

- Who can I contact directly regarding a specific RCO and ward that do not hold regular meetings, and do not communicate or tell the other RCO's and the community when they do hold a meeting? We have an RCO in our community that does not publicize their meetings regarding zoning issues. Our councilman is aware of the issue- but this RCO is regularly chosen as the coordinating RCO, and many times the community is unaware of when their meetings are being held, and are not present to give their opinions and meet the developers

You can email RCO@phila.gov with this information. It is helpful if you can provide documented evidence of this to help build a case of a negligent RCO.

- Is a tenant of commercial space within the 250 ft area of a project supposed to receive a letter about the meetings, etc.?

The 250-foot notice is sent to the property address, not to individual tenants. The notification template the Planning Commission provides to applicant's states, "If you have received this notice as the owner, managing agent, or other responsible person at a multi-unit building, you are requested to post this notice at a prominent place in a common area of your building." It is ultimately up to these individuals to post the notification, however.

- I have an incorporated civic organization and would like to see if there are opportunities to be considered as an RCO for community improvement purposes.

Our RCO application period is open every year from June 1st through June 30th. Additional information can be found on our website [here](#). You can also email RCO@phila.gov or call 215-683-4646 for more information.

- How can such an organization be empowered to address landscaping, vegetation management, community safety, etc.?

If your organization would like to address these issues, look to other existing groups that already do similar work for inspiration and advice. A good resource for vegetation management and landscaping on vacant lots is the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS). PHS works with some community groups to maintain vacant lots through their Community Land Care program, website here: <https://phsonline.org/programs/landcare-program/>.

- What is the RCO link (web) regarding RCO responsibilities and discipline actions? Is the 250 feet a 2-block radius?

RCO Right and Responsibilities can be found here: <http://admin-www.phila.gov/CityPlanning/projectreviews/RCO%20Related/RCO%20Rights%20and%20Resposibilities.pdf>.

Our Code language regarding disciplinary action, Section 14(11A)(.7)(f) states, "The Commission is authorized to promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of this subsection (11A). These regulations may include guidelines concerning operations by Registered Community Organizations that constitute an RCO Code of Conduct. Failure to operate within these guidelines may result in the temporary or permanent suspension of organizations from the RCO registry, as outlined by the regulations of the Commission." You can also email RCO@phila.gov with your questions about RCO conduct.

The 250-foot radius is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a Center City block, but it depends on the street.

- If there are 2 coordinating RCOs and one RCO does not participate at all, not even acknowledging emails, what recourse is available?

The RCO is responsible to its members, other RCOs, but also to the applicant, to an extent. If the co-Coordinating RCO is nonresponsive, you can schedule the meeting based on your and the applicant's availability, making sure to cc the other RCO on your correspondence to keep them up to date. Let your Councilperson, who selects Coordinating RCOs, know as well so they can perhaps refrain from selecting that group in the future.

- Under responsibilities, it was stated that an RCO is responsible to "alert membership," how is membership defined? Citizens within catchment or active participants?

RCOs must define their membership in their bylaws or governing documents, which are reviewed by the RCO Coordinator when an RCO registers. The Code states an RCO's membership should be, "open to residents, property owners, business owners or operators, and/or tenants from the organization's geographic area of concern."

- What is involved in addressing the term of the renewal process?

The term of the RCO renewal process is defined by the Code, which was most recently defined in legislation passed by City Council in 2013. Changes to the renewal term must be changed by similar legislation that must pass through Council.

- What is involved in addressing the outdated practice of some of the new requirements for participating RCO's?

Similar to the above, requirements for participating RCOs is defined by the Code. Changes to the renewal term must be changed by similar legislation that must pass through Council.

- What is involved in addressing what further information should be added to the notifications from the planning commission?

Planning Commission staff writes the specific language in the notification sent to applications. Staff is open to reviewing recommendations for changes to this language.

- As an RCO do you get notification of over-the-counter L&I approvals?

The Department of Licenses and Inspection sends out a bulk email of over-the-counter approvals to RCO primary contacts that includes the date of issuance, the name of the permit holder, and the address, zip code, and council district of the permitted property.

- How much power/influence does coordinating RCO have over other RCOs?

The Coordinating RCO, as defined in the Code, does not have more power or influence over other RCOs. The Coordinating RCO may think differently, but all RCOs are considered equal and have equal voices in the Code.

- How is coordinating RCO selected?

The Councilperson whose district covers the applicant's property selects the RCO. In the 8th District, all RCOs are considered Coordinating RCOs.

- How do we review the terms of the application?

The RCO application requirements can be found on our website here: <http://admin-www.phila.gov/CityPlanning/projectreviews/Pages/RegisteredCommunityOrganizations.aspx>, or in our Code here: http://admin-www.phila.gov/CityPlanning/projectreviews/RCO%20Related/Philadelphia%20City%20Code%2014-303_Subsections_11A_and_12.pdf.