



CITY OF PORTLAND

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & FINANCE, Kenneth L. Rust, Chief Administrative Officer
BUREAU OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY, Susan Anderson, Director

DATE: September 2, 2009
TO: Mayor Sam Adams
FROM: Ken Rust, Chief Administrative Officer & Susan Anderson, Director of the Bureau of Planning & Sustainability

FOR MAYOR'S OFFICE USE ONLY

Reviewed by Bureau Liaison _____

SUBJECT: Adopt the Youth Engagement Manual and PDXyouth as the primary tools to engage and support the role of children and youth in the decision making processes of the City – a key strategy of implementing Our Bill of Rights: Children + Youth. (Resolution)

- 1. INTENDED THURSDAY FILING DATE:** Sept 10, 2009
- 2. REQUESTED COUNCIL AGENDA DATE:** Sept 21, 2009, special City/County session
- 3. CONTACT NAME & NUMBER:** Laurel Butman (503) 823-6806
- 4. PLACE ON:** ___ CONSENT XX REGULAR
- 5. BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT ATTACHED:** ___ Y ___ N XX N/A
- 6. (3) ORIGINAL COPIES OF CONTRACTS APPROVED AS TO FORM:** ___ Y ___ N XX N/A

7. BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS

The City of Portland is committed to youth involvement in local government. On August 9, 2006, City Council adopted *Our Bill of Rights: Children + Youth* and pledged to seek new and innovative ways to continually engage children and youth, particularly in decisions that impact their lives. Multnomah County subsequently adopted *Our Bill of Rights: Children + Youth* on May 22, 2007. This was followed by the adoption of the report *Fostering Empowerment of Youth for Tomorrow, Filling in the Gaps of Services Today! on September 26, 2007* which committed City bureaus to identifying and improving youth engagement and involvement at various levels of local government.

This resolution is an important next step in the implementation of youth involvement at the City. The *Youth Engagement Manual* was created by youth in the Youth Planning Program in the Bureau of Planning & Sustainability. The purpose of the manual is to tangibly assist bureaus in engaging youth at various levels of involvement and decision making. Sections such as “I Want Youth Input/Voice in My Project” and “I Want to Hire Youth” walk bureaus through the process of best practice ideas for youth involvement. Written by youth, with input and editing from several bureaus, Youth Planners designed the *Youth Engagement Manual* to serve as a resource for anyone interested in how to conduct youth engagement effectively. The manual accompanying this memo is substantially similar to the final version, which is still being printed. Elected officials will receive a professionally bound copy at the Council session.

The second resource included in this resolution is a regional youth web portal called *PDXyouth*. Hosted on PortlandOnline, *PDXyouth* provides access, fosters involvement, and promotes youth voice in local government and the wider community. Goals of *PDXyouth* are as follows:

Access: To improve youth access to government services relevant to their lives by consolidating and providing links to resources in a format and language natural to youth.

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To help ensure equal access to programs, services and activities, the Office of Management & Finance will reasonably modify policies/procedures and provide auxiliary aids/services to persons with disabilities upon request.

Voice: To facilitate opportunities for youth opinions, concerns, and creative impulse to be heard and responded to by Portland's government.

Involvement: To involve youth in government by providing resources that facilitate direct communication with elected officials and City agencies, volunteerism, internships & jobs with government, events, and a participatory governance structure for the youth web portal.

By adopting this resolution, City Council affirms the City of Portland's commitment to youth involvement in local government and providing tangible tools to City staff and bureaus to facilitate this process.

8. FINANCIAL IMPACT

Costs for the *Youth Engagement Manual* and *PDXyouth* will largely be paid for out of existing service levels. Printing costs of \$10,000 for the *Youth Engagement Manual* have already been paid for out of the FY 2008-09 Youth Planning Program budget. Additional costs of \$500-\$1500 may be incurred in FY 2009-10 for training and promotional materials for the manual, which will be paid for by the Bureau of Planning & Sustainability's M&S budget, as well as through revenue generated from sale of the manual (organizations outside the City will be charged \$25 for hard copies of the *Youth Engagement Manual*). Staffing costs associated with *PDXyouth* have been incorporated into existing staffing levels at the Mayor's Office and the Office of Management and Finance.

9. RECOMMENDATION / ACTION REQUESTED

Adopt the *Youth Engagement Manual* and *PDXyouth*.