



**PORTLAND CITY COUNCIL, AFTERNOON SESSION
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2024**

Resolution 916: Adopt the Westside Urban Renewal Plan

Resolution 917: Direct the City Administrator to bring plans, amendments and review set aside policy in collaboration with Prosper Portland

Good afternoon Mayor Wheeler and 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.

I also am here to represent Downtown Portland Clean & Safe, who provides enhanced services within the 213-block Enhanced Service District in downtown Portland.

On behalf of both the Portland Metro Chamber and Downtown Portland Clean & Safe: we support the establishment of Urban Renewal Plans and Tax Incremental Finance Districts. We urge you to vote in favor of both these proposals.

Once again, I am here to say thank you to Prosper Portland and this council for the commitment and follow through on the recommendations from the Advance Portland Plan, adopted in early 2023. Since then, you have executed on the adoption of:

- Central City Business License Tax incentives for office leasing.
- Expanded Enterprise Zone in the Central City.
- Requirements for an Economic Impact Statements for new tax, fee increases and voter-initiated measures to provide transparency and competitiveness comparisons.
- Today – you’ll consider the creation of Tax Incremental Finance Districts and Urban Renewal Plans.
- Next week – you’ll consider the expansion of Downtown Portland Clean & Safe’s district.

The follow through and execution on Advance Portland has been excellent. These actions send the message that – Portland Is ‘Open for Business’. And we are thrilled to share this with our members, the regional employer community and beyond.

These policies, when paired with the city’s laser focus on livability concerns, are having an impact and we appreciate the work of this council and staff. Portland is turning the corner, and your actions continue to provide evidence of public-private partnerships that our communities need to thrive.

We offer one suggestion in resolution 917, related to the theme of public-private partnerships. This is specific to the role of Enhanced Service Districts when staff are formulating priorities on how to spend funds from the TIF districts.

Presently the language in the resolution indicates that the Central City Enhanced Services Districts will be ‘centered’ in those conversations. While that is appreciated – the language ‘centered’ leaves a lot of room for interpretation. As the Central City TIFs begin to disperse resources and make allocations, consultation with the three Enhanced Service Districts should be “required” not “centered”.

With this change, the future assets created by TIF districts in the Central City will be thoughtfully maintained when paired with the services of the ESDs. Far too often we create infrastructure and fail to maintain it. Let’s not repeat those mistakes.

Once again, thank you, and we urge you to approve resolutions 916 and 917 with our suggested changes.