



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: A citizen of Nason's corner who welcomes the new shelter

1 message

Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>

Wed, Jul 11, 2018 at 2:57 PM

To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>, "Momborquette, Linda" <ldm@portlandmaine.gov>

Director, Health & Human Services
[City of Portland](#)
[389 Congress Street](#)
Portland, Maine 04101
o 207.874.8775
c 207.956.3262
dcs@portlandmaine.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **City Clerk** <cityclerk@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Wed, Jul 11, 2018 at 2:30 PM
Subject: Fwd: A citizen of Nason's corner who welcomes the new shelter
To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>

City Clerk's Office
[389 Congress St. Rm. 203](#)
[Portland, ME 04101](#)
P: 207-874-8610
F: 207-874-8612

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Tiki Fuhro** <ksunsetlane2@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Jul 7, 2018 at 3:26 PM
Subject: A citizen of Nason's corner who welcomes the new shelter
To: cityclerk@portlandmaine.gov

Dear Council Members,

How can a new homeless shelter be a bad idea?

I am writing in support of proposed plans to build a new homeless shelter at the Barron Center on Brighton Avenue in the Nason's Corner neighborhood of Portland. Yes, I am a resident of this neighborhood and former employee of one of the neighborhood schools. Recently this area was home to a tent city built by the homeless folks themselves out of necessity. I don't remember any particular impact on my health or safety or the safety of the children at either of the nearby schools at that time, in fact tent city was also home to families with children. I regularly see homeless folks, or I people presume to be homeless, asking for change at intersections in this neighborhood and I am not hurt or offended by their respectful requests in any way. In fact, the thought of people who are homeless, whether it is a chronic or temporary state having a safe, clean place to stay with access to food, medical help and other important human resources makes me feel safer and more positive about my community and its ability to respond to a clear and present need. I am hoping that my neighbors who are concerned can find it in their hearts to be welcoming to folks who are down on their luck. I am always aware that homelessness is never far away for any of us. Being homeless does not mean less human.

Let's turn our attention to the need for affordable housing. Let's make sure we work towards proper services for the homeless, the mentally ill or those suffering from addiction. We are all citizens of Portland.

Thank you,

Tiki Fuhro
Portland

[This is the shared email address of
Tiki Fuhro and Kevin O'Leary](#)



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Bangor Homeless Encampment

2 messages

David MacLean <dem@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Tue, Jul 24, 2018 at 9:45 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Diana Cundy** <dcundy@maine.edu>
Date: Tue, Jul 24, 2018 at 9:44 AM
Subject: Bangor Homeless Encampment
To: dcs@portlandmaine.gov, jpj@portlandmaine.gov, dem@portlandmaine.gov

Dear Mr. Jennings, Ms Stiles, and Mr. MacLean,

This is what I fear will happen in the woods surrounding the Barron Center if the shelter is sited here. It will be very difficult to police these areas and people who do not want to have the constraints of a shelter or people for whom there are not enough beds will end up here. So far, I have not heard any credible reason why this will not happen. This is especially true if the empty storefronts are taken over by social service agencies. Troubled people will come here, even if there is not room for them in the shelter, and our already vulnerable populations will bear the consequences.

<https://bangordailynews.com/2018/07/24/news/bangor/bangor-makes-move-to-cut-back-homeless-encampment/>

Thank you for considering the point of view of the people of Nason's Corner. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

Diana Cundy
[18 Orono Rd.](#)

--

David MacLean**Administrator**

Social Services Division
Health & Human Services Department
[City of Portland](#)
[196 Lancaster Street](#)
Portland, ME 04101
o: (207) 482-5124
f: (207) 775-7918
dem@portlandmaine.gov

Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Wed, Jul 25, 2018 at 11:48 AM

Adam, I'm going to be forwarding more public comments regarding the shelter as I go through my emails from vacation.

