

November 14, 2019

Dear Commissioner Eudaly, Mayor Wheeler and City Council,

Thank you for the proposed Resolution to be presented November 14, 2019.

Public involvement—the inclusion of all voices in deliberating the design and implementation of city policies—is essential to remedying the historical inequities we have all inherited, and we welcome and applaud your ongoing commitment to this principle.

We look forward to continuing and expanding our work with community partners to ensure that Black, Indigenous, immigrant and refugee, communities of color, youth, LGBTQ+, disabled, and unhoused community members are fully included in city decision-making processes. We have been committed to this work since 2007 when the Community Connect report was transformed into policy through the expansion of Office of Neighborhood Involvement programs to include funding for the Diversity and Civic Leadership partners, the Disability Program, the New Portlander Program, and the Youth Development/Multnomah Youth Commission Program, to name a few.

The resolution accurately describes needs and concerns but is less specific as to the ways these will be addressed. We would like to hear additional details about the multi-bureau process and goal—for example, will it include not only transferring responsibilities for public involvement in bureau functioning, but also the reallocation of regulatory programs to other bureaus? We encourage you to include community stakeholders from the beginning of this discussion, and to include all relevant bureaus, particularly the Office of Equity and Human Rights.

We wish to thank you for extending the grants to the Neighborhood Coalitions for an additional three years. Given that the ordinance does not include a timeline for the review of 3.96, we respectfully request an extension of five years, to provide for an effective transition and continuity of programming and staffing once that code is amended, at the traditional funding level i.e. equivalent to the prior FY amount plus current Budget Office citywide directives.

We also request that our Diversity and Civic Leadership partner organizations continue to receive similar support, and that the Neighborhood Offices managed by the city continue to provide services equivalent to those they are currently providing in support of their diverse communities.

Thank you again for your commitment to the essential work of redressing historical wrongs through a network of community partners, committed to healing and uniting our city.

Thank You,

Central Northeast Neighbors

Southeast Uplift

Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods

Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.

Neighbors West-Northwest