



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

Date: May 4, 2017

Dear PIR Promoters and Vendors

Portland International Raceway is a very important part of the Portland Parks & Recreation system. We are proud of the role that it plays in providing a variety of recreation options for the community and leveraging significant economic benefit for the region. The activities that you organize and support are fundamental to that overall public benefit.

Being a publicly owned facility comes with responsibilities to the community at large, and I am writing to you to let you know we need your partnership in addressing an issue of public concern. In the past year, many Portlanders have become more aware of potential hazardous materials in the environment, including lead in paint or the water supply, asbestos, and radon, among others. The increase in awareness comes from reporting in both the national and local press in response to situations where a lack of proactive measures and good communication could increase exposure.

Portland Parks & Recreation has several concurrent efforts underway to gather data, abate hazards, and communicate with the public about the presence of potential toxins in our public spaces and how the public can minimize their exposure. This [link](#) is to a page where the results of every one of our tests for lead in water is posted as the City works its way through the inventory of city facilities. Here is another [link](#) to a page detailing our testing and abatement of lead paint on playground equipment.

In the course of these efforts, community members who live near PIR have been seeking information about various non-residential uses, and through this they became aware that leaded fuel is legally used at PIR. In working with the community members and elected officials, we have committed to taking specific steps to ensure that PIR visitors and participants are aware that this use occurs, and to refer them to appropriate resources to learn more.

We are confident that PIR operates in a way that is safe for the public and, as noted above, provides tremendous value to the community. We are continuously improving our approach to providing responsible and safe venues for all Portlanders. Likewise, the motor sports industry is evolving as well, and fuels are safer and more efficient than ever. Community members understandably are interested in safeguards that will provide Portlanders and visitors the information they need to make informed choices about how and where to recreation.

Administration

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Sustaining a healthy park and recreation system to make Portland a great place to live, work

and play.



We have committed to several steps at PIR that we feel confident will address concerns about transparency and specifics. These include:

1. Beginning in 2017, we will collect information on the types and quantities of fuel sold on site at PIR
2. We will also require organizers to share information with their participants stating that leaded gas is used in vehicles at some events.
3. We will install signs throughout the grounds PIR stating that leaded gas is used in vehicles at some events.

In order to fulfill our commitment to ensure PIR participants have every opportunity to be aware of this legal use of leaded fuel, we require your help in sharing the enclosed FAQ with those who participate in your events. In our experience managing publicly owned facilities, trust is enhanced by providing people good information and letting them assess how significant it is to them based on credible sources.

Safety is our top priority at Portland Parks & Recreation and we continually strive to improve our ability to provide healthy and safe ways for Portlanders to have fun and play. We believe PIR's current operations are safe for the community and provide great services to a broad array of visitors and participants.

If you have any questions regarding the information or intention of this letter, please contact Matt Calhoun at 503-824-6175 (matt.calhoun@portlandoregon.gov) or me at 503-823-5103 (Eileen.argentina@portlandoregon.gov).

Thank you for your cooperation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eileen Argentina", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eileen Argentina, PP&R Recreation Services Manager