

**City of Portland - Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI)  
Bureau/Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) Summary Notes**

**January 3, 2017**

**In Attendance:**

Commissioner Amada Fritz, Cupid Alexander (Portland Housing Bureau), Doretta Schrock (NPNS), Sylvia Bogert (SWNI), Mark Sieber (NWNW), Claire Carder (DRAC), Allison Stoll (CNN), Adam Lyons (NECN), Debra Kolodny (Resolutions Northwest), Sandra Lefrancois (CNN), Tom Lewis (EPAP), Richard Bixby (EPNO), Octaviano Merceias-Cuevas (Latino Network), Katy Asher (SEUL), Emily Lai (Momentum Alliance), Vanessa Dominguez (Momentum Alliance), April Burris (Community Member), Mark Velky (Goose Hollow), Roger Leachman (Goose Hollow), Eric Simon (Goose Hollow), Judy Low (Lents), David Ashton (EPNO), Barbara Bernstein (Elders in Action)

**ONI Staff:**

Amalia Alarcon de Morris (Bureau Director), Amy Archer (Operations Manager), Mary Schneider (Executive Assistant), Brian Hoop (CNIC Manager), Stephanie Reynolds (Crime Prevention Manager), Michael Kersting (Financial Analyst), Joanne Johnson (Disability Program Coordinator)

**Welcome and Introductions**

General introductions, welcome

**Opening Statement**

Amalia provided an overview of the history of budgeting at ONI. This is our 11<sup>th</sup> year together of a very collaborative community budgeting process. Previously there was a rift between community partners and internal staff which caused us to turn in a budget with no community input. The community also submitted their own and the end result is that neither ONI nor it's partners got what was requested and instead a half a million was lost. Since then we have decided to work together to come up with the "Right Budget for ONI". There has been a lot of success even though cut years. Our goal to turn in the Right Budget for ONI with everyone agreeing and being unified. This has been a successful practice and it is more important this year with new Council members. We want them to see how vested community members are in our programs and services. Our new Commissioner in Charge is Chloe Eudaly and she has been invited to our meetings, as well as to meet with the Director.

**Presentation of Packages**

Amy provided an overview of the ONI Management/BAC Steering Committee Recommendation for cuts. The document is available online at:

<http://www.portlandoregon.gov/oni/article/622789> and is summarized below:

Cut targets 5% (minimum of 1%)

1% Cut \$84,407

4% Cut \$337,628

Total 5% Cut \$422,035

1% - Total \$84,407

New Portlander convert to Overhead (providing direct service to most bureaus)

\$74,120

Graffiti Materials and Services \$10,287

Additional 4% - Total \$337,628

Graffiti Program Elimination \$327,628 (Includes 1.5 FTE)

Special Projects/ONI General \$10,287

Based on conversations and looking back at prior years, we want to focus on what we can put forward while telling a story of what the impacts are to the public. Our values are to try hard to look for cuts internal before looking out to the community partners, as well as not to unemploy people when possible. ONI built the additional 4% with Commissioner Fritz because the level of cuts require a program elimination and Graffiti is the program that makes sense given prior year discussions. It is also easier for all of us to defend to keep Graffiti, rather than give up small amounts of many programs as those impacts are significant but more difficult to defend. Our hope is that we will only lose 1% and no more than that. The Graffiti Program is consistently ranked as being least core to mission for ONI compared to other programs. However, it still has value to the community, is important to the City and is one of the programs that council members understand and find value in.

#### Comments/General Feedback

Our Steering Committee talked about other options such as cutting grants. But if we were to chip away at small pieces, looks like we can easily do without and then we may not get funded again in the next year. The Committee looked at ONI's mission statement and Graffiti does not align as closely as other programs and it was a difficult decision.

Could we propose that the Graffiti Program be placed outside of ONI? There has not much push from Council to move elsewhere nor does that result in savings. Graffiti came to ONI as an enforcement program but has transformed into a more robust volunteer involvement program that lines up with our mission and goals.

There was a question whether the Graffiti Program could be moved to overhead funding but that is not appropriate. There is a specific formula to determine if something is overhead funded and it would need to have a partnership with a majority of bureaus, which proves to be integral to their work. Graffiti is a program that provides services directly to the public.

Last year, a thorough list was made as to why the Graffiti Program is so important, even though it may not align as closely with our mission. We can really defend it.

We are looking at changing the funding methodology of the New Portlanders Program. Instead of taking from our general fund, we would like to propose to add to overhead funding, since other bureaus utilize this service. This program has shown other bureaus how to engage with other cultures and immigrant refugees. Allowing them to learn how government works, and hire culturally appropriate consultants to engage with specific communities. A policy commission has been constructed and approved by Council this past year, which provides a stronger case for overhead funding.

ACTION: Poll taken and the majority of group agrees with this proposal, all votes were in support with just a few abstentions. *We will be moving forward with this proposal.*

### **Add Package Proposals**

Brainstorm potential package ideas for consideration at next meeting (including things to continue, prior priorities that have not been funded, new concepts that align with budget priorities). These ideas should ultimately have a clear beginning and end.

- Eliminating hate graffiti

  - Provide education awareness and campaign with equity

  - Network of existing volunteers for rapid response

  - Expanding the program

  - Partner/communicate with other bureaus to share services (ex: PDX Reporter)

  - Use existing resources

- Equity training, infrastructure, and strategies

- ONI Community Response to Hate (May go to Mayor)

  - Working on draft budget (meeting once a week)

  - Ongoing emergency response

  - Staffing

  - Capacity building

- Expansion of small grants (\$125,000 to bring back to historic amount)

  - Statistics

- Maintain New Portlander one-time position

- DCL small grants (started with \$65,000)

- Engaging houseless/at risk community (\$35,000)

  - Potentially in next budget cycle so that we have statistics/report

- Additional 1 FTE for Public Involvement Best Practices

- Additional .5 FTE Youth Program

- East Portland Neighborhood Office Director, change from PTE to FTE (\$20,000)

- Strategic Plan

- Accommodations fund (\$100,000)

- Disability Program Leadership Academy (\$25,000)

Please email additional suggestions Amy or Mary. Also include language or rationale around proposal. ONI will bring all proposals back to the next ONI BAC meeting on January 9<sup>th</sup> to review, prioritize and determine whether any packages will be submitted.

**Next steps**

Next week: Prioritize list of add packages

Following week: Lay out ideas to do final approval

Strategy: Task of interacting with elected officials and organizing community

Steering Committee will be meeting this week

**Commissioner Fritz' Address to BAC**

Commissioner Fritz provided some comments to the BAC. She thanks everyone involved for their help and support, and has enjoyed her time with ONI. Although she no longer is the Commissioner-in-charge she is still very interested and supportive of our work.

**Next BAC Meeting:** Monday, January 9th, 5:30-8:30pm - CNN, Fire Station 12 Community Room, 4415 NE 87th Ave