Director, Health & Human Services
[City of Portland](#)
[389 Congress Street](#)

9/5/2018

City of Portland Mail - Fwd: Bangor Homeless Encampment

Portland, Maine 04101
o 207.874.8775
c 207.956.3262
dcs@portlandmaine.gov

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From: **Diana Cundy** <dcundy@maine.edu>
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To: dcs@portlandmaine.gov, jpj@portlandmaine.gov, dem@portlandmaine.gov

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Best wishes,

Diana Cundy
[18 Orono Rd.](#)



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: BNA Barron Center Site Support Letter

2 messages

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, Jul 16, 2018 at 8:03 PM

To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>, Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Sarah Michniewicz <sarahmichniewicz@me.com>

Date: Sun, Jul 8, 2018 at 2:49 PM

Subject: BNA Barron Center Site Support Letter

To: Belinda Ray <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, Ali Pious <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, Brian Batson <bbatson@portlandmaine.gov>

Cc: Nicholas Mavodones <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, Justin Costa <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>, Cook Kim <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>, Jill Duson <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, Spencer Thibodeau <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, Ethan Strimling <estrimling@portlandmaine.gov>, Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>, Michael Sauschuck <mjs@portlandmaine.gov>

July 7, 2018

Health and Human Services and Public Safety Committee
 City of Portland
 389 Congress Street
 Portland, ME 04101

To Councilors Ray, Ali and Batson,

The Bayside Neighborhood Association supports both the proposal to build a new homeless services center, and to locate it on the Barron Center campus.

The BNA advocates for the Bayside neighborhood where the current Oxford Street Shelter, along with a large number of Portland's essential social service providers, is located. This facility has been inadequate for many years and is unable to properly carry out the City of Portland's stated obligation to do the vital work of caring for our most vulnerable citizens.

The current model of serving the homeless with mats to sleep on in one location and food, medical care, and various other necessary supportive services scattered around the general vicinity is outdated, ineffective and inhumane. Although this system may have been sustainable when the number of clients was much lower and their needs less intense, it has broken down irreparably in the face of economic challenges, the opioid epidemic, reduced access to health care, and numerous other factors.

As demand has outstripped resources, the Bayside neighborhood has disproportionately borne the impacts of hosting a population whose basic needs are often unmet, the opportunists that are drawn here to prey on them, and the behaviors that accompany such stressors. Building an adequate and humane homeless services center is a vital first step toward achieving the balance to which every citizen and neighborhood in Portland is entitled.

The BNA has invested a great amount of time and energy over the years, and especially in the last few, educating ourselves in order to understand the situation in our neighborhood. Through emails, phone calls, and meetings, conversations with city staff, social service providers, shelter clients, neighbors, law enforcement, the district attorney's office, judges, elected officials at the local, state and federal levels of government, and residents and leaders of other neighborhoods, we are intimately involved in seeking solutions.

Our endorsement of the proposed facility at the Barron Center campus is therefore based on our understanding of the careful work and thoughtful consideration that has gone into its selection, and considers the following factors, most of which are mandated by the revised emergency shelter conditional use standards:

- Best practices: Research by councilors and city staff into effective service delivery models; consultation with homeless services providers; surveys of shelter clients; site visits to well-regarded homeless service facilities in Boston; building to

accommodate delivery of necessary wrap-around services; clear site lines; on-site meals and laundry; voluntary adoption of multiple best practices at the existing city shelter.

- **Accessibility:** Proximity to existing transportation infrastructure and bus routes; plans to incorporate a dedicated shuttle in addition to existing modes of transportation provided through taxi vouchers and city vehicles as needed.
- **Financial factors:** The use of city-owned land; planned space for partner providers to deliver preventative, routine, and follow-up care to reduce the need and cost of emergency services; existing funding for necessary upgrades to sidewalks, lighting, streets and safety features; potential for public/private partnership to finance construction, potential reduction in expenses for city services such as emergency response, policing and street sweeping.
- **Established Infrastructure:** Existing kitchen and laundry facilities at the Barron Center; existing water, sewer and utility access; and existing vehicle access to site reduces construction costs.
- **Visibility:** Prominent location and campus setting promote clients' sense of social inclusion while providing privacy via on-site services and a screened courtyard.
- **Safety:** Shielding a vulnerable population from the volatile and unsafe environment that was allowed to grow unchecked in Bayside; providing a stable and private base from which to work on housing, employment and recovery; an invested neighborhood with many "eyes on the street."
- **Neighborhood prioritization:** Amended conditional use standards that require a management plan with provisions for working with the surrounding neighborhood; permanent positions for current trained security staff, which have served to improve conditions around the existing shelter; plans to continue the OSS "Hotline" for neighbors to reach out with questions or concerns; street outreach positions to engage potential clients and support the surrounding neighborhood; strong, clear, responsive and adaptable community policing standards; experience with community engagement and collaboration to maintain existing quality of life.

