



Alameda Neighborhood Association  
www.alamedaportland.com

To: Mayor Wheeler  
Commissioners Eudaly, Fish, Fritz, and Hardesty

August 12, 2019

Dear Mayor and Commissioners,

We are writing to express our deep concern about how the City has conducted City 3.96 Code Change engagement and to request that a new process be initiated to develop code language that engages neighborhood associations.

*At no point has the Alameda Neighborhood Association Board received direct communication from Civic Life about the code change process or had any request to provide input into the process.* This lack of communication about fundamental changes to Portland's engagement bureau, and by implication future funding, has functioned to exclude participation by neighborhood associations. While some of our board members receive Civic Life information on a subscription basis, we have largely been apprised of the Code Change by the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods and other neighborhood leaders—which underscores the value of the coalition and neighborhoods to provide access and organizing capabilities for residents.

We strongly support the goal of including diverse groups and engaging all Portlanders, therefore, it is regrettable that the work product of the Code Change 3.96 Committee, although it reflects seven months' good faith efforts toward laudable goals, is fundamentally flawed as the result of a process that has failed to involve key stakeholders: neighborhood associations. Additionally, the proposed 3.96 draft has been met with substantial objections from respected organizations ranging from neighborhood associations, to the *Oregonian* editorial board and the League of Women Voters.

For these reasons we ask that:

- All members of City Council to vote **"No" on the proposal**
- The city find ways to engage effectively with a more diverse collection of organizations as derived from the Community Connect initiative and the 2016 Auditor's Report, while *retaining grass-roots geographic representation*, provided by the neighborhood system.
- Any proposal to modify City Code in pursuit of that goal should result from a *new process*, which should engage neighborhood associations as significant stakeholders and subject matter experts, and should allow for not less than six months of additional deliberation, with proper public notifications of significant developments along the way.

Thank you for your consideration of our position, and as always, we look forward to working in many capacities alongside City Council, our fellow Neighborhood Associations and District Coalitions, and an expanding range of other organizations reflecting the diversity of Portlanders.

Sincerely,  
Travis Weedman and Steve Backer, Co-Chairs  
Alameda Neighborhood Association Board