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CITY OF

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**PORTLAND, OREGON**

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OFFICE OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Contact: Mary Jo Markle  
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**Citizens Gain Seats at City Budget Making Table**  
Five non-voting Portlanders will participate in city-wide Budget Process

(Portland, OR) Portland City Council unanimously voted to create a City of Portland Citizen Budget Advisory Board in a Council session on Wednesday, November 9, 2005. Five Portland residents will be selected to: recommend programs, operations and policies; provide advice about budget and service issues; and assist Council in planning for the future. The citizen board will have a one year trial period ending December 2006.

Commissioner Adams began the effort for citizen participation in the city's budget process last spring when he lobbied the state legislature to amend an archaic statute that prevented the city from including citizens on the city budget committee. Answering Commissioner Adams' request that Portland be entitled to the same citizen participation every other city in Oregon has, on June 28, 2005, the state legislature passed House Bill 3441. This bill allows Portland to expand its budget committee to include citizens.

"The presence of citizens on the budget committee will prompt greater fiscal accountability," said Adams. "Citizens will have the opportunity to ask the questions that need to be asked about expenditures and financial assumptions in addition to adding diversity of thought and experience."

Citizens interested in serving on the Citizen Budget Advisory Board should go to Commissioner Adams' website at [www.commissionersam.com](http://www.commissionersam.com) or contact Mary Jo Markle at 503-823-1125 or [mjmarkle@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:mjmarkle@ci.portland.or.us).

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