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COMMISSIONER SALTZMAN PROPOSES HEALTHY PURCHASING INITIATIVE

This week at Portland City Council, Commissioner Dan Saltzman is bringing forward a resolution that would enable the City to gain transparency about the chemical content in the goods that it purchases.

"Consumers are asking more questions about the products they buy and about their chemical makeup. The City is in a great position to ask these same questions from manufacturers through the Healthy Purchasing Initiative," said Commissioner Saltzman.

The Healthy Purchasing Initiative would utilize the City's procurement process to request chemical content and hazard disclosure through its contractors or directly from manufacturers. The City will then be able to make informed purchasing decisions based on that information. The Initiative will be piloted on upcoming projects with the Bureau of Environmental Services.

This work is being done in collaboration with Multnomah County. The two entities have a history of partnering on toxics reduction issues, dating back to the 2006 joint Toxics Reduction Strategy and to the recent 2011 ban of Bisphenol-A in reusable beverage containers.

"At Multnomah County, we look for innovative ways to use our purchasing power for the good of the community," said County Chair Jeff Cogen. "With the Healthy Purchasing Initiative, the County will increase transparency about what is in the products we buy. This will support public health and the health of our employees."

The resolution is scheduled to be heard on Wednesday, September 19 at the morning City Council session.
