

RESOLUTION No.

Accept the *Portland-Multnomah County Public Safety Collaborative* report, the *River Public Safety Services Report* and direct actions for implementation. (Resolution)

WHEREAS, assuring that our citizens feel and are safe where they live, work and play is one of our most sacred responsibilities as government leaders; and

WHEREAS, increasing fiscal constraints and increasing service demands require that we strive harder to integrate city and county strategies and resources, because our public safety system is interconnected and we cannot afford to operate in parallel; and

WHEREAS, on September 14, 2005, Council adopted Resolution No. 36336 stating its intent to conduct a joint public safety planning and budgeting process with Multnomah County (County); and

WHEREAS, on November 9, 2005, the Council established the Public Safety Collaboration Project (Project) by adopting Ordinance 179736 authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement with the County and a Memorandum of Understanding with the Citizen Crime Commission; and adopting Ordinance No. 179737 authorizing a contract with the Public Strategies Group (PSG); and

WHEREAS, in December 2005 the City and County appointed a Project Sponsor Committee (Sponsors) made up of Mayor Potter, County Chair Linn, City Commissioner Adams, County Commissioner Cruz Walsh and Citizen Crime Commission members, Jim Jeddelloh and Greg Goodman; and

WHEREAS, as a first step in this process, the Sponsors, with the assistance of PSG, agreed to undertake the following activities: survey the community's public safety priorities; research best practices in public safety service delivery; identify gaps, duplications, and immediate opportunities for collaboration across the public safety system; and develop a strategy map for achieving priority public safety outcomes; and

WHEREAS, PSG successfully completed Phase I of the Collaborative effort with the completion of a report titled *Portland – Multnomah County Public Safety Collaborative*; the report identified four immediate areas of potential collaboration including Charters for the 1) a coordinated Homeland Security Grant proposal; 2) merger of the City and County emergency management functions; 3) service strategies for improving Westside Patrol activities; and 4) service strategies for improving river public safety services; and

WHEREAS, on May 10, 2006, Council authorized proceeding to Phase 2 of the Collaborative effort by adopting Ordinance No. 180126 amending the Intergovernmental Agreement with the County and adopting Ordinance No. 180127 amending the contract with PSG; and

WHEREAS, City Commissioner Adams and County Sheriff Giusto were designated Champions for the River Public Safety Services effort by the original Project Sponsors; and the Champions appointed the Charter Team (RS Team) including citizens, Brad Howton, Jim Butler and Marilyn Roach and representatives from public agencies involved with river safety including: Mark Herron and Monte Reiser from the County Sheriff's Office, Mike Leloff from the Portland Police Bureau, Mike Uskoski from the Portland Bureau of Fire and Rescue, and Mitch Cline from the US Coast Guard; and

WHEREAS, the RS Team conducted a thorough investigation of river public safety services in the County and elsewhere on the West Coast including discussions with recreational and commercial users of the Columbia and Willamette rivers; and

WHEREAS, the RS Team has prepared and published the *River Public Safety Services Report* which includes findings and recommendations for improvements to river public safety services including:

- Public jurisdictions providing safety services on the river are generally cooperative with each other;
- Some level of unnecessary service overlap and duplication exists, principally caused by a commitment to delivering adequate response to all calls in an environment providing insufficient triage/dispatch;
- Improved information relating specifically to the marine environment is necessary for the most effective dispatch and response;
- Distress and non-distress calls are not well differentiated;
- Performance and budget data are inconsistent, absent, and un-reliable as comparative or absolute measurement tools;
- Radio communications are complex and sometimes undependable due to the use of different radio channels and the lack of standard radio communication protocols by each agency;
- Command systems and operating protocols are not consistent between agencies;
- Education and community outreach programs are not well coordinated and do not share a common vision or goals;
- Potential opportunities for income enhancement have not been thoroughly investigated;
- There is no common forum for discussion of river safety issues or coordinated planning; and

WHEREAS, the RS Team makes the following recommendations to improve the delivery of public safety services in Multnomah County:

