



May 19, 2010

Mr. Scott Andrews, Chair &  
PDC Commissioners  
Portland Development Commission  
222 NW Fifth Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97209-3859

Dear Chairman Andrews and Members of the Commission:


Since my arrival at the University of Portland as Executive Vice President in 2002, and continuing after being named President in 2004, I have observed the work of the Portland Development Commission in keeping Portland one of the most economically vibrant and livable cities in the nation. It is now a privilege and pleasure to add the University of Portland's support to your N/NE Economic Development Initiative and proposed boundary adjustments to the Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Area (ICURA) to include the south side of N. Lombard Street and the St. Johns Town Center.

The North Portland Peninsula areas of St. Johns and University Park have been home to the University of Portland since its founding in 1901. The vitality and enrichment of this key area is of fundamental importance to us. Each year we share healthy and mutually beneficial interactions with many of our neighbors. More than 850 faculty and staff members work here, and the university has business interactions with roughly 2,400 local vendors while generating a regional economic impact in excess of \$169 million dollars annually.

Faculty and students work on, and gain experience from, nearby projects. All told, they contribute annually about 40,000 hours of volunteer time. Graduates of the university's schools of business, education, engineering, and nursing add to the level of trained professionals in the local economy. Faculty from the business school's Center for Entrepreneurship are working with St. Johns businessmen and women. On the cultural side, the public is invited to share in the rich intellectual milieu of music, drama, intercollegiate sports, conferences, and the host of activities provided on the campus.

We have, I think, an enviable blend of town and gown, and the University of Portland looks forward to working with the Portland Development Commission and the surrounding community on this important economic initiative. Please let me know whenever our assistance would be helpful.

Sincerely,

  
(Rev.) E. William Beauchamp, C.S.C.  
President

cc: Mr. Bruce Warner, PDC Executive Director