



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(revised 12/31/09)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 6/3/2010
 Agenda Item #: R-5
 Est. Start Time: 9:50 AM

Agenda Title: PUBLIC HEARING and Consideration of a RESOLUTION Establishing Fees and Charges for Chapter 29, Building Regulations, of the Multnomah County Code and Repealing Resolution No. 2010-025.

Note: If Ordinance, Resolution, Order or Proclamation, provide exact title. For all other submissions, provide a clearly written title sufficient to describe the action requested.

Requested Meeting Date: June 3, 2010 **Amount of Time Needed:** 15 minutes
Department: Non-Departmental **Division:** Chair's Office
Contact(s): Denise Kleim, Senior Business Operations Manager, City of Portland, Bureau of Development Services
Phone: (503) 823-7338 **Ext.** _____ **I/O Address:** 299/5000/Kleim
Presenter(s): Denise Kleim

General Information

1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

Adopt resolution establishing fees and charges for MCC Chapter 29, Building Regulations and repealing Resolution No. 2010-025, effective July 1, 2010, to increase building, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, Facilities Permit Program, Field Issuance Remodel Program, hourly and miscellaneous inspection fees and zoning permit inspection fees in the area served by the City of Portland under intergovernmental agreement. All other fees are unchanged.

2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer this action affects and how it impacts the results.

The City of Portland provides plan review, permit issuance, and inspection services in certain areas of unincorporated Multnomah County under an IGA which stipulates that fees charged for those services must cover the full cost of their provision. The City of Portland is proposing an overall increase in fees of 8% beginning July 1, 2010 in order to reach full cost recovery as required by the IGA.

The fee increases are also necessary to enable BDS to weather the economic downturn. As the construction industry has declined over the last 1½ years, the bureau has experienced a sharp drop in

fee and permit revenues. In 2008 and 2009 BDS implemented a variety of cost-saving measures designed to help maintain cost recovery, safeguard the bureau's financial health, and maintain a high level of customer service. Despite these efforts, the bureau had to increasingly use its reserve fund to meet operating costs and was eventually compelled to lay off nearly ½ of its employees in order to remain financially viable.

In the succeeding months, it has become clear that permit revenues have fallen more dramatically than the workload. The economy has halted nearly all construction of large development projects, which cost more and hence yield higher permit fees. As a result of the staff cuts, BDS does not have sufficient personnel to meet its current workload, and revenues do not support either current staffing or increasing staffing. In addition, since revenues have remained low and other funding is not available, BDS will be cutting 17 additional staff positions by the end of May.

While the bureau recognizes the impact that fee increases have on its customers, particularly in the current economic climate, it has become evident that moderate fee increases will be necessary in order to provide financial stability and ensure an acceptable level of services to bureau customers.

3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).

The fee changes cover actual costs of services as required by the IGA.

4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.

Complies with ORS 294.160 and MCC Chapter 29.

5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.

The County is holding the public hearing as required under ORS 294.160.

Required Signature

**Elected Official or
Department/
Agency Director:** _____

Date: _____