

Richmond Neighborhood Association

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February 19, 2018

Mayor Ted Wheeler MayorWheeler@portlandoregon.gov
Commissioner Dan Saltzman dan@portlandoregon.gov
Commissioner Amanda Fritz amanda@portlandoregon.gov
Commissioner Nick Fish nick@portlandoregon.gov
Commissioner Chloe Eudaly chloe@portlandoregon.gov
1221 SW 4th Ave, Room 130
Portland, OR 97204

Re: Proposed Elimination of ONI's Graffiti Abatement Program

Dear Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners:

At its regular monthly meeting on February 12, 2018, the Richmond Neighborhood Association ("RNA") unanimously voted to request Council to maintain funding for ONI's Graffiti Abatement Program and not eliminate the Program, as recommended by ONI's Budget Advisory Committee ("BAC"). In its January 8, 2017 meeting, the BAC recommended: "Graffiti Abatement: Cut the program, program design does not align with ONI's mission. ..."

Graffiti has long been a problem in Portland. But, in the last 3-5 years, there has been explosive growth in graffiti, which has not only been a huge eyesore for residents and business owners, but it has considerably affected what we call "livability." The growing presence of graffiti affects us all; it adds to the increasing sense of loss of control and sense of safety in our environment and our neighborhood.

In 2017, the RNA formed its own graffiti removal task force -- Richmond Tag Busters -- to attack the problem. ONI's Graffiti Abatement Program has been an indispensable ally in our efforts to tackle this growing problem and has provided guidance and supplies for our monthly graffiti cleanups. Juliette Muracchioli, the Program's only full-time employee, has been especially helpful to our group.

Eliminating the Graffiti Abatement Program will seriously hamper morale and set us back in our efforts to fight and clean up graffiti. There is no other program or resource in Portland we can look to for getting the kind of guidance and assistance that we get from the Graffiti Abatement Program. The Program is completely in line with ONI's Mission to foster civic engagement and improve livability. We respectfully urge you to maintain this program and its funding.

Sincerely,

Erik Matthews AIA
Chair, Richmond Neighborhood Association

Adam Meltzer
Chair, Graffiti Removal Committee, Richmond Neighborhood Association

cc: OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD INVOLVEMENT: Suk Rhee, Director,
SE UPLIFT: Muz Afzal