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NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Downtown sees 20 percent reduction in crime

Portland, Ore...The Downtown Business Improvement District experienced the largest reduction in crime in Portland during the first quarter of 2007, making "downtown one of the safest neighborhoods in the city," according to Mayor Tom Potter. Crime is down 20 percent downtown, compared to the same time period in 2006. Crime in all of Central Precinct was down by 15 percent during the same period, while the entire city saw a reduction of 8 percent.

"A tremendous amount of work and dedication by the Alliance's Clean and Safe security team and the Central Precinct police officers helped to accomplish these results," said Bill Sinnott, Director of the Portland Clean and Safe Program. "Clean and Safe will continue working closely with all our partners in law enforcement and with other security companies in downtown Portland to build on these results."

Downtown property owners voluntarily pay over four million dollars each year to enhance the cleaning and security of downtown. They have increased funding for the Clean and Safe security program by 30 percent since 2005 to keep downtown, Old Town and Chinatown safe and inviting for everyone who lives, works, plays and visits.

Last year, downtown property owners also committed an additional \$100,000 to Central City Concern (CCC) in a partnership with the City to support the Housing Rapid Response system for chronic homeless criminal offenders. They also provided staffing for the Westside Community Court, where first time offenders are sentenced to perform community service for low level offenses in exchange for dismissal of their cases, and they facilitate the Theft Accountability Class for indigent shoplifting defendants in a partnership with Multnomah County and downtown retailers.

Downtown property owners are providing the money through the 213-block Downtown Business Improvement District, formed in 1988 at the request of the downtown business community. Businesses pay regular assessments to the district, which is governed by the Board of Directors of Portland Downtown Services, Inc. and managed by the Portland Business Alliance.

The Portland Business Alliance is Greater Portland's Chamber of Commerce and represents more than 1,300 businesses in the greater Portland region.

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