



CITY OF

PORTLAND, OREGON

OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD INVOLVEMENT

AMANDA FRITZ, COMMISSIONER

Amalia Alarcón de Morris, Bureau Director
Community & Neighborhood Involvement Center
1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 110
Portland, Oregon 97204

Enhancing the quality of Portland's Neighborhoods through community participation

FAQ: City Code of Ethics and Neighborhood Associations [Revised—10/16/2015]

- **QUESTION:** Does the City of Portland's "Code of Ethics" apply to Portland's formally recognized neighborhood associations?
- **ANSWER:** No.

The City's "Code of Ethics" and "Code of Ethics Handbook" state that the City's ethics rules apply to "city officials." The Code and Handbook define "City Official" as "any elected official, employee, appointee to a board or commission, or citizen volunteer authorized to act on behalf of the City of Portland, Oregon."

ONI consulted with the City Attorney's Office and has determined that:

- The City's Code of Ethics does not apply to neighborhood association boards, which constitute independent entities apart from the City.
- The City's ethics rules do apply when a neighborhood association board member is acting in a different capacity, such as a City volunteer.

Portland's neighborhood associations are independent community organizations. They are not agents of City government or "authorized to act on behalf of the City..."

The City's Ethics Code DOES NOT APPLY TO neighborhood board members, officers and members who are engaged in neighborhood association governance or neighborhood association activities. These individuals are not "acting on behalf of the City of Portland."

The City's Ethics Code DOES APPLY to individuals, including neighborhood association board members, officers, or members who serve as volunteers on City-government-administered advisory committees, projects, or boards and commissions. These individuals are subject to the City's Code of Ethics, as long as they are volunteering on "behalf of the City of Portland," even if

they are volunteering on a City-government-administered body as a representative of a neighborhood association.

City Code of Ethics and Handbook

- The City of Portland Chapter 1.03 Code of Ethics:
<http://www.portlandonline.com/auditor/index.cfm?c=28153>
- The City of Portland "Code of Ethics Handbook":
<http://www.portlandonline.com/auditor/index.cfm?c=51735&a=279370>

More information

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact:

Paul Leistner, Ph.D.
Neighborhood Program Coordinator
City of Portland, Office of Neighborhood Involvement
City Hall, 1221 SW 4th Ave., #110, Portland, OR 97204
W: 503.823.5284, Fax: 503.823.3050, TTY: 503.823.6868
paul.leistner@portlandoregon.gov
www.portlandonline.com/oni
City of Portland Information & Referral: (503) 823-4000