Please note: Neighborhood engagement and safety is a non-negotiable priority for the BNA, and our continued support is predicated on the robustness and effectiveness of the above measures.

- **Community amenities:** Plans for a public health clinic and community policing/police substation to benefit the neighborhood and fill community needs; appropriate architecture to complement existing structures and add value to the neighborhood.
- **Equitability:** Engaging other areas of the city to support the goals of the new comprehensive plan, our shared interests, and the common good.
- **Completing the picture:** Asking other communities to participate through reimbursement and by caring for their own population; continuing the exploration of small shelter zoning to augment a coordinated entry model.

While at one point it may have been feasible to correct the deficiencies of the existing city shelter, that opportunity is long past. The toxic and increasingly dangerous conditions that have been allowed to flourish in Bayside make the city's social obligations far more difficult and costly than they should be, and normalcy almost impossible for residents, visitors, providers, and social service clients alike.

The current situation is not sustainable, and we will not stand for it to continue, here or in any other neighborhood.

The BNA firmly believes that these conditions are not simply the result of hosting the city's shelter and so many other social services, but of an entrenched and fearful mindset that has kept better options from being pursued in the past. Indeed, there has long been an attitude that there are no better options. The selection of the Barron Center campus site is proof that current city leadership is ready to change that narrative, and is willing and able to act.

We urge you to vote to recommend to the full council that the new homeless services center be sited on the Barron Center campus, and to move forward at the pace that this emergency situation demands.

Sincerely,

Sarah Michniewicz
President, Bayside Neighborhood Association

--

Jon P. Jennings
City Manager
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 874-8689 Office
(207) 874-8669 Fax
jpj@portlandmaine.gov
www.portlandmaine.gov
[@portlandmanager](#)

 **BNA Barron Center Site Support Letter Final.pdf**
78K

Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Thu, Jul 26, 2018 at 8:17 AM

Public Comment - You may already have this one.

Director, Health & Human Services
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04101
o 207.874.8775
c 207.956.3262
dcs@portlandmaine.gov
[Quoted text hidden]

 **BNA Barron Center Site Support Letter Final.pdf**
78K



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: District Road Site - Additional Information

1 message

Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fri, Aug 24, 2018 at 3:37 PM

Public comment

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Michael Sauschuck** <mjs@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Fri, Aug 24, 2018 at 12:19 PM
Subject: Fwd: District Road Site - Additional Information
To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>, Robert Parritt <rwp@portlandmaine.gov>, Tuck O'Brien <sgo@portlandmaine.gov>, David MacLean <dem@portlandmaine.gov>, Jessica Grondin <jgrondin@portlandmaine.gov>

Just an fyi with one more to come. Thanks

Michael J. Sauschuck
Assistant City Manager
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04101
(207) 874-8681

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Casey McCormack** <jcdmccormack@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Aug 24, 2018 at 12:04 PM
Subject: District Road Site - Additional Information
To: Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>, Michael Sauschuck <mjs@portlandmaine.gov>

Manager Jennings and Assistant Manager Sauschuck,

Apologies for sending two long emails in quick succession. Last one for today - I promise.

I. District Road Proposal

I wanted to follow-up on our discussion of the District Road site yesterday. As I said, Paul Bradbury was extremely helpful when I spoke with him - and very genuine in his concern that PWM is land constrained and needs all the parking it can get.

However, just like the City did with the Duluth Trading site in South Portland, I think that the District Road site could be done in a way that has a minimal impact on future parking options (and other airport uses) at PWM. To that end, please find attached an image showing my proposal, with the site of interest marked with a red border (it also shows the building height restrictions imposed by the FAA). I have also attached a map showing all of the transportation options in the vicinity of this site - all of which can easily be connected with the committed shuttle service Rob Parritt described.

