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CCC Business Enterprises adds crime scene/bio-hazard clean up to janitorial services

Portland, OR (May 30, 2007) – Central City Janitorial, a professional cleaning service operated by local nonprofit Central City Concern (CCC), is now nationally certified for crime- and trauma-scene clean-ups.

In the wake of traumatic events such as violent crime, suicide, accidental death and even non-fatal accidents, little thought is usually given to the clean-up required to safely and effectively remove blood and other biological remnants. With a steadily increasing population and an extensive list of infectious diseases with long shelf lives – HIV, Hepatitis B, and Tuberculosis to name just a few – there is a growing need for highly specialized cleaning services able to contain and mitigate potentially deadly bio-hazards. Such services are critical in rehabilitating residences after traumatic events so that they can once again be safely occupied.

“The thing about blood is that it goes everywhere; it kind of has its own gravity,” said Charles Peck (Cleaning Services Manager). “Sadly, I’ve had too much experience with this. And there are so many kinds of bacteria and viruses that can remain dormant in blood and other biologicals. Anything other than a complete mitigation puts everyone who enters that room at serious risk for months, or years.”

Central City Janitorial, first started in 2000, is one of CCC’s five Business Enterprises created to generate revenue for the agency and provide workforce training for formerly homeless clients. Staff provides general cleaning services to all of CCC’s residential buildings (1,300 units of affordable housing) and to other local property management firms. Accordingly, they have accumulated a great deal of experience cleaning up in the wake of trauma. This drove the decision to enhance these services to include crime and trauma scenes.

“Basically, we identified the need in our own agency first, then realized the need in the greater community was huge as well,” said Paul Yauch, Director of CCC’s Business Enterprises. “We knew that with the right training, we could offer these highly specialized services that no one else in the state is qualified to offer.”

Charles Peck and Tammy Madison (Assistant Cleaning Services Manager) attended a specialized Crime and Trauma Scene Bio-Recovery Technician Course offered by the National Institute of Decontamination Specialists (NIDS) in South Carolina. NIDS, which handled the bio-hazard clean ups associated with the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon and recent anthrax attacks, trains participants to address the medical, ethical, legal and social aspects of protecting employees and the public from biological contamination.

Peck and Madison are team leaders for the enterprise, Central City Cleaning Services, and ensure that staff is thoroughly versed in personal safety requirements (biohazard suits, respirators, etc.), that the appropriate chemicals, clean-up procedures and contaminated waste disposal protocols are being used, and that all activities comply with Environmental Protection Agency, Center for Disease Control, and Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations.



Along with safely rehabilitating residential units after traumatic events and generating revenue for CCC, this new capacity at Central City Janitorial serves an even greater good. In the event of large scale disasters such as earthquakes or pandemics, local emergency planners and first responders will utilize certified clean-up specialists to protect and preserve public safety.

“Not everyone can do this job,” said Peck. “As we get it up and running, we will definitely have counseling services available. But for me, I just know that someone will be living in the space and they deserve the highest standard of service. I also know that family and friends and loved ones shouldn’t have to think about how to clean up blood – and worse – after something tragic has happened.”

Future plans for Central City Cleaning Services include training and certification around providing cleaning and rehabilitation services for meth houses.

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Background Info

Central City Concern (CCC), established in 1979, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency working to end homelessness in the Portland metro area. The ends homelessness with its continuum of affordable housing options integrated with healthcare, addictions treatment, and employment services. CCC mission is “to provide pathways to self-sufficiency through active intervention in poverty and homelessness.” An estimated 15,000 individuals access agency services annually.

CCC’s Business Enterprises include:

- Downtown Clean & Safe – a public sanitation and safety service;
- Central City Janitorial – a professional cleaning service;
- Central City Maintenance – a general contractor service;
- Central City Painting – a full service lead-abatement, commercial, residential and industrial painting company;
- Second Chance – a resale furniture and furnishings store; and,
- Portland Mall Management Inc. – cleaning services to Portland’s new transit mall.

To learn more about the agency, please visit www.centralcityconcern.org.