

The City of Portland, Oregon

Small Business Bill of Rights

Portland small businesses have the right to expect City council and the City bureaus to:

1. 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.
2. Establish and maintain easy access to the information and resources necessary to support businesses in their relationships with City government.
3. Support and promote programs that provide access to capital, financing and city incentives for small business start up, survival and/or expansion.
4. Be held responsible and accountable for prioritizing City spending on Fire, Public Safety, Parks and Infrastructure.
5. Establish and maintain an adequate and efficient system of streets and roadways that supports the efficient movement of freight, the timely delivery of commercial goods and services, and adequate mobility of employees and customers.
6. Encourage budget and expenditure processes that are comprehensible and transparent to lay citizens.
7. Establish and maintain a fair system of taxation and fees that encourages small businesses to start, survive, grow and remain in Portland.
8. Ensure a simple, predictable regulatory environment/permitting process that is both efficient and cost effective. Make available a clear and stable system of documentation for these processes.
9. Actively seek and expand opportunities for small business to provide products and services to the City.
10. Support and promote the SBAC and other organizations that are representative of city small business. Confer with SBAC or the most appropriate small business advisory group and/or business owners prior to making decisions which may affect small business job creation, job retention or job expansion.

Resolution No.

Adopt the "Small Business Bill of Rights", a framework by which policies, government actions, regulatory interpretations and the allocation of resources are to be considered to support, promote, and improve the small business climate in Portland.

WHEREAS, the Small Business Advisory Council has engaged with and shared the Small Business Bill of Rights with more than 200 small businesses and neighborhood business organizations including the Alliance of Portland Business Neighborhood Associations, Portland Business Alliance, East Portland Chamber, Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber, Governor's Small Business Council, Oregon Economic & community Development Department, and Oregon Small Business Development Centers; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland recognizes that small local businesses are the backbone of our economy. In the Portland Metro area, 95.2% of all firms are small businesses ;

WHEREAS, the Portland Metro area has 44,427 small businesses with less than 50 employees that employ 259,023 people and have a payroll of \$2.2 billion; and

WHEREAS, in Multnomah County alone there are 20,654 small businesses that employ 125,032 people with a payroll of \$1.1 billion and, of these, almost 13,000 are micro-enterprises with 5 or less employees; and

WHEREAS, the Small Business Bill of Rights is the first of its kind in the State of Oregon and will allow the City of Portland to serve as the model for communities in Oregon and the United States; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland strives to create an environment that nurtures business formation, encourages and supports job retention and creation and overall sustainable economic development; and

WHEREAS, Portlanders envision an Economic Portland that fosters the development of small and large businesses that support our core values, attracts and cultivates innovative, creative and entrepreneurial talent that continuously sustains and renews our economy, and has invested in mentorship and support programs for small businesses, allowing them to grow and thrive (Portland 2030: A Vision for the Future); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Portland adopts the "Small Business Bill of Rights" with passage of this resolution; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Portland will refer to the Small Business Bill of Rights as a resource and a tool when considering and evaluating policies, regulatory action, and government action that impact small business;

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