CITY OF

PORTLAND, OREGON

OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD INVOLVEMENT

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Enhancing the quality of Portland's Neighborhoods through community participation

NEIGHBORHOOD VOICES NEEDED ON HB 3201:
SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT WILL STRENGTHEN OLCC ENFORCEMENT OF PROBLEM LIQUOR ESTABLISHMENTS

WHAT IS HB 3201?
This bill strengthens the requirement that the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) refuse to issue, or cancel/suspend a liquor license if there are reasonable grounds for such action. HB 3201 expands the current cancellation/suspension guidelines to include consideration of "serious or persistent" problems at a liquor establishment.

WHY DO WE NEED HB 3201?
Currently, state laws allow for a history of "serious and persistent" problems at a liquor establishment to be used as grounds for suspension or cancellation of a liquor license. The specific definition associated with "serious and persistent," however, has only been vaguely defined and is rarely used, even when there are repeated reports of serious problems at a particular location. When a serious incident occurs at a liquor serving establishment, such as a shooting, stabbing, or sexual assault, often no administrative action is taken.

Because these events may not reach a threshold of being "serious and persistent," many of these livability and public safety concerns are not considered by the OLCC in evaluating problems for administrative action. Some incidents may be considered "serious", but not "persistent," while others may be considered "persistent" but not "serious." As a result, a small minority of problem liquor establishments demand a disproportionate amount of local and state resources to respond to these issues. Such cases can have a significant negative impact on immediate neighbors and the community at large and need to be addressed in a more timely manner.

HB 3201 will address the OLCC's ability to act more quickly to address problem locations. The proposed change would allow the OLCC to issue administrative tickets in instances where problems were either serious *or* persistent. The City of Portland recognizes liquor establishments as inherently welcoming to the public, as well as having the potential to greatly enrich the neighborhoods they serve. The City feels this change is essential to addressing problem locations more quickly to lessen the harm to their patrons and communities.

You may view the bill by clicking on this link:
http://www.leg.state.or.us/09reg/measpdf/hb3200.dir/hb3201.intro.pdf

WE NEED YOUR HELP!
HB 3201 has been scheduled for a public hearing on Wednesday, April 15th at 8:00 AM in the House Business and Labor Committee. We need your help to ensure that neighborhood voices are heard on this important bill. What can you do?

- **Testify at the hearing!** Share your experiences and concerns regarding problem liquor establishments and their impact upon your community. If you do plan to testify or have any

questions about testifying, please contact Matt Jaffe in the City of Portland's Office of Government Relations. Matt may be reached at matthew.jaffe@ci.portland.or.us or (503) 823-8450.

- **Call or email your legislator!** Contact your state elected representatives and let them know that you care about HB 3201. Don't know who your state Representative or Senator is? Find out here: http://www.leg.state.or.us/findlegsltr/.

- **Send a letter of support!** If you are unable to testify in person, you can still send a letter of support. Please address your letter to the Committee Chair, Representative Mike Schaufler, and committee members. Letters may be emailed to Matt Jaffe at matthew.jaffe@ci.portland.or.us or sent to the committee at:

  House Business and Labor Committee
  900 Court Street NE, Room 453
  Salem, OR 97301

- **Thank Legislators for their support!** HB 3201 is sponsored by Representative Kotek, Representative Esquivel, and Representative Shields. Please thank these legislators for their support of HB 3201 – contact information for these legislators may be found on the legislative website at: http://www.leg.state.or.us/house/

If you have any questions or would like a sample letter of support and/or a one-page summary of the bill, please call or email Matt Jaffe in the Office of Government Relations. His email address is matthew.jaffe@ci.portland.or.us and phone number is (503) 823-8450. Additionally, please send Matt a copy of any e-mail and/or support letters you send to committee members. Thank you!