



Office of Mayor Ted Wheeler
City of Portland

May 2, 2024

TO: GTAC

CC: Julia Meier
Council Chiefs of Staff
Hayley Blonsley

FROM: Mayor Ted Wheeler
Commissioner Rene Gonzalez
Commissioner Mingus Mapps
Commissioner Carmen Rubio
Commissioner Dan Ryan

RE: City Council Response to GTAC Recommendations

Thank you for your thoughtful recommendations regarding new council office staffing, improvements to community engagement, and in-district offices. Council has responded to each item below:

Staffing for New Council Offices

Council shares your goal of equipping future elected leadership for success. That success will be facilitated by the various investments Council has made and will continue to make in the coming fiscal year: funding a staff member for each council member, robust onboarding and orientation, establishing a council operations team to support the legislative process, and more. The future Mayor and City Council will have the authority to identify or reprioritize funds for elected staff support in 2025.

Improvement to Community Engagement

The role and responsibilities of the Engagement Officer have yet to be defined, though it will likely include several elements you have highlighted within your recommendation: assessing

effectiveness of community engagement, implementing metrics for success, recommending funding packages for engagement work, integrating work with the other incoming Officer positions, embedding engagement throughout the organization, etc. The current Council echoes your eagerness to hire for this position in coming months.

It is our understanding that the Charter Transition Team recently identified a project manager to oversee each officer position process. Jamey Duhamel will lead the effort for the engagement officer work, creating a timeline and approach for community engagement for this role to guide the creation of a position description.

In-District Offices

Council agrees with your first and second recommendation to leave decisions regarding permanent in-district spaces to the future Council and the need for community engagement to inform the programming for those potential spaces.

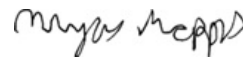
Per your third and fourth recommendation, the Division of Asset Management (DAM) has spent a considerable amount of time researching facilities options and brainstorming potential design programs. DAM recently provided a recommendation to Council to suspend the search for temporary in-district offices at this time, due to concerns regarding facility availability, citywide budget constraints, as well as concerns about the lack of community engagement informing the design program. Instead, DAM recommends that this project resume once the future Council is seated and are able to lead community engagement to inform the design program. The current Council finds this recommendation to be reasonable and are united in accepting the recommendation. The Mayor's office will bring an amendment to Resolution 37638 in coming weeks to remove the requirement that DAM identify and onboard temporary in-district offices by January 1, 2025.



Ted Wheeler
Mayor



Carmen Rubio
Commissioner



Mingus Mapps
Commissioner



Dan Ryan
Commissioner



Rene Gonzalez
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