

Overlook Neighborhood Association

Christian Trejbal, Chair

chair@overlookneighborhood.org



April 9, 2019

Portland City Council
1221 SW 4th Ave.
Portland, OR 972014

Dear Mayor Wheeler & Commissioners Fish, Fritz, Eudaly and Hardesty:

The Overlook Neighborhood Association opposes closing Columbia Indoor Pool as specified in the Portland Parks & Recreation budget proposal.

We are very concerned that this proposed closure would negatively impact many North Portland residents. Columbia Pool provides exercise, recreation and lessons for children and adults. It serves a culturally, racially and economically diverse population. Within blocks of the pool sits New Columbia, home to one of the city's most diverse communities. Nearby schools provide some of the highest percentages of free meals within Portland Public Schools.

Without this pool, North Portland residents living on the peninsula would be forced to travel long distances to the next-nearest indoor pool at Matt Dishman Community Center, more than four miles away.

We understand that Portland Parks & Recreation's long-term goal is building an aquatics facility at Charles Jordan Community Center and that the Columbia Indoor Pool has a significant maintenance backlog. Until that new facility is complete, however, Columbia should remain open. We urge you to accelerate the timeline for construction to facilitate a smooth transition between facilities as soon as possible.

Closing Columbia Pool would be an inequitable decision in a city that seeks to improve access for all residents. Given the barriers to accessing alternative facilities, the closure would lead to worse health outcomes for the underserved North Portland communities it currently supports.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christian J. Trejbal". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christian Trejbal, Chair

On behalf of the Overlook Neighborhood Association Board