

# ONI FAQ

The City's Office of Neighborhood Involvement dates back to its creation by council in 1974 as the Office of Neighborhood Associations. This was in recognition of the neighborhood association system that developed in the 1960s and 1970s in response to several land use planning related issues where neighborhood groups opposed planning officials development efforts, like the proposed Mt Hood Freeway in SE Portland.

ONI is made up of four major focus areas

**1. Crime Prevention:** They promote community safety by organizing and supporting community partnership to prevent crime and the fear of crime. Such effort include neighborhood and block watches, trainings on various safety issues from senior fraud to dealing with abandoned houses and organizing events such as National Night Out.

**2. City/County Information and Referral Program:** This is the 503 823 4000 number...go ahead and put it in your phone now. They can answer just about any question about City and County services and if they don't know the answer they can get you to the person who does.

**3. Livability Programs** - These programs help to enforce community livability standards:

**Graffiti Abatement:** Decreases graffiti in partnership with the Portland Police Bureau, neighborhood and business associations, community partners and volunteers through clean ups and other abatement efforts.

**Noise Control:** Enforces the City's noise regulations and issues variances for events and activities that necessitate more noise than the code normally allows.

**Liquor Licensing:** works collaboratively with state and city agencies, Neighborhood Associations, and community members to help ensure that licensed establishments do not unreasonably impact the community in a negative manner. Like Liquor Licensing there will also be a similar marijuana program in ONI once it becomes legal in July.

**4. The Community Neighborhood Involvement Center:** get involved , access information, build community, support diversity and accessibility, organize a block party, clean up your neighborhood, sharpen your leadership skills, impact city policy and more!

**The Neighborhood Program:** This is the program that supports the 7 Neighborhood Coalitions and 95 Neighborhood Associations formally recognized by the City of Portland. This is a long standing program that helps public participation in local governance issues such a land use by supporting the geographically based neighborhood system.

**The Diversity and Civic Leaders Program:** Supports capacity building for underrepresented community-based organizations in order to increase constituent participation in the civic governance of the City. It currently works with 5 partner organizations who connect historically underrepresented groups to the City.

**The Disability Program:** Helps connect the disability community to the City and runs an emergency preparedness program for people with disabilities

**The New Portlanders Program:** Helps integrate immigrants and refugees into Portland Civic life.

**The Youth Program:** Connects youth to City policy makers through the Multnomah Youth Commission.

**Public Involvement Best Practices Program (PIAC):** Helping to create city wide best practices for outreach and engagement.

We also have contracts with **Resolutions Northwest** for neighbor to neighbor mediation services, and with **Elders in Action** who connect seniors with the City.