

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Supporting the Housing)
Authority of Portland's Position on)
Proposed Federal Housing and Urban)
Development Budget)

RESOLUTION
94-101

WHEREAS, over 8,000 very low income households in Multnomah County depend on the Low Rent Public Housing and Section 8 programs for housing that is affordable, and

WHEREAS, these households make up 3.3 percent of the total households in Multnomah County, and

WHEREAS, the Housing Authority of Portland has well over 4,000 households on the waiting list for each of these programs, and

WHEREAS, 77 percent of the county's 41,000 very low income households who are renters pay over 30 percent of their monthly income in rent and many pay over 50 percent in the current tight rental market, and

WHEREAS, the proposed U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development budget for FY 1995 would:

(a) Reduce annual federal operating subsidies paid to the Housing Authority of Portland for operation and maintenance of its public housing units by 16 percent (\$750,000 per year),

(b) Reduce fees paid to the Housing Authority of Portland for administration of the Section 8 program (up to \$500,000 per year), and

(c) Lower by four percent the ceiling amounts on rent and utility subsidy payments to private Section 8 landlords; and

WHEREAS, Housing Authority efforts to improve productivity and limit the growth of personnel and other operating costs cannot be expected to offset the proposed reductions, and

WHEREAS, approval of proposed reductions in operating subsidies and fees would make the public housing stock in Multnomah County unmanageable, unmaintainable, a threat to the personal safety of its residents and neighbors, and a physical and social blight on the neighborhoods of which it is a part, and

WHEREAS, this would place a substantial additional burden on many local governments services, especially the police, and

WHEREAS, the reduction in Section 8 rent and utility payment ceilings could result in withdrawal of up to 60 percent of the units now available to the program, and

WHEREAS, this withdrawal would very substantially increase the concentration of poor households in the poorest of neighborhoods, and

WHEREAS, the above reductions are part of a proposed budget that contains additional \$1 billion in budget authority over the Department's FY 1994 budget and proposals for \$2.2 billion in new and expanded programs.

THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners go on record as:

(a) Reaffirming the importance of public housing and Section 8 programs as the foundation of the County's strategies for providing affordable housing for its low and very low income citizens, and

(b) Opposing the reductions in funding for these programs proposed in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development budget for FY 1995, and

(c) Strongly supporting:

1) Continued full funding of public housing operating subsidies, the public housing modernization (capital improvement) program, Section 8 Fair Market Rents, and Section 8 administrative fees; and

2) The funding of existing, proven programs at at least current levels, and

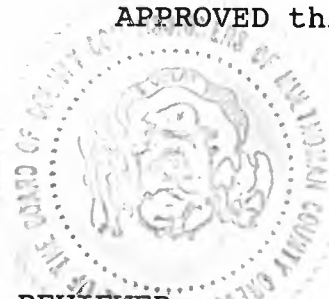
3) Efforts by the Housing Authority of Portland to both contain its operating costs and bring to the attention of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development the importance of reducing local operating costs driven by federal statutes and regulations.

APPROVED this 2nd day of June, 1994.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By


Beverly Stein
Multnomah County Chair


REVIEWED:
LAURENCE KRESSEL, COUNTY COUNSEL
for MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By