As you can see, there is ample vacant land between the Public Works facility and the nearby commercial building to site the one-story shelter floor plan that was originally proposed as a best practice. This site is not currently used for parking and I frankly don't think it would make much sense to try and convert it into a parking lot in the future. Accordingly, I still view it as a very compelling site, particularly in light of the fact that the City recently obtained FAA approval for developing the Duluth Trading site (upon information and belief).

Yes, the City would need to expand water and sewer to the site - but I believe that would be a <~\$200K line item and would pale in comparison to the long-term costs associated with a failing shelter at the Barron Center. Yes, the City would need to pay FMV rent to PWM, but, since PWM is owned by the City, I have to imagine there can be offsetting reductions in appropriations or additional contracts for services that would make the City whole. In any event, even if those funds

could not be offset through municipal budgeting or service contracts, the money would be going back into a city-owned enterprise.

II. A Compromise For Everyone

Regardless of whether this particular District Road site works, I believe there would be fairly broad support for a compromise that can address the concerns of all stakeholders in the vicinity of District Road. So... My proposed compromise is as follows (and if you don't feel comfortable doing this without Council buy-in I would ask that the "hiding the homeless" concept be placed on the agenda at the next available Council meeting):

1. The City drops the "hiding the homeless" mandate;
2. The City focuses all of its resources on selecting a shelter site in the vicinity of District Road / Outer Outer Congress area
3. If the specific District Road site referenced above is not going to work, then the City should be willing pay a premium to site this shelter away from a residential neighborhood (because I would suggest the long-term costs of managing a failing shelter next to a residential neighborhood will far outweigh the short-term cost savings from building on City-owned land);
4. Proceed with building the larger "homeless services center shelter" in the vicinity of District Road with the understanding that the City will:

- Commit to making an effort to reduce bed counts (i.e. long term stayers initiatives, etc.) and lobby for policy changes to make Portland's homeless policy more manageable and suitable to a City of its size;
- Develop the shelter so that all or a portion can be repurposed as bed counts decrease (for municipal or airport uses, maybe);
- Further incentivise/study scattered shelter models and further explore public/private partnerships for specialized shelters (i.e. elder shelter), transitional housing, and housing first developments as part of an overall bed reduction and homeless policy strategy, as well as further explore and lobby for residency requirement modifications and other similar policy changes in Portland and Augusta.

This, to me, seems like an incredibly palatable compromise for all parties involved. It helps depressurize Bayside in the short term, it allows a large emergency "services-centric" shelter to be constructed in the near future, it allows the City flexibility to pursue policy changes aimed at getting to a more effective homeless policy, and it keeps the door open for other scattered / specialty shelters for those who support such an initiative. Importantly, it also doesn't carry the likelihood of throwing a large residential neighborhood like Nason's Corner under the bus. And if the large shelter becomes just as much of a failure as the OSS is in Bayside, the commercial uses in the District Road area can be repurposed to deal with the changing dynamics (i.e. health care tenants, mental health tenants, substance abuse tenants, social services tenants, etc.) - whereas Nason's Corner will be stuck with mostly residential uses - and without much in the way of flexibility.

Thanks and have a great weekend.

Casey

--

Director, Health & Human Services
 City of Portland
 389 Congress Street
 Portland, Maine 04101
 o 207.874.8775
 c 207.956.3262
dcs@portlandmaine.gov

2 attachments



Shelter Sites on District Road with FAA Elevation Restrictions v2.jpg
 332K



Metro Map Page.jpg
292K



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Effects of the Poverello Center

1 message

Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Wed, Aug 29, 2018 at 8:26 AM

public comment ?

Director, Health & Human Services
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04101
o 207.874.8775
c 207.956.3262
dcs@portlandmaine.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Zan Cadman** <cadmana@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Aug 29, 2018 at 7:55 AM

Subject: Effects of the Poverello Center

To: estrimling@portlandmaine.gov, bsr@portlandmaine.gov, sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov, bbatson@portlandmaine.gov, ""jcosta@portlandmaine.gov"" <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>, kcook@portlandmaine.gov, pali@portlandmaine.gov, ""nmm@portlandmaine.gov"" <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, jduson@portlandmaine.gov, jpj@portlandmaine.gov, Mjs@portlandmaine.gov, dcs@portlandmaine.gov

Good morning City Staff, Council, and Mayor Strimling,

Please read the attached document, which contains excerpts from the public comment portion of 8/13 City Council Meeting in Missoula, MT. Of the 20 people who spoke during public comment, 18 of them commented on the effects that the Poverello Center has had on the surrounding neighborhood. As I'm sure you're aware, the Poverello Center has been cited as a model for the Barron Center proposal, and is half the size.

