

Statement
Matt Hennessee, Chairman
Portland Development Commission

It is with deep regret that I accept Don Mazziotti's resignation as Executive Director of the Portland Development Commission effective June 1, 2005. Under his leadership the Commission has been able to accomplish some incredible things. The agency has doubled its housing production goals, creating or rehabilitating more than 6,800 units. PDC has significantly increased its economic development activities and financial assistance, recruiting or retaining more than 6,500 jobs—one quarter of which were in small businesses.

In his four-year tenure we saw the completion major projects such as the Eastbank Esplanade, Airport MAX light rail, the emergence of the Pearl District and the Brewery Blocks as a vibrant new neighborhood and the beginnings of another new neighborhood and jobs center in the South Waterfront area. We saw the creation of two new urban renewal areas—Gateway and the Willamette Industrial URA and the extension of the Downtown Waterfront URA.

During the past four years, we have also seen great things happening in our neighborhood districts—from street paving and parks lighting in Lents to plans for a major new medical building in Gateway to a new light rail line in Interstate.

There are many, many more projects and programs for which Don deserves our recognition and appreciation. The Board is committed to seeing that this important work continues and will work with Mayor Potter to ensure a smooth and speedy transition. We feel confident that the PDC staff has the commitment, the financial resources, the skills and the talents to move forward. We will make certain that the right leadership is also in place.

Along with the other members of the Portland Development Commission, staff and administration of PDC, I wish Don all the best in his new endeavors and thank him for his years of service to PDC.