



**PORTLAND CITY COUNCIL, AFTERNOON SESSION
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2024**

Resolution 949: Declare support for Portland Diamond Project efforts to bring Major League Baseball to Portland and construct a new stadium in the South Waterfront neighborhood at Zidell Yards

Good afternoon Mayor Wheeler, Commissioners Gonzalez, Mapps, Rubio, and Ryan.

I am Andrew Hoan, President & CEO of the Portland Metro Chamber. The Chamber represents the largest and most diverse network of businesses in the region.

We are pleased to add the full support of the Portland Metro Chamber to this resolution to help bring a Major League Baseball team to Portland. We urge the city council to approve the resolution for the economic, cultural and social benefit that this project would bring to the entire Portland region.

As you may recall, the Chamber joined with Prosper Portland to present to this council an economic analysis of our Athletic, Outdoor, Team and Recreation Economy, called "[Oregon: The State of Sport](#)" report. This report calculated that among the three flagship cities of our state, Portland, Eugene and Bend, our sport economy generates \$29 billion in economic activity. In greater Portland, this translates to 45,000 jobs, with more half of those being family-wage jobs; and relative to the topic at hand, more than a third of total jobs in our sport economy are in major sporting events. If Oregon is indeed the global State of Sport, then Portland is its epicenter and global capital of the sport economy.

A future MLB stadium will reinforce and strengthen this position, and a team will create economic opportunity and civic pride, new jobs, community spaces, tax revenue, businesses and life not only to the city's urban core, but to the surrounding metro region.

Now is the time to make bold investments to transform Portland's future. With a ballpark in the heart of our Central City, we can build a sports and entertainment destination that drives development that will benefit everyone. With investments in

the OMSI district across the river, linked by the Tilikum Crossing bridge, I hope you can see a future where our waterfront is finally open to the public with major cultural attractions sitting astride our most beautiful and important asset, and what was the catalyst for our city, the Willamette River.

This council's leadership and collaboration are crucial to showing Major League Baseball that the entire city is behind this shared vision to make Portland better with baseball. And while you are being asked to support this resolution, it should be noted that it is because of each of you and your staff that we are in this position today. You continue to follow through on the tenants of our city's economic strategy, Advance Portland, and this is one more outcome from the execution of that plan. You have made Portland; 'Open for Business', and we thank you.

We urge you to vote yes on Resolution 949.