Thanks again for your support.