

# About the Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI) Standards

## **Why do they exist?**

The Standards create a framework by which the people of the City of Portland may effectively participate in civic affairs and work to improve the livability and character of their Neighborhoods and the City. Since City Council first established a neighborhood system in 1974 there have been rules establishing the basis for City recognition of Neighborhood Associations, District Coalitions, and Office of Neighborhood Involvement and the responsibilities and benefits accruing thereto.

These rules ensure inclusion, accountability and transparency in the deliberative process through which Neighborhood Associations go about making decisions and policy recommendations. Such input from neighborhood Associations help advise public policy and budget discussions by government agencies and elected officials.

## **What do they cover?**

### **For Neighborhood Associations**

- Boundaries: Creating, Modifying, or Overlapping
- Membership Specifications & Non-Discrimination
- Bylaws Recommendations
- Open Meetings & Public Records Requirements
- Conflicts, Mediation, and Grievances
- Benefits of ONI Recognition
- Affiliation with a District Coalition

### **For District Coalitions**

- Basic Requirements
- Goals and Procedures
- Action Plans & Reporting
- Bylaws, Non-Discrimination, Grievances
- Processes for changes in organizational affiliations

### **For the City of Portland Office of Neighborhood Involvement**

- Citywide Neighborhood System Coordination
- Contract Management for District Coalitions
- Resource Development & Leadership Skills Training
- Information and Referral
- Public Involvement Policies and Guidance
- Connections to Other City Agencies

## **What should I know about them?**

Neighborhood volunteers should understand how the Standards affect their normal operation, including announcing public meetings, maintaining required records, and ensuring that their membership is open and welcoming to all eligible participants. Volunteers should consult the Standards when more infrequent circumstances arise (conflicts, potential grievances, or affiliation changes).

**View the Standards on the ONI website at: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/civic/article/97870>**