The full public record can be found at the following link:

<http://missoula.siretechnologies.com/SIREPub/mtgviewer.aspx?meetid=2764&doctype=AGENDA>

Thank you,

Zan Cadman

**Missoula Public Comment.docx**
26K



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Emergency Shelter Placement in District 3

3 messages

Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fri, Jul 6, 2018 at 1:09 PM

Director, Health & Human Services
[City of Portland](#)
[389 Congress Street](#)
Portland, Maine 04101
o 207.874.8775
c 207.956.3262
dcs@portlandmaine.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jon Jennings** <jjj@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Fri, Jul 6, 2018 at 12:53 PM
Subject: Fwd: Emergency Shelter Placement in District 3
To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>, Michael Sauschuck <mjs@portlandmaine.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **andrew graham** <agraham43@mac.com>
Date: Fri, Jul 6, 2018 at 12:44 PM
Subject: Emergency Shelter Placement in District 3
To: bbatson@portlandmaine.gov
Cc: Belinda Ray <bray0002@maine.rr.com>, Jon Jennings <jjj@portlandmaine.gov>

Dear Mr. Batson-

I am a District 3 resident, living at [43 Macy St](#) (off Capisic Street by Capisic Pond. I've resided here since 1978, and both of my children attended Hall School - so I am familiar with the neighborhood. I want to express my support for the plan to site a new emergency shelter adjacent the Barron Center.

It fits so many of the criteria one would want in a location for a shelter - isolated but not hidden, on public transportation, already city property, near a similar facility (Motel 6), accessible to shopping (Westbrook Shaws and the soon to be built Market Basket), and close to existing homeless encampments. It is relatively isolated from residential neighborhoods. I do not believe there is a better place that could have been chosen in the city.

The country has grown increasingly fearful, and NIMBYism seems at an all-time high in Portland. Please believe that there is a silent majority in your district that understands that difficult choices must be made, and that this is the best choice that can be made for the city as a whole. Do what is best for the city as a whole, and accept the criticism you will receive from folks who view the world only through a zero-sum lens. Too long has the city bent to the loudest voices; please understand that those who show up at meetings are typically the ones with a personal ax to grind.

Kindly,
Andy

Andrew GRAHAM

Mobile 207.650.5535
agraham43@mac.com

--

Jon P. Jennings
City Manager
[City of Portland](#)
[389 Congress Street](#)
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 874-8689 Office
(207) 874-8669 Fax
jjp@portlandmaine.gov
www.portlandmaine.gov
[@portlandmanager](#)

Jon Jennings <jjp@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>, ash@portlandmaine.gov

Wed, Jul 18, 2018 at 5:17 AM

For the record

Jon P. Jennings
City Manager
[City of Portland](#)
[389 Congress Street](#)
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 874-8689 Office
jjp@portlandmaine.gov
www.portlandmaine.gov
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Begin forwarded message:

From: andrew graham <agraham43@mac.com>
Date: July 6, 2018 at 12:44:30 PM EDT
To: bbatson@portlandmaine.gov
Cc: Belinda Ray <bray0002@maine.rr.com>, Jon Jennings <jjp@portlandmaine.gov>
Subject: **Emergency Shelter Placement in District 3**

Dear Mr. Batson-

I am a District 3 resident, living at [43 Macy St](#) (off Capisic Street by Capisic Pond. I've resided here since 1978, and both of my children attended Hall School - so I am familiar with the neighborhood. I want to express my support for the plan to site a new emergency shelter adjacent the Barron Center.

