



May 28, 2009

Contact: Carole Romm, 503-200-3879
cromm@centralcityconcern.org

Megan Doern, 503-552-6754
MDoern@portlandalliance.com

Clean & Safe Goes Green with Vehicle Purchase

Portland, OR – Downtown property owners have gone green and recently purchased an electric vehicle allowing the Clean & Safe maintenance staff to travel throughout the downtown and Old Town areas in a more efficient and sustainable manner. The Clean & Safe program is managed by the Portland Business Alliance and contracts with Central City Concern (CCC) to operate the “clean” segment of the program that includes collecting litter, removing graffiti, cleaning streets and public rest rooms.

The new electric vehicle – a Summit Neighborhood Electric Vehicle – is better for the environment and more cost efficient. It was purchased for approximately \$15,000 and will cost less than \$1 a day to charge. Its fuel – distilled water – will cost roughly \$10 monthly. Last year, a vehicle serving a similar purpose used 130 gallons of diesel a month at an approximate cost of \$5,400 per year. The new vehicle can go 25 miles an hour and its battery life allows for approximately 35 miles between charges. The vehicle seats two and has a large storage capacity in the rear.

“It’s extremely functional for our needs,” said CCC’s Clean & Safe Manager, Matt Bellet. “It is easy to maneuver and will have very low maintenance costs. And we are particularly pleased with operating a zero emissions vehicle in the downtown area.”

“Downtown property owners are committed to being green every chance we can as seen in the recent conversion of our holiday lighting program to LED lights and renewable power and the ongoing expansion of the BigBelly solar trash compactor program,” said Ron Beltz, chair of

Portland Downtown Services, Inc., which runs the business improvement district funded by downtown property owners.

CCC's mission is to provide pathways to self-sufficiency through active intervention in poverty and homelessness. CCC operates more than 1,400 units of affordable housing and provides health, recovery and employment services to more than 13,000 of individuals in the Portland metro area every year. CCC's Clean & Safe operation employs approximately 60-80 individuals yearly in six month training positions.

###