

## **CITY SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL (SBAC) FACT SHEET**

### **MISSION**

The Small Business Advisory Council representing the diversity found in the Portland business community, provides an organized voice for small business with the Portland City Council on policies that impact small business.

With over 49,000 firms with less than 50 employees in the Portland area, small businesses represent 95% and employ 312,000 people with a payroll of approximately \$2.4 billion.

The goal of the SBAC is to raise the visibility of small business, help facilitate communication between the city and the broader small business community and promote a customer-centered business climate within the City of Portland through well-informed organized advocacy.

### **PURPOSE**

- Identify and review regulations, policies and issues that affect small business formation, job creation, growth and prosperity, such as:
  - Better access to City services and contracting opportunities
  - Access to technical assistance
  - Access to capital and financial resources
  - Development and communication of programs
  - Input on financial, revenue and tax issues
  - Support for business district associations
  - Provide an organized voice communicating directly with the Portland City Council.
- Research and review best practices in the development of recommendations to the City Council.
- Work with the City Small Business Advocate to help educate small businesses about policies, issues, and resources.
- Demonstrate the importance of small business to the community and the region
- Provide testimony to City Council in writing and/or through oral testimony

### **COMMITTEES/WORKGROUPS**

The Small Business Advisory Council has identified and is currently working on these priorities through the following Committees and Workgroups:

**Communications** – The key objective of the Communications Committee is to focus on internal processes and develop communication links with other business organizations throughout the region.

**Membership** – The key objective of the Membership Committee is to focus on internal processes and develop communication links with other business organization throughout the region.

Cost of Doing Business – The key objective of the Cost of Doing Business Workgroup is to raise awareness about the impact of proposed policies and regulations on the cost of doing business.

Small Business Development – The key objective of the Small Business Development Workgroup is to speak to the issues, opportunities and related programs that particularly affect/target the emerging and minority/women owned segments of Portland's small business community.

The Committees and Workgroups meet once a month.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

The SBAC is a public-private partnership including small business owners and representatives from various public agencies at the federal, state, and local level. The SBAC membership is to reflect the diversity of small business in Portland and, as such, must be representative of industry, geographic, ethnic, gender diversity.

Members are small business owners with less than 50 employees or represent coalitions of small businesses within the City of Portland and/or Multnomah County.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Small Business Advisory Council was created to provide an organized voice for small business with the City Council. The small business community has traditionally felt under-represented. Small businesses throughout the city of Portland are primarily focused on the economic stability of their operations and are not able to dedicate the needed time in tracking significant policy shifts that could affect the way they do business.

The Small Business Advisory Council will raise the visibility of small businesses as the background of job creation as well as to provide a public-private partnership whereby small businesses, City Council members and bureau staff can work together to help small businesses grow and profit in Portland by addressing regulatory, policy, and other issues.

The Small Business Advisory Council is staffed by the City Small Business Advocate and the SBAC meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at City Hall.