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Kindly,
Andy

Andrew **GRAHAM**

Mobile 207.650.5535
agraham43@mac.com

Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Thu, Jul 26, 2018 at 8:05 AM

Public Comment

Director, Health & Human Services
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04101
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dcs@portlandmaine.gov

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Date: Fri, Jul 6, 2018 at 12:53 PM
Subject: Fwd: Emergency Shelter Placement in District 3
To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>, Michael Sauschuck <mjs@portlandmaine.gov>

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From: **andrew graham** <agraham43@mac.com>
Date: Fri, Jul 6, 2018 at 12:44 PM
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To: bbatson@portlandmaine.gov
Cc: Belinda Ray <bray0002@maine.rr.com>, Jon Jennings <jjj@portlandmaine.gov>

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9/5/2018

City of Portland Mail - Fwd: Emergency Shelter Placement in District 3

receive from folks who view the world only through a zero-sum lens. Too long has the city bent to the loudest voices; please understand that those who show up at meetings are typically the ones with a personal ax to grind.

Kindly,
Andy

Andrew **GRAHAM**

Mobile 207.650.5535
agraham43@mac.com

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Jon P. Jennings
City Manager
City of Portland
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www.portlandmaine.gov
[@portlandmanager](#)



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Emergency Shelter

1 message

Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Wed, Aug 22, 2018 at 12:04 PM

For the public record.

Director, Health & Human Services
[City of Portland](#)
[389 Congress Street](#)
Portland, Maine 04101
o 207.874.8775
c 207.956.3262
dcs@portlandmaine.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Pious Ali** <pali@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Wed, Aug 22, 2018 at 11:43 AM
Subject: Re: Emergency Shelter
To: Eric Kane <erickane@maine.rr.com>, Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>, Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Hi Ms. Stiles

I will be forward some emails from Mr. Kane and my response to him so that its added to the public records Thanks.

*Respectfully***Pious Ali**

City Councilor At-Large

City Hall

[389 Congress Street](#)[Portland, ME 04101](#)PALI@PortlandMaine.gov[2078074283](tel:2078074283)<http://www.portlandmaine.gov>[Sign up to receive updates on my work](#)On Fri, Aug 3, 2018 at 1:16 PM, Eric Kane <erickane@maine.rr.com> wrote:

Good Afternoon Pious,

I am a Nason's Corner resident who voted for you. Can you tell me whether you support or oppose the relocation of the emergency shelter to the Barron Center campus? Thank you in advance.

Sent from my iPhone



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Homeless Shelter near Barron Center

1 message

Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, Aug 6, 2018 at 11:20 AM

Public Comment

Director, Health & Human Services
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04101
o 207.874.8775
c 207.956.3262
dcs@portlandmaine.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **marc kuczewski** <marckuczewski@supremehearing.com>
Date: Mon, Aug 6, 2018 at 10:48 AM
Subject: Homeless Shelter near Barron Center
To: dcs@portlandmaine.gov
Cc: michellekuczewski@supremehearing.com

Dawn,

You stopped in at our hearing aid center, Supreme Hearing Aids, to discuss the homeless shelter being proposed for the location near the Barron Center. We have discussed this proposal with several people since your visit including the mayor of Westbrook. We are adamantly opposed to this proposal. We know that it will be detrimental to our business. Possibly hundreds of homeless individuals out on the streets every day in our general area of business will be alarming to our senior patients and they may choose to go elsewhere for their hearing care.

Thanks,

Marc

Supreme Hearing

Phone (Scarborough): 207-219-8380

Phone (Westbrook) : 207-591-4136

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9/5/2018

City of Portland Mail - Fwd: Homeless Shelter near Barron Center

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Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Homeless shelter

2 messages

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>, ash@portlandmaine.gov

Mon, Aug 6, 2018 at 2:02 AM

Jon P. Jennings
City Manager
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 874-8689 Office
jpj@portlandmaine.gov
www.portlandmaine.gov
Twitter: @portlandmanager

Begin forwarded message:

From: Pierre Morneault <mornep@mmc.org>
Date: August 3, 2018 at 1:54:54 PM EDT
To: "Belinda Ray (bsr@portlandmaine.gov)" <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, "Jon Jennings (jpj@portlandmaine.gov)" <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>
Subject: Homeless shelter

Hello,

I would like to suggest that the City Council entertain discussions with Mercy Hospital regarding the State Street building. Once Mercy moves its operations to the Fore River, the State Street location might make an ideal homeless shelter. It already has a commercial kitchen. The ER space could be used for a medical clinic. The building is large enough to house social service staff and offices.

