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May 13, 2009

Mayor Sam Adams
Commissioner Randy Leonard
Commissioner Dan Saltzman
Commissioner Nick Fish
Commissioner Amanda Fritz
Portland City Hall
1221 SW 4th Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

SUBJECT: University of Oregon Lease of Parking Area under Burnside Bridge

Dear Sirs and Madam:

Mercy Corps has very serious concerns about the current discussions between the City of Portland and the University of Oregon regarding a lease agreement and exclusive use of the parking area under the Burnside Bridge. Mercy Corps' access to this public parking space under the bridge adjacent to our headquarters has been and continues to be a critical issue for us, with nearly 150 employees relocating to our new site in September of this year.

We have openly discussed this issue with representatives of PDC, the Mayor's office, PBOT, the University of Oregon, and Venerable Partners. Our Development Agreement with PDC expressly notes their commitment to work with us to resolve parking in this space.

Recently, we were extremely disappointed to learn that City Council members and the University of Oregon have initiated--and nearly concluded--negotiations that would result in an exclusive lease to the University of Oregon of this parking space, apparently the result of the University of Oregon's negotiation with the city over the "Made in Oregon" sign. Mercy Corps was completely excluded from this process; we were not informed of any of the details. Is this the way the City of Portland works?

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As an adjacent property owner, Mercy Corps considers an exclusive lease arrangement between the City and the U of O as unacceptable. Given the enormous commitment we have made to this City and our repeated efforts to discuss this matter in good faith, I am very disappointed with the City's insistence to move forward with a deal that excludes us. I would like to have the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this matter and find a way to bring Mercy Corps' interest to the table.

I look forward to your soonest reply.

Very truly,

Stephen Mitchell
Chief Financial Officer
Mercy Corps

CC: Charles Wilhoite, Chairman, Portland Development Commission
Bruce Warner, PDC Executive Director