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NEWS RELEASE
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**Portland Business Alliance applauds City Council's move to
implement SAFE Committee recommendations**

Portland, Ore. -- The Portland Business Alliance commended today's action by the Portland City Council to implement the Sidewalk Access for Everyone (SAFE) Committee recommendations. The recommendations, created by a broad group of stakeholders including city government representatives, residents, homeless advocates and local businesses, takes a holistic approach to ensure Portland's streets are welcoming and open to all who use them.

"The city's leaders created a process by which a diverse, cross-section of our city could come together and develop a way to make Portland's sidewalks and streets more accessible while helping to meet the needs of the homeless population," said Sandra McDonough, President and CEO of the Alliance. "Today's vote to implement the recommendations is not only good for business, but is also good for all people living, working and visiting Portland. We thank Mayor Potter and the City Council for their tremendous work to make SAFE a reality."

The SAFE recommendations include enactment of an ordinance prohibiting sitting or lying on sidewalks in downtown and the Lloyd District during business hours while providing homeless individuals with additional services in the Central City, including:

- A day access service center;
- Additional public bench seating;
- Access to public restrooms, including a 24-hour restroom; and
- Shower and locker facilities.

The new services provided through the SAFE recommendations are in addition to other efforts assisting the homeless population downtown and in the Lloyd business district, and are intended to facilitate the City's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness. Transition Projects Incorporated (TPI), Sisters of the Road, JOIN, Central City Concerns and New Avenues for Youth are just some of the organizations providing day access, offering drug, alcohol and mental health treatment and helping homeless people transition into the workforce through training and job placement.

"While the 28 members of the SAFE committee came from diverse interests, they found a common ground and developed a workable solution that will make our city a better place to live and work," said Phil Kalberer, Co-chair of the Central City Committee.

The Portland Business Alliance and the Downtown and Lloyd Business Improvement Districts are contributing \$150,000 over a two-year period to support implementation of the new homeless services. Approximately \$79,000 of those funds will be used to operate TPI's day shelter with the remaining funds to support other services as recommended by the SAFE Oversight Committee during the next two years.

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