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May 27, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Portland City Council to Honor Bill Schonely

Council to urge NBA Hall of Fame to induct “the voice of the Portland Trail Blazers”

Portland, OR -- The Portland City Council will hear a resolution on Wednesday, May 28 urging the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame to honor Bill Schonely with the Curt Gowdy Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the game of basketball during his nearly 30 years as the voice of the Portland Trail Blazers.

Mr. Schonely and other Trail Blazers alumni will be in attendance in celebration of a career that spanned 2,522 Trail Blazers basketball games, which measured in real time amounts to 6 years, 332 days that Mr. Schonely spent courtside as the link between the Trail Blazers and their fans.

“Coining the term ‘Rip City’ is certainly something that most people identify with Mr. Schonely,” said Commissioner Randy Leonard, “But my favorite Bill Schonely-ism is when he described a slam dunk as ‘climbing the Golden Staircase.’ The imagery he used and his energy were a big part of truly experiencing a Blazers game.”

The resolution will be heard by the City Council beginning at 9:45 AM on May 28.

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