



OFFICE OF
**Community
& Civic Life**

Jo Ann Hardesty, *Commissioner*
Michael Montoya, *Interim Director*

1120 SW 5th Avenue, Suite 114
Portland, OR 97204
503-823-4519
portlandoregon.gov/civic

February 8, 2022

Dear Southwest Neighborhood Associations and Community Partners,

Civic Life has received several inquiries about how you are to engage with the former contractor, Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. (SWNI). We appreciate your request for clearer guidance, and I hope this memo will provide a clear path for your organizations to move forward.

City Council defunded SWNI effective March of 2021. Council made the decision to cancel the contract after an independent forensic audit resulted in numerous substantive findings. There is currently no City contractor serving as a District Coalition Office for Southwest. The City does not recognize SWNI as having any ONI Standard authority over Neighborhood Associations or other organizations.

Neighborhood Associations are independent organizations and may affiliate or conduct their business with whomever they choose. However, until council provides further guidance, I have directed my staff to follow Council's directives to provide services in the same manner we do for our City-run District offices in the East and North. As per Council directive, the City will not and does not conduct business with the former contract holder SWNI.

Please direct further questions to our able staff, Leah Fisher, Sharon Keast, or Shuk Arifdjanov.

Thank you for your commitment to your neighborhood,

Michael J. Montoya

Interim Director

Office of Community & Civic Life



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