



The Best of Oregon

CITY of BEAVERTON

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

- What:** Graduation ceremony to honor B-SOBR participants who've maintained sobriety and made positive life changes.
- B-SOBR (Beaverton Sobriety Opportunity for Beginning Recovery) is an award-winning program that helps people who are repeat drunk drivers attain sobriety.
- Where:** Griffith Drive Building, 4755 SW Griffith Drive, Beaverton, Or 97005 in Court Room B
- When:** Thursday, Jan. 7, 2016 at 2 p.m.
- Why:** Finding a way to break the cycle of repeat drunk drivers saves lives. It also helps the individuals rebuild their lives so they can reconnect with their families and employers. It is truly a win-win.
- Photo op:** B-SOBR graduates, Beaverton Mayor Denny Doyle, Beaverton Police Chief Geoff Spalding, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue Captain Brooks Frank and **two therapy dogs** (from Portland Area Canine Therapy Teams program) that attend court hearings for B-SOBR.

PARTICIPANTS OF AWARD-WINNING B-SOBR PROGRAM GRADUATE

BEAVERTON, Ore. — In 2015, the City of Beaverton has received two grants totaling \$613,500 to benefit its Beaverton Sobriety Opportunity for Beginning Recovery (B-SOBR) program. B-SOBR is geared towards alcoholics and chronic drunk drivers, who are often given the choice between jail and the alternative program, which focuses on addressing the root causes of people's behavior.

"This program is making a positive impact in our community and I'm very proud of its success," said Mayor Denny Doyle. "These grants will help provide more resources and programming for repeat offenders in the Beaverton community."

The State of Oregon's Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) awarded a \$288,750 Specialty Court Grant covering a two year period 2015 to 2017. The CJC's mission is to improve the legitimacy, efficiency and effectiveness of state and local criminal justice systems.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) awarded a \$324,750 grant, which will be given as \$108,250 for the next three years. SAMHSA is an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that leads public health efforts to advance the behavioral health of the nation. SAMHSA's mission is to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness in America's communities.

The grants will help advance the city's collaborative team approach to increase the community safety impact of the B-SOBR DUII Court program. The grants primarily provide funds to develop dimensions in B-SOBR to increase effectiveness in the area of offender treatment. Each grant complements the other by providing different parts of treatment resources for offenders. The grants will assist participants in receiving more treatment with appropriate and effective curriculum, a more sophisticated and higher frequency of sobriety monitoring, housing, employment resources, and better access to mental health care. This is done in partnership with local private treatment agencies and nonprofits.

The components to be expanded have been shown from research nationwide to help reduce offender re-offense at reduced overall costs to the criminal justice system.

B-SOBR began in 2011 with the approval of Mayor Denny Doyle and the Beaverton City Council and received a three-year \$125,000 grant administered by the Oregon Department of Transportation and supported by federal funding.

Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUII) costs millions of dollars to the state each year. Beaverton has three major highways through the city, leaving many Oregonians commuting through or living in the area at risk. B-SOBR focuses on offenders with multiple convictions and those with a BAC (Blood Alcohol Content) of 0.15 or higher. Beaverton Municipal Court processes approximately 400 DUII cases annually. The program focuses on reducing number of repeat drunk drivers.

Most recently, the Portland Area Canine Therapy Teams (PACTT), a partnership between DoveLewis and Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB), has volunteered two therapy teams to attend court hearings with B-SOBR participants. Highly trained retired and career-change dogs from GDB and their handlers undergo extensive training and assessment through DoveLewis and GDB to complete their certification in animal-assisted therapy. The dogs help provide comfort to and relieve stress for participants. PACTT program has 50 certified teams that have logged more than 3,500 volunteer hours in 70 facilities.

For more information about the B-SOBR program, contact Jennifer Rivas at 503-526-2369 or jrivas@BeavertonOregon.gov.

ABOUT BEAVERTON

Beaverton is a welcoming and responsible city that enjoys one of the most diverse populations in Oregon. In 2015, Beaverton was recognized as the **safest city** in the Pacific Northwest (according to CQ Press with cities more than 75,000). Recently, the city's award-winning finance department received the **Distinguished Budget Presentation Award** as

well as the **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting**. In 2012, the city was awarded the **Mayors' Climate Protection Award** from the U.S. Conference of Mayors. It was named **one of the 100 Best Places to Live in America** by *Money* magazine and recognized as one of the **best places to raise kids** by *BusinessWeek* magazine. The city was named **one of the top 25 Suburbs for Retirement** by *Forbes.com* and **one of the 100 Best Walking Cities in America** by *Prevention* magazine. The city also received the **Recycler of the Year** award from the Association of Oregon Recyclers, named a **Tree City USA** by the Arbor Day Foundation, received a **Bronze Award Bicycle Friendly Community** designation by the League of American Bicyclists, and recognized as one of the Environmental Protection Agency's **Green Power Communities**. Lastly, the city's nationally acclaimed visioning program was named **Public Involvement Project of the Year—Best Planning Project** by the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Cascade Chapter and also received the prestigious **3CMA Award of Excellence**.

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Caption: B-SOBR graduate Julia Ramos relaxes with PACTT dog Abbott. The B-SOBR program and PACTT program have teamed together to bring therapy dogs to the court sessions for participants. Participants reported feeling more relaxed after the therapy teams attended court sessions. *(Photo courtesy of City of Beaverton)*