City of Portland Land Use, Code of Ordinances Chapter 14
Sec. 14-391. Nonconformity as to number of dwelling units. (continued)

6. In the absence of legally competent evidence, supported by records, (such as, but not limited to, Assessor's records, purchase and sale agreements, affidavits, deeds, mortgages, as well as reliable secondary sources, such as the Portland Director), that the conditions of subsections c(1), C(2), c(3), c(4), or c(5) can be met, the Zoning Administrator may not approve the application, but shall advise the applicant that the matter may be appealed to the Board of Appeals.

(d) Notice to Abutters. Upon receipt of a completed application, the Zoning Administrator will provide both the owners of abutting properties as well as the owners of property situated within 300 feet of the structure of the essential information contained in the application, along with a notice that they may object to the Zoning Administrator's acting on the application and require the applicant to appeal to the Board of Appeals. The notice shall be in conspicuous type and advise the abutters and owners of property within 300 feet that any objection must be submitted in writing to the Zoning Administrator within ten (10) days of the date of the notice

The failure of any property owner to receive the notice described above shall not invalidate any action by the Zoning Administrator. The Zoning Administrator shall promptly notify the applicant of receipt of the objection that the Zoning Administrator is without authority to proceed and advise the applicant that, within 30 days from receipt of the letter, an application may be filed to have the matter reviewed by the Board of Appeals as a conditional use.

(e) Approval of Application.

1. The Zoning Administrator may approve the application, provided: (i) the evidence presented satisfies all of the requirements of this section; (ii) the Office of Inspection Services and Fire Prevention Bureau have certified that the nonconforming units conform with or can be made to conform with the applicable codes; and (iii) no abutter nor person entitled to notice has requested that the application be referred to the Board of Appeals, instead of the Zoning Administrator.

2. Upon approval of the application and receipt of an additional fee in the amount of $75.00 for each nonconforming dwelling unit which has been recognized as a lawful, nonconforming use, the Zoning Administrator will issue a certificate of occupancy.

(f) Disapproval of Application. In the event the application is not approved by the Zoning Administrator or in the event of a timely objection filed by a person qualified herein to file such an objection, the applicant, within (30) days from the decision of the Zoning Administrator or objection, may appeal the matter to the Board of Appeals as a conditional use.