



**Bridgeton Neighborhood Association
Portland, Oregon**

To: Mayor Wheeler,

Commissioner Eudaly,
Commissioner Fish,
Commissioner Fritz,
Commissioner Hardesty

Dear Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners,

We write to express our dismay at the Code 3.96 rewrite project as executed by the Code 3.96 Committee and directed by the Office of Community and Civic Life under City Council Resolution 37373. In that resolution, the committee is charged to develop

“a unified set of culturally-responsive practices for engaging a diverse range of community partners; an updated description of the Bureau's responsibilities; and a set of voluntary guidelines that represent best practices for civic engagement.”

We feel that the resulting document offers very little to satisfy this commission, instead undermines the existing systems of community connection to the city government, and creates no new template for civic engagement.

We strongly support the values expressed in the Community Connect initiative, the 2016 Auditor's Report, and the City Council resolution 37373. It is essential that our city find ways to engage effectively with a more diverse collection of organizations. Undermining city support for neighborhood associations in no way advances this cause.

Neighborhood associations are a tool for outreach, connecting city programs with city residents, including renters as well as homeowners, and yes, even the displaced. Our ability to provide this support to our neighbors is deeply affected by the City's willingness to engage with us as allies in grassroots outreach. The Code 3.96 rewrite project goes counter to our mission, and counter to OCCL's own purpose - to build vital links from the city bureaucracy to the people of Portland.



For these reasons, and those expressed in numerous public newspaper articles and position papers (The Oregonian, League of Women Voters, for example), we strongly recommend all members of City Council vote "No" on this proposal.

The work of the Code 3.96 Committee has not been for nothing. The document creates a template for the aspirations of inclusion that we all share as Portlanders. But the work is far from finished. To move the process forward we ask that OCCL look to it's own [Public Involvement Principles](#) and engage with the city's 95 neighborhood associations as significant stakeholders in the project, and allow for reasonable deliberations, with proper public notifications of progress along the way.

Sincerely,

Tom Hickey, Chair
Matt Whitney, Treasurer
Bridget Bayer, Secretary
Gorgy Gonzalez
Erik Molander
Jon Peterson
Walter Valenta
Leslie Sawyer
Jan Strand