

Chief Administrative Officer Michael Jordan
Mayor Ted Wheeler
Commissioner Dan Ryan
Office of Community & Civic Life Interim Director Mourad Ratbi

September 20, 2023

Dear Chief Administrator Jordan, Mayor Wheeler, Commissioner Ryan, and Interim Director Ratbi:

We, the leadership of the four nonprofit District Coalition Offices funded by the city to help Portlanders connect with their government, write with great urgency to request that you extend the public comment period for the recently-released draft city structural reorganization.

As stakeholders, we are hearing from many in our communities a desire to understand the rationale for placing neighborhoods and district coalitions under the future Mayor's office, and the city's other "community relations" programs under the incoming City Administrator. Extending the public comment period to *at least* 30 days is not only governmental best practice, the extra time would afford us the ability to schedule a public forum with your collective offices to provide much-needed information so your constituents throughout Portland may submit more thoughtful and informed public comments.

We appreciate the speed at which the city is working to prepare for the voter-approved new form of government. However, there is only one public information session scheduled on this topic and it is slated to take place just two days prior to the public comment deadline on September 29. This is an insufficient amount of time to build understanding and trust in the city's reorganization process, or to ensure a meaningful opportunity for the public's voice to be heard.

We call upon your leadership to extend the public comment period to *no earlier* than October 31st, 2023. We also invite you to collaborate with us on scheduling a community forum well before any new deadline to specifically share information about the placement of the city-funded community engagement programs within the proposed new city structure.

Thank you for considering this time sensitive request. We look forward to working with you for the common good!

Stacey Tipp, President
Alison Stoll, Executive Director
Central Northeast Neighbors

Jimmy Wilson and Sean Green, Co-Chairs
Jona Davis, Interim Executive Director
Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods

Vadim Mozyrsky, President
Darlene Urban Garrett, Executive Director
Neighbors West/Northwest

Dave Weaver, President
Nanci Champlin, Executive Director
Southeast Uplift Neighborhood Coalition