

From: Scott Cruickshank
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2019 3:27 PM
To: 'Randy Hauth' <randy.hauth@icloud.com>
Cc: Randy Tucker <Randy.Tucker@oregonmetro.gov>; MORRIS Eric <Eric.Morris@state.or.us>; JOHNSON Dacia <Dacia.Johnson@state.or.us>
Subject: RE: Follow Up

Re: House Bill 3431; Metro Statement of Intent

Dear Mr. Hauth:

As you know, Metro is currently supporting proposed legislation to exclude our enterprise-related visitor venues from the requirements of ORS 346.510-570. The Oregon Zoo, the Oregon Convention Center, the Portland Expo Center and the Portland's Centers for the Arts are facilities that heavily rely upon food and beverage revenues to cover operating costs and capital improvements. Metro's visitor venues provide both meaningful economic impact to our region and cultural enhancement to our community. Without the food and beverage revenues, these venues would not be able to keep their doors open.

While Metro must advocate for the health and survival of its visitor venues, we nonetheless understand and support the underlying intent of the existing statute to provide remunerative employment to blind persons. Since our April 17, 2019, meeting, I have been considering opportunities that may exist at the Metro venues for blind vendors. Although I had originally hoped to come up with a simple proposal that would meet both of our needs, the reality is that each Metro venue has its own unique business model -- i.e. none of our facilities have regular hours such as Monday through Friday, 9-5 p.m., and our visitor food/beverage needs vary depending on the event scheduled. To come up with meaningful business opportunities for blind individuals participating in the Business Enterprise Program at the Metro visitor venues, you and I both need to have a better shared understanding of each other's businesses to find a way for them to overlap successfully.

So although this letter does not provide you with a detailed offer, it is a written commitment that Metro will collaborate with you to find a pathway forward to provide remunerative employment to blind persons at our venues, anticipating the passage of HB 3431. In furtherance of this concept, when Metro reissues its Request for Proposals for an exclusive food and beverage operator at our venues, please be aware that we intend to include language specifically notifying all potential proposers that any final contract be subject to a future Metro agreement between Metro and the Commission for the Blind.

Metro looks forward to continuing conversations and discussions with you, and any other organizations that represent blind vendors participating in the Business Enterprise Program affected by HB 3431. I am confident that such conversations will ultimately allow us to structure a real agreement that would mutually serve both our respective needs.

Scott Cruickshank | General Manager
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