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CITY OF

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**PORTLAND, OREGON**

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**Ted Wheeler, Mayor**  
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner  
Jo Ann Hardesty, Commissioner  
Chloe Eudaly, Commissioner

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March 18, 2020

Senator Arnie Roblan, Co-Chair  
Representative Paul Holvey, Co-Chair  
Joint Special Committee on Coronavirus Response  
900 Court Street, NE, Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chair Roblan, Co-Chair Holvey, and Members of the Committee,

We are facing unprecedented challenges and the City of Portland is committed to working with Governor Brown and the Oregon State Legislature to do everything in our collective abilities to provide support and resources to Oregonians impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially frontline communities and those that will be most affected by this pandemic. We are writing to urge the Joint Special Committee on Coronavirus Response to act swiftly to provide much needed public health support, housing and economic stability and immediate financial assistance for Oregonians significantly affected by COVID-19.

Addressing the urgent public health crisis and protecting the most vulnerable populations are critical. The lack of personal protective equipment (PPE) is alarming and we call upon the state and federal governments to do all they can to fill these troubling shortages. In addition to sufficient PPE, state assistance in helping to fund increased hygiene materials and services for people experiencing homelessness is vital to stemming the spread of the disease. Resources to increase and support additional congregate and individual shelter beds that allow for CDC-recommended minimums of social distancing will be an ongoing vital need as we work to “flatten the curve.”

The City of Portland and Multnomah County have both signed executive orders declaring a local moratorium on residential evictions for nonpayment of rent for those suffering losses of income due to COVID-19. We urge the Oregon Legislature to enact the same protections statewide. Families should not have to choose between providing food and paying their rent due to loss of income. We also call on the Legislature to allocate significant resources in emergency rental assistance to help keep people housed during this crisis.

Additionally, Oregon businesses will be severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially as social distancing is fully implemented in communities across the state. The City of Portland has a dedicated Economic Impact & Intervention Task Force and is taking actions to make resources available to affected businesses. We strongly support economic relief proposals, including direct resources to support small businesses, more flexible unemployment

insurance for employees impacted by COVID-19, expanded workforce development services, and increased childcare options for frontline workers.

State government, local governments, and all our respective communities must come together in unprecedented ways to support each other and prioritize frontline communities and those most impacted by COVID-19. As the pandemic persists, we need to continue being flexible and responsive to meet the urgent and wide-ranging needs of Oregonians. Thank you for your leadership to keep our communities safe in this uncertain time.

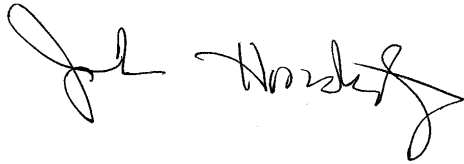
Sincerely,



Ted Wheeler  
Mayor



Amanda Fritz  
Commissioner



Jo Ann Hardesty  
Commissioner



Chloe Eudaly  
Commissioner