

March 9th 2015

Metro Council
600 Northeast Grand Avenue
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Council President Hughes and Councilors,

The Equity Strategy Advisory Committee (ESAC) commends you for supporting “ban the box.” Metro joins more than 60 jurisdictions around the country who have adopted similar policies in recognition of the fact that an estimated 1 in 4 adults have a criminal record that may show up on a routine pre-employment background check. By removing this conviction history question on job applications, Metro is supporting a policy that judges the candidates on their merits and is part of a broader effort necessary to ensure that, as a community, we acknowledge the importance of a fair and equal opportunity for all job applicants.

While ESAC recognizes and applauds this policy, we also look forward to a continued collective effort to ensure Metro’s values are reflected in its policies, practices, and programs.

Sincerely,

Carl Talton
Chair, Equity Strategy Advisory Committee

CC: Martha Bennett, COO