

Options for Communicating with City Council

Contact city council by telephone and consider saying the following:

I live in the _____ neighborhood and have participated in civic engagement through my neighborhood association or community-based group. I support the idea that all people should be free to engage civically. I also request that the neighborhood language remain in Chapter 3.96. until it is updated through a citizen advisory committee with many neighborhood and community-based advocates. I do not support removing the vehicle, Ch 3.96 by which all of us engage with the city and the bureaus.

Contact city council by email:

Mayor Wheeler PH: 503-823-4120	Email: mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov
Commissioner Eudaly. PH: 503-823-4682	Email: Chloe@portlandoregon.gov
Commissioner Fish PH: 503-823-3589	Email: Nick@portlandoregon.gov
Commissioner Hardesty PH:503-823-4151	Email: joann@portlandoregon.gov
Commissioner Fritz PH:503-823-3008	Email: Amanda@portlandoregon.gov

Oral Testimony

Prepare a two-minute **story** of what you believe your neighborhood or community group did recently to improve the livability of your neighborhood and the inclusivity of all your neighbors. This should be a story rather than a list. Consider working in groups of three so that all of you might testify together and in order. This approach will allow you six minutes of planned and integrated testimony. Talk about whom was invited to engage civically and what you do for outreach to people in the neighborhood.

Written testimony

Write your own comments on what you see your neighborhood has done and does. Put this in the positive. Consider making suggestions that would help strengthen neighborhoods and community-based groups to attract more people to form partnerships and to civically engage.

Comment on the importance of having standards of practice for meetings and having a city recognized code provision which is the vehicle for public participation with the city. Highlight the value of inclusivity and equitable practices.

Post to Facebook or other social media for friends and family to read your comments.

Contact and set up meetings with your city commissioners and arrange a visit before November 7, 2019. You will be more successful if more than one of you asks for a meeting. Consider doing it by neighborhood or business association.

Attend the **Thursday, November 7, 2019 City Council Work Session** to testify and watch the deliberation of the council. It is important that as many people attend as possible. The time for the meeting will be set. However, this can change so it is important to check the Friday, November 1, 2019 to see if the schedule has changed.

Consider writing a letter to the editor of a local newspaper of your choice about what your thoughts regarding the code revision.

Be sure and share with your neighborhood association and other community-based groups about what you have learned.

Possible Talking Points:

* We support city code changes to reflect greater inclusivity and diversity as written in the aspirational language by the advisory committee

* The current proposed code change language recommends future removal of references to neighborhood associations and provides no specific vehicle for residents to engage or be recognized by the city. No alternative was created or suggested. We support leaving the Code as written until a committee updates the code to include under-represented groups and community-based organizations, which might not be recognized now.

* Greater diversity should be through more investment in the neighborhood system which are geographically based and open to all people who live in the neighborhood. That can be done through leadership, training, support and shared best practices.

*We oppose having a director determine who might be a recognized group in this city without specific criterion developed in concert with its residents. That criteria should define how groups are recognized, who is eligible for contracts and city funding and apply an equity and inclusivity lens to that process.

*95 neighborhoods have the structure and ability to engage inclusively and to reach diverse groups who live and work in the neighborhoods. As one person put it at an East Side meeting: "The system works. We do not have to reinvent the wheel. It has worked for more than 40 years."