



Office of Mayor Tom Potter  
City of Portland

**CONTACT**

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**MAYOR POTTER AND COUNCIL PASS OREGON'S FIRST  
SMALL BUSINESS BILL OF RIGHTS**

Mayor Potter and the Portland City Council on Thursday (11/29) unanimously passed the Small Business Bill of Rights, a resolution to make sure small businesses have a voice in the decision making process, making Portland more business-friendly.

The resolution brought forth by the Small Business Advisory Council (SBAC) was co-sponsored by all five commissioners and marks a philosophic change in how the small business community and City government work together.

According to the Bill of Rights, small businesses have the right to expect City Council to:

- Work with the business community to develop, promote and maintain education, training and informational programs and resources that assist the start-up, operation and/or expansion of businesses;
- Support and promote programs that provide access to capital, financing and city incentives for small business start up, survival and/or expansion;
- Establish and maintain a fair system of taxation and fees that encourages small businesses to start, survive, grow and remain in Portland; and
- Actively seek and expand opportunities for small businesses to provide products and services to the City.

“Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and too often they don’t have a voice,” said Mayor Potter. “visionPDX – Portland’s community vision project – told us overwhelmingly that Portlanders hold a common interest in the continued growth of our small, local businesses and the role they play in preserving the qualities that make our city and neighborhoods unique.”

“I think this is a good indication and true testimony that government and business can work together and sustain this great state we are so proud of,” said Ken Turner, Vice Chair of SBAC. “It’s a great day for all of us.”

Based on Portland's success at being the first city in Oregon to formalize a working relationship with the small business community, the Governor's Small Business Council is looking to Portland as a model of collaboration between the private sector and government and may introduce similar legislation at the state level next year.

Other organizations in support of Portland's Bill of Rights included:

- Alliance of Portland Neighborhood Business Associations (APNBA)
- Central Eastside Industrial Council (CEIC)
- East Portland Chamber of Commerce
- Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber
- Hollywood Boosters
- Metropolitan Business Association
- Nob Hill Business Association
- North Portland Business Association
- Old Town/Chinatown Business District
- Oregon Economic & Community Development Department (OECDD)
- Oregon Remodelers Association
- Oregon Small Business Development Centers
- Portland Business Alliance (PBA)
- 200+ individual small businesses

Resolution and Small Business Bill of Rights attached.

- End -