

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

Commissioner Nick Fish

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

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### **City Commissioner Nick Fish to Mark Successful Completion of the All-User Restroom Challenge**

This Thursday, Commissioner Nick Fish will celebrate the successful completion of the City of Portland's All-User Restroom Challenge.

He will thank community partners, including Portland's small business and advocacy communities, who participated in the All-User Restroom challenge. He will be joined by representatives from neighborhood businesses, Venture Portland, OHSU, New Seasons, Basic Rights Oregon, SMYRC, Multnomah County, and others who worked together to remove arbitrary barriers in our community.

**When: Thursday, December 21, 10:00 – 10:30 am**

**Where: OHSU Center for Health & Healing, Main Lobby  
(3303 SW Bond Ave, Portland, OR 97239)**

The City of Portland is committed to treating all people with respect and dignity, and to removing artificial barriers. On September 23, 2016, Commissioners Nick Fish and Amanda Fritz celebrated the successful conversion of 600 of the City's single-stall restrooms to all-user facilities. The policy was crafted with community partners, including Elders in Action, Multnomah County, SMYRC, Basic Rights Oregon, PHLUSH, and Disability Rights Oregon. These restrooms are now accessible to everyone in our community— older adults, parents with young children, people with personal attendants, and transgender people.

In April of this year, Commissioner Fish, joined by representatives from the Portland Business Alliance, the Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association, Business for a Better Portland, Venture Portland, our neighborhood business associations, and members of the community, challenged the private sector to convert more single-stall restrooms into All-User facilities than the City could. Recognizing that Portland's businesses don't need a mandate to

do the right thing, Commissioner Fish set an aspirational goal of converting 1000 individual single-stall restrooms.

Portlanders understand that when we remove arbitrary barriers, everyone wins. While the response to the All-User Challenge was very positive, not everyone submitted photographs of their converted restrooms. So the final number of restrooms converted may never be known. Regardless, Portland has demonstrated once again that it is a city where everyone is welcome.

More information can be found at [portlandoregon.gov/alluserchallenge](http://portlandoregon.gov/alluserchallenge).

## **Background**

On December 17, 2015, Commissioner Nick Fish introduced Resolution #37175, which affirmed the City's commitment to "removing barriers to a safe and inclusive workplace for employees, to creating spaces which are welcoming to all visitors, and to treating all people with respect and dignity." It was approved unanimously by City Council.

On June 1, 2016, Council adopted the new policy which applies to "City-controlled" buildings – those that are both owned and occupied by the City.

On September 23, 2016, Commissioners Nick Fish and Amanda Fritz celebrated the successful conversion of 600 single-stall restrooms in City facilities.

On Friday, April 7, 2017, Commissioner Nick Fish challenged businesses and building owners to convert more single-stall restrooms than the City of Portland, setting the aspirational goal of 1000 single-stall restrooms.

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