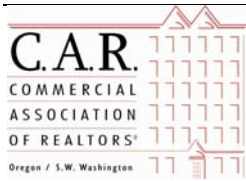


News Release



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Commercial Association of REALTORS® Announces Support for SAFE and the Continuation of the Sidewalk Obstruction Ordinance

Portland, Ore. (April 15, 2009) – The Commercial Association of REALTORS® for Oregon and Southwest Washington (CAR) today announced its strong support for the renewal of the Sidewalk Obstruction Ordinance affecting downtown Portland and the Lloyd District.

The ordinance, which prohibits sitting and lying on public sidewalks, will expire next month unless the Portland City Council renews it. An initiative dubbed Sidewalk Access for Everyone (SAFE) coupled the ordinance with homeless services including a day-access service center, additional public bench seating, 24-hour public restroom access and shower and locker facilities.

“SAFE is extremely important for downtown property owners and businesses,” said Don Ossey, president of CAR, which represents more than 900 commercial real estate members. “Since its creation by a broad coalition including city government, residents, businesses and homeless advocates, it has struck the right balance between property owners’ rights and homeless people’s needs.”

SAFE is funded through a public-private partnership between the Portland Downtown Services, Inc., and the Lloyd Business Improvement District, which contributed \$150,000 over the past two years to implement and support homeless services such as the day shelter.

Some of the key factors of SAFE’s success:

- Daytime space availability for homeless people now exceeds demand
- The program added more benches in downtown Portland, benefiting all who live and work there
- Enforcement citations are declining, suggesting that the program as a whole is working

CAR encourages its **members and their clients—which include the vast majority of all city businesses and landowners**—to contact the Portland City Council with a request to renew the SAFE initiative. CAR members have reported substantial improvement in the safety and livability of the downtown core as a result of this program, and many have already voiced their support of the renewal.

Ossey suggested that the economic downturn will likely increase downtown Portland’s homeless population, which only reinforces his position in support of extending the ordinance and its companion services. He invites the media to contact him for additional comment.

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CAR is a regional trade association dedicated to serving commercial real estate interests throughout Oregon and Southwest Washington. Established in 1993 as an organization to provide commercial real estate professionals with education and networking opportunities, CAR boasts an ever growing membership of more than 900 Commercial REALTOR® members. CAR strives for excellence in the services provided to its members and continues to develop new initiatives to aid in the business of the Commercial REALTOR®. CAR is a member-driven, customer-focused service organization, which exists to enhance our members' ability to serve the public, ethically, professionally and successfully. CAR is affiliated with the National Association of REALTORS®, a national trade association representing more than a million members involved in all aspects of real estate.