- Develop improved radio communication and standardized emergency dispatch methods for all public agencies providing public safety services on waterways in Multnomah County;
- Develop a unified reporting system that defines and collects data needed to effectively manage a coordinated river safety system and standardizes river safety workload, calls for service, and cost information;

- Establish a River Safety Policy Coordination Committee to jointly solve coordination problems as they occur and to address other river safety issues including but not limited to: a) joint, interagency river-related training for all agencies; b) a common public relations and information voice for all agencies; c) improved and coordinated water safety public education programs; and d) opportunities to initiate new fees to support river safety activities.
- Develop and adopt comprehensive operating protocols, consistent with federal and state requirements, for all agencies in the Multnomah County area that provide river public safety services;
- Periodically conduct a broad satisfaction survey of recreational and commercial users of waterways in Multnomah County;
- Involve independent contractors in non-distress responses under a well-defined permitting agreement;
- Implement Scenario One.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council accepts the *Portland-Multnomah County Public Safety Collaborative* Phase 1 report attached as Exhibit A, the *River Public Safety Services Report* attached as Exhibit B and directs all City bureaus involved with river public safety services to cooperate and participate in the implementation of certain recommendations included therein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council directs the Mayor and the Commissioner of Public Utilities to carry out the implementation of certain actions in the *Report*, including but not limited to the creation of an interagency and intergovernmental implementation team (to be identified as the River Public Safety Coordination Task Force) as outlined in the *Report*, and a Charter outlining the duties, roles, responsibilities, and specific milestones and timelines for completion of the Task Forces' work. The Mayor and Commissioner of Public Utilities shall report quarterly to the Council on the progress made by the Task Force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the following tasks and timelines shall be followed by the Mayor and Commissioner of Public Utilities to implement the following recommendations in the *Report*:

- 1) The River Public Safety Coordination Task Force (Task Force) shall be established no later than December 1, 2006 and shall hold its first meeting by no later than December 12, 2006. The Task Force shall include officials with decision-making authority from the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, the Portland Bureau of Emergency Communications, the Portland Bureau of Fire and Rescue, the United States Coast Guard, the Marine Board of Oregon, Port of Portland, and officials from the City of Gresham, Clark County and other jurisdictions providing river public safety services on the waterways in Multnomah County. The Task Force shall include two interested citizens (not employed in river public safety service) with knowledge and experience of river public safety service needs in Multnomah County. The Task Force shall fulfill the responsibilities designated to the Implementation Team and the River Safety Policy Coordination Committee as

identified in the *Report*. The Task Force shall be responsible to implement the recommendations put forth in this resolution and shall sunset on November 30, 2007;

- 2) The Task Force shall define an effective and reliable reporting system that defines and collects data needed to effectively manage a coordinated river safety services system by May 1, 2007. The coordinated reporting system shall be implemented by the river safety service providers on May 25, 2007;
- 3) The Task Force shall develop improved radio communication and standardized emergency dispatch methods for all public agencies providing public safety on waterways in Multnomah County by May 1, 2007. The improved dispatch methods shall be implemented by May 25, 2007;
- 4) The Task Force shall develop comprehensive operating protocols for all agencies in the Multnomah County area providing river public safety services. The Task Force shall consult appropriate legal counsel(s) to determine the appropriate method for the protocols to be adopted by the various jurisdictions operating under the protocols. Development of the protocols shall be initiated by April 1, 2007, completed by no later than September 2007 and adopted by November 30, 2007;
- 5) The Task Force shall develop a Request for Proposals to establish towing service from private tow assistance businesses for non-distress river calls. The Task Force shall recommend the RFP to the appropriate governmental jurisdiction for implementation. The RFP shall be complete by no later than June, 2007; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council extends its respect and appreciation to the members of the River Public Safety Charter Team for the many hours of work and the development of findings and recommendations which will lead to improved river public safety services for citizens and river users in this community.

Adopted by the Council,

Mayor Tom Potter
Commissioner Sam Adams
Prepared by: Jane Ames
October 3, 2006

GARY BLACKMER
Auditor of the City of Portland
By
Deputy