DRAFT

April 26, 2017

RE: **Restore a second Mobile Playground van for East Portland in the Portland Parks & Recreation 2017-2018 BUDGET**

Dear Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners Eudaly, Fish, Fritz, and Saltzman,

The East Portland Action supports the letter of the East Portland Park Coalition asking that a proposal to cut the mobile playground program by 50 percent under PK-06 be modified. The East Portland Action Plan (EPAP) recommends that a second mobile playground van be restored in the budget and dedicated to East Portland.

The East Portland Action Plan (Action Plan) was adopted by the City of Portland and Multnomah County in 2009 to provide leadership and guidance to public agencies and other entities on how to strategically address community-identified issues and allocate resources to improve livability and prevent displacement in East Portland.

The East Portland Action Plan group (EPAP) is charged to advocate for Action Plan and the area identified as East Portland, which is comprised of 150,000 residents and 20% of the city's land area. East Portland has 26% of the city's population, 40% of the city's students, significant racial/ethnic/language diversity (schools with over 50% native language other than English), and has high rates of poverty (schools with 100% free or reduced lunch).

With 40 percent of the school-aged children living in East Portland, providing summer services that promote a healthy lifestyle and support community building is essential. In addition, all sites selected in East Portland qualify for free lunches with more than 50 percent of the children meeting the financial guidelines for free and reduced lunches.

The cost of another mobile van for East Portland is approximately $20,000. We urge that City Council members restore that item specifically to the 2017/2018 PP&R budget.

This request addresses the following Action Plan strategies and items:
To be added

Your considered action is appreciated,

Mustapha Finney   Arlene Kimura
                        Co-Chairs on Behalf of East Portland Action Plan