**DRAFT LETTER FOR D4C BOARD**

 Dear District 4 Coalition Board:

At the May 28th meeting, the Land Use and Transportation Committee of the District 4 Coalition heard from a very frustrated neighborhood association land use chair about the lack of communication and follow-up about work on a property within the neighborhood association’s boundaries. The D4C LUTC chairs determined the concerns voiced by the NA were associated with vegetation and land clearing activities. The NA did not clearly understand what agency was responsible for overseeing the activities, and how best to report what were perceived to be violations of various codes that may apply to the clearing activities.

This is not an unusual circumstance.

The Land Use and Transportation Committee Chairs are requesting that the D4C Board of Directors request that Portland Planning and Development assign a liaison to District 4, and potentially each City District, to help explain how PPD works, what the new agency does, and to facilitate development oversight and compliance.

We hope this will:

1. Improve the relationship between PPD and neighborhood associations,
2. Increase understanding of the structure and responsibilities of PPD by our citizens, and
3. Provide information on how best to work within PPD and other City agencies on development projects.

The district liaison could attend monthly District LUTC meetings to answer questions and provide information that would help make a connection between the city and our neighborhoods. This work could possibly divert complaints, reduce workloads on staff, and reduce costs.

While we understand the City is currently struggling with budget issues, we believe better and more effective communication can actually reduce time and costs spent dealing with unnecessary and/or inappropriate complaints, and by streamlining responses to legitimate concerns.

We hope you will support our work to make Portland a more open and responsive city by advocating for this proposal, and by forwarding our letter and request onto our City Councilors, PPD, and other coalition offices. We are also happy to work with you to address this issue in other ways.

Sincerely,

District 4 Land Use and Transportation Chairs

Nicole Tignor and Claire Carder

Cc: