

RESOLUTION NO. 5378

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING LEGISLATION THAT WOULD RESTRICT OR CAP THE AMOUNT THE CITY OF ALBANY COLLECTS FOR ITS PARKS SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT CHARGE

WHEREAS, a sufficient supply of park and open space land is critical to maintaining and improving the high quality of life, livability, and standard of living enjoyed by the members of our community; and

WHEREAS, park and open spaces provide important opportunities for health-enhancing recreation for all ages, interaction with nature, and natural buffers between differing urban uses; and

WHEREAS, a well planned system of parks and open space not only has been proven to increase property values, but also are important factors in attracting new businesses and jobs to our community; and

WHEREAS, as our community grows in population, it is crucial to increase the amount of park and open space land to maintain levels of service for both existing and new residents; and

WHEREAS, system development charges (SDCs) have been used in Oregon since 1989 as the most significant revenue source for local governments in acquiring new park land and constructing new park and recreation facilities; and

WHEREAS, all SDCs are based upon detailed park master plans for the future that have been adopted by local elected officials after public hearings to receive input from community residents; and

WHEREAS, all SDCs are further based upon local analyses of projected population growth, increases in the number of households, and localized costs for real estate and construction; and

WHEREAS, opportunities currently exist for those who wish to challenge not only the analysis upon which any SDC is based, but also any expenditure made from SDC revenues; and

WHEREAS, statutory changes are being discussed by the 2007 Legislature which would place a cap on the amount that could be charged by any local government for existing park SDCs and new school SDCs; and

WHEREAS, such a cap would seriously frustrate the ability of park providers to achieve the objectives of their adopted park master plans and maintain service levels as population growth occurs; and

WHEREAS, a cap on park SDCs would force park providers to seek additional general obligation bond measures as the main alternative to maintaining service levels, and in so doing, causing existing property owners to unfairly pay for burdens imposed by new development; and

WHEREAS, a combined cap on park and school SDCS will not only create significant problems in collection and distribution of funds when multiple districts overlap, but also cause potential conflicts between park providers and school districts in the allocation of such funds; so therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Albany hereby opposes any legislation that would limit the ability of local elected officials to adopt a park system development charge based on park master plans unique to their own particular area and which are tied to estimates of population growth, along with the actual costs of local real estate, labor, and construction materials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Albany will communicate our opposition to such legislation to our elected Representatives and Senators, and urge them to vote against any bill that would limit the ability of local elected officials to adopt a park system development charge based on park master plans unique to their own particular area and which are tied to estimates of population growth, along with the actual costs of local real estate, labor, and construction materials.

DATED AND EFFECTIVE THIS 14th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2007.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk