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## Downtown Portland's Crime Drop Continues for Third Consecutive Year

### *16 Percent Decrease in 2007, Shows Continuing Downward Crime Trend*

PORTLAND, Ore. – The Portland Business Alliance released 2007 crime statistics today, which show a 16 percent decrease in crime in downtown Portland last year. This decrease is the third consecutive year that downtown Portland has seen a decline in crime by almost a third – 29 percent – over the last three years.

Several factors are contributing to this decrease including:

- A partnership between the Alliance, the Mayor's office, Portland Police Bureau's Central Precinct and Central City Concern focusing on repeat low level offenders;
- Seven additional security officers patrolling downtown streets; and
- An increased effort to keep downtown clean and graffiti free.

"These statistics show that the funds paid by the downtown business and property owners for the security and cleaning programs are benefiting not just their businesses but our entire city," said Sandra McDonough, President and CEO of the Alliance. "Additionally, the collaborative approach the City, Central Precinct and downtown property owners have taken to address criminal activity has made an enormous difference in making downtown safe and livable for everyone who live, work and visit downtown Portland."

The downward trend in crime took a noticeable dive after November 2005 when the Alliance joined in a partnership with Mayor Potter's office, Central Precinct and Central City Concern to provide a treatment option for chronic low-level criminal offenders, which has resulted in a 71 percent decrease in criminal activity among that offender group since the program began. The Clean and Safe program, which employs individuals transitioning from homelessness to housing, also helps maintain the safety of downtown by providing round the clock cleaning services, including the removal off approximately 2,000 graffiti tags a month to improve the livability of downtown.

Additionally, in December 2005 downtown property owners increased the amount of funding

for security to hire seven additional Clean and Safe officers who patrol streets on foot and by bike seven days a week. These officers work closely with Central Precinct, alerting police to criminal activity.

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*The Portland Business Alliance is Greater Portland's Chamber of Commerce representing more than 1,300 businesses in the region. The Alliance focuses on central city and regional issues and recognizes that the vitality of the central city and the region depend on one another, and Portland's vibrant, growing downtown is a regional asset.*