

Resolve 15- 04/05

Passage: 3/21/05 9-0

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**CITY OF PORTLAND**  
IN THE CITY COUNCIL

WILLIAM R. GORHAM (1)  
KAREN A. GERAGHTY (2)  
DONNA J. CARR (3)  
CHERYL A. LEEMAN (4)  
JAMES I. COHEN (5)

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE GROWTH OF THE  
BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY IN PORTLAND**

**WHEREAS**, biotechnology is a healthy and growing industry, more than tripling in size since 1992, and contributing to the Maine economy \$432 million in annual sales and 3,700 jobs, at salaries averaging \$58,000 in 2002; and

**WHEREAS**, knowledge-based businesses such as biotechnology tend to cluster together to enhance innovation and productivity, and the larger the cluster the more effectively it operates to strengthen and grow the industry in a particular geographical area; and

**WHEREAS**, although the Portland area's biotechnology industry cluster is small by national standards, it is the largest such cluster in the state and just two hours from Boston, one of the three preeminent centers for biotechnology in the country, and

**WHEREAS**, Portland's quality of life and lower cost of living vis-à-vis Boston, New York and other northeastern biotech hubs, appeal to young and creative people in the process of starting up and growing biotechnology companies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Portland area has an expanding biotechnology infrastructure to support the industry's growth -- three world class research institutes; two universities that are educating a labor force with strong life sciences programs and doing important research and development; redevelopment areas with the potential for thousands of square feet of new, flexible business development space; venture capital funds eager to invest in Maine high tech companies; and a technology incubator nurturing biotechnology entrepreneurs and their start-up companies; and

**WHEREAS**, the best opportunity for industry growth in the Portland area may well be in the biotechnology sectors in Maine that dominate in terms of output, employment and number of establishments, including pharmaceutical substances, diagnostic devices, scientific and analytical instruments, life science research and development, and marine and agricultural research and development; and

**WHEREAS**, the Gulf of Maine Research Institute on Portland's waterfront which is already attracting world class scientists focusing on marine and fishery ecosystem research and development, exemplifies the great potential for growth in Portland's marine biotechnology sector;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council strongly supports Portland's biotechnology industry and welcomes its growth and potential to move this City toward becoming an important diverse center for biotechnology in Northern New England and a world class center for marine biotechnology and fishery ecosystem research and development;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City Council directs staff to develop and implement a biotechnology industry support and marketing strategy, along with a recruitment program that builds on the dominant biotechnology sectors in the state and in the Portland area.