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*enhancing the quality
of neighborhoods
through
community participation*

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Francesconi Announces Effort to Develop Citywide Public Involvement Standards Taskforce including citizens and city staff will make recommendations to Council

Commissioner Jim Francesconi has directed the Office of Neighborhood Involvement to develop citywide standards for involving the public in all major projects and policy discussions. In a memo to Council members, Chief Administrative Officer Tim Grewe, and Bureau Directors, Francesconi reiterated a Council-accepted 2001 recommendation from the City's Administrative Services Review plan to **encourage ONI to coordinate a citywide discussion developing common terms, understanding and expectations for outreach processes along with standard guidelines.**

"The need for consistent standards to involve the public in city discussions and projects has been brought up to me numerous times during my visits with neighborhood activists," states Francesconi. "I have often heard concerns about inconsistent approaches by bureaus on issues important to community members. For both public involvement and public information, we must look at developing clear guidelines or standards that are applied consistently across the city."

To implement this Council-accepted recommendation, Francesconi has asked the Office of Neighborhood Involvement to initiate a citywide discussion that will include city, neighborhood coalition, and other external public involvement staff. This process will look at:

**Information & Referral
Center**
503-823-4000

**Crime Prevention
Center**
503-823-4519

**Neighborhood Mediation
Center**
503-823-3152

**Metropolitan Human
Rights Center**
503-823-5136

**Civic Involvement
Center**
503-823-4519

- Reviewing best practices and current city and bureau policies around public involvement;
- Establishing recommendations for clear, consistent standards to meet the public expectation for public involvement practices across the City, and;
- Developing policy recommendations and public involvement standards for Council adoption.

Francesconi emphasized that the development of clear, consistent public involvement standards “can reaffirm and improve upon Portland’s strong history and commitment of involving citizens in decision-making and help us work together to ensure that the city continues to be the *City that works*.”