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March 12, 2015

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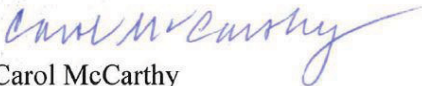
Susan Anderson, PBS Director
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**Re: Request for
2035 Comprehensive Plan**

The Multnomah Neighborhood Association requests that the Planning and Sustainability Commission include the following goal and policy language regarding noise impacts on human health in Chapter 7 of the 2035 Comprehensive Plan.

Please add this to the record.

Thank you,


Carol McCarthy

Multnomah Neighborhood
Association Chair
mnachair@gmail.com

cc: Anne Debbault, DLCD, Portland Regional Representative, adebbaut@dlcd.state.or.us
Elissa Gertler, Metro Regional Planning Director, elissa.gertler@oregon.metro.gov
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner, amanda@portlandoregon.gov
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NOISE IMPACTS ON HUMAN HEALTH

GOALS

GOAL 1: Adequately fund our nationally-recognized noise-enforcement and education agency, the Portland Noise Control Office, and empower the leadership and innovation of the Noise Officer with administrative staff and an environmental enforcement field person to assign to each neighborhood coalition office area of the City. Add a full time administrative person to staff the citizen based Noise Review Board under the management of the Noise Control Officer.

GOAL 2: Recognizing that noise is a growing environmental health issue in Portland, zoning and planning regulations will be more carefully adopted in coordination with the Noise Control Officer to facilitate and support the work of the Portland Noise Office.

GOAL 3: Recognizing that noise regulations are ineffective unless they are enforced and having adequate staffing to educate noise polluters at the front end of the development cycle, Office of Neighborhood Involvement staffing levels for noise will be increased to better align with the development and planning staff in the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability and the Bureau of Development Services.

For example, the current staffing in the Noise Office is 3 staff. This is the same number of staff as were present in the office under Dr. Paul Herman's Leadership in 1976. Development staff have increased 8 to 12 fold in the time from 1976 to present. Additional staff in the Noise Office to represent the communities' environmental needs is reasonable.

POLICIES & OBJECTIVES

1-Noise Emission Standards. Noise-level standards for noise emitted from unregulated machines and sources will be identified and rules for enforcement will be adopted. Particular attention will be given to leaf blowers, lawn mowers, pressure washers, nail guns, and HVAC systems, but all noise emitting devices and processes will be considered.

2-Operating Hours and limits for weekends. Hours for allowed operation of noisy devices and processes will be identified and rules should be different on weekends.

For example, on Saturday and Sunday, use of noisy devices may be restricted to the hours between 10 am and 2 pm. This will allow Portlanders to complete noisy tasks during those hours and leave other parts of the weekend quiet and restful.

3-Construction Noise. Since Comprehensive Plan growth targets are for the construction of half again as many households as currently exist in Portland, stringent rules will be implemented to restrict and mitigate construction noise.

Note: The City should help support the recent improvements the Noise Control Officer has been able to spearhead at the Office of Neighborhood Involvement in issuing as many noise citations in one single year, as had been issued at the Bureau of Development Services in the previous 6-plus year period.

4-Noise Mitigating Zoning. Zoning standards will be enacted to minimize nighttime noise by disallowing incompatible night uses in areas zoned for mixed use that are in close proximity to residential areas. Restrictions will be placed on business operating hours, for example for patio portions of bars and restaurants, or for gas station service hours, to respect the necessity for providing quiet times for healthy and restful sleep. Further limitations for construction operating hours will also be researched and applied.