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City of Gresham Receives LOC's Excellence Award

BEND, Ore. – During its 99th Annual Conference, the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) presented its 2024 Award for Excellence to the city of Gresham for its Rental Housing Inspection program. The award recognizes progressive and innovative city operations and services. This year, the LOC's Excellence Award was presented to co-recipients, with the cities of Turner and Hermiston also winning.

About the Rental Housing Inspection Program

The program provides mandatory and complaint-based inspections of rental units and properties. It focuses on code violations that can pose a fire, life, or safety risk to tenants and properties, ensuring all Gresham community members have a safe place to call home. Forty-five percent of the city's residents are renters, and Gresham has a large number of rental properties. Prior to 2007, the city received frequent complaints from tenants about poor living conditions; and while code compliance could address exterior issues, the city lacked a means to address interior issues on private properties. Gresham's proactive, mandatory inspection model has helped tenants who might be intimidated by their landlord, or unaware that the conditions they're living in violate established property maintenance standards. Additionally, the mandatory inspection process decreases potential conflicts, or retaliation by landlords on tenants who report concerns to the city. Recently, the city added a Housing Resources Coordinator to address tenant needs that fall outside of the inspection program. The coordinator provides a deeper level of service for tenants, including direct referral relationships for rent assistance and eviction prevention, as well as energy assistance.

About the League of Oregon Cities

Founded in 1925, the LOC is a voluntary association representing all 241 of Oregon's incorporated cities. The League helps city governments serve their citizens by providing legislative services, policy setting, intergovernmental relations, conferences and training, technical assistance and publications.

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