

HCR 5 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Melissa Leoni, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

In memoriam: James Alan “Jim” Meyer (1936-2021).

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

James Alan “Jim” Meyer was born on March 29, 1936, in Boston, Massachusetts, and he had just graduated from Harvard Business School in 1960 when he was offered a job with a Portland homebuilding company. Despite knowing only a little about Portland, Jim Meyer accepted the job. He and his wife Lora moved to the city with the intention of staying a year or two before settling back home in Boston, but those two years stretched to six decades.

Jim Meyer came to center his life on two foundations: his loving family and improving lives and creating opportunities in Portland and Oregon. He was a tireless problem solver and ardent supporter of Portland’s civic organizations, community causes, and cultural institutions, always quietly seeking ways to help its most vulnerable populations.

Jim Meyer touched a wide range of public issues and causes, serving over many decades on the boards of the Oregon Community Foundation, Portland Public Schools Foundation (now All Hands Raised), Northwest Health Foundation, and United Way, among others.

Jim Meyer was a founding board member of the Portland Parks Foundation, and he served the city and state in myriad ways, including sitting on Portland’s Civil Service Board and Charter Commission as well as Oregon’s Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

Jim Meyer served Portland’s Jewish community for more than five decades, providing leadership and mentorship, including a term as president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, which he served in various capacities over many years. Seeing the need to ensure the long-term financial viability of the institutions serving the Jewish community, Jim Meyer helped found the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation, serving as its second president.

Jim Meyer came to love Oregon’s outdoors, climbing Mt. Hood, fishing the Deschutes River, and rafting the John Day River. He was a longtime runner, long before high-tech running shoes, and he loved rooting for his sons at their Lincoln High School track and cross-country meets and later cheering for his grandchildren during their big moments.

Jim Meyer was a lover of Oregon wine and an early Portland Trail Blazers season ticket holder, and he delighted in evenings with Lora at the Oregon Symphony, Literary Arts, and Chamber Music Northwest.

HCR 5 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

More than anything, Jim Meyer loved the weekly Shabbat dinners he and Lora shared with family and friends, as well as getting away with Lora, his three children and their spouses and their eight grandchildren to Sunriver and the Oregon coast, where Jim relished watching the waves roll in and out.

Jim Meyer was a rock for his family and he is survived by his wife, Lora; his children and their spouses, Mark and Marcia Meyer, Tom and Shawn Fields-Meyer, and Richard and Erika Meyer; his brother and sister-in-law, Les Meyer and Marie Dalton-Meyer; and eight grandchildren.

When Jim Meyer died on October 23, 2021, Oregon lost a quiet giant. He left an indelible imprint on the state he loved and he led a life of leadership, service, and dedication to the most vulnerable populations. People across the City of Portland and the State of Oregon regularly sought Jim Meyer out for his counsel in moments of complexity and asked for his help in navigating important decisions. He was a trusted advisor to generations of leaders in Portland and Oregon. He served and gave with no expectation of reward or recognition, purely because he saw the need and felt a sense of duty. He was both a pillar of his community and a mensch.

A loving memorial to Jim Meyer was held on October 25, 2021, at Congregation Neveh Shalom in Portland.

House Concurrent Resolution 5 recognizes and honors James Alan “Jim” Meyer for his lifetime of leadership, service, and dedication.