Thank you for considering.

Pierre Morneault
[54 Hale Street](#)
[Portland](#)

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Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, Aug 6, 2018 at 8:31 AM

9/5/2018

City of Portland Mail - Fwd: Homeless shelter

Public Comment

Director, Health & Human Services

[City of Portland](#)

[389 Congress Street](#)

Portland, Maine 04101

o 207.874.8775

c 207.956.3262

dc@portlandmaine.gov

[Quoted text hidden]



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Ironing out ironies in the Barron Center proposal public comment emails

1 message

Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Sun, Jul 15, 2018 at 11:04 AM

For public comment folder

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Steve Sclar** <stevesclar@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Jul 13, 2018 at 3:26 PM

Subject: Ironing out ironies in the Barron Center proposal public comment emails

To: Belinda Ray <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, Spencer Thibodeau <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, Brian Batson <bbatson@portlandmaine.gov>, Justin Costa <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>, Kim Cook <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>, Nick Mavodones <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, Jill Duson <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, Pious Ali <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, Ethan Strimling <estrimling@portlandmaine.gov>, Robert Parritt <rwp@portlandmaine.gov>, Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>, Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>, <mjs@portlandmaine.gov>

Dear Councilors, Mayor, and City Officials,

I read through all the public comment emails that were included in the [July 10th hearing packet](#) with regard to moving the OSS shelter to the Barron Center. I feel the need to iron out some ironies.

First though, I'd note that according to my tally the email record shows 16 individuals opposed and 7 in favor.

Out of the 7 people in favor: 4 live in Bayside; and 3 live in (or near) Nason's Corner.

Allow me to break it down:

Bayside Residents in favor

- Laura U. lives **0.03 miles (154 feet)** from OSS
- Sean K. lives **0.07 miles (371 feet)** from OSS
- Sarah M. lives **0.07 miles (371 feet)** from OSS
- Jim H. lives **0.3 miles (1,584 feet)** from OSS

Nason's Corner* Residents in favor

- Andy G. lives **1.5 miles (7,920 feet)** from Barron Center
 - *Lives in Rosemont, not Nason's Corner
- Debra R. lives **1.2 miles (6,336 feet)** from Barron Center
- Tom B. lives **1.2 miles (6,336 feet)** from Barron Center

The proposal to move the biggest homeless shelter in the state requires us to exercise perspective-taking, which of course is the underpinning of compassion. That's what I'm trying to facilitate. So allow me to point out the glaring ironies:

- The 4 Bayside residents are telling you to ignore the "NIMBY panic" in Nason's Corner while writing with the extreme and breathless urgency of GOOMBY (get out of my backyard) panic. **They have a great deal to gain from the move.**
- The 3 Nason's Corner residents are telling you to ignore the NIMBY fears in Nason's Corner, but their yards are not at stake and **they have very little to lose from the move.** In fact, if you look up the addresses of Andy, Debra, and Tom you will notice a common thread: a vast landscape of beautiful Capisic Pond and Fore River Sanctuary land abuts their yards.

My home, abutting Capisic Pond, is little different than those 3 Nason's Corner supporters. But my involvement and opposition to this proposal has nothing to do with NIMBY and everything to do with compassion, logic, public health, and equitability. The voices that matter more than anything are not listed above. *The voices that deserve preeminence are of those experiencing homelessness (**see footnote) and those living near the Barron Center (including and especially in*

Sagamore Village). Moving forward, I hope and expect these are the voices that will be given the fullest weight of consideration.

I have really worked hard to educate myself on this. I've befriended an expert who intimately understands homelessness in Portland, and talked to my neighbors extensively. I have read every output I could find from the City's studies, task forces and best practice reviews in 2007, 2012, 2015 and 2017. I have listened to some of you address questions at Breakwater on July 5th and City Hall on July 10th (for 5 hours). Having engaged deeply, it truly seems that the Barron Center proposal is politically expedient, not an evidence-based capstone of a 10-year process. There is no "silent majority" in support of this proposal, as Andy asserts in his email. Neighbors around here are beside themselves about the process and substance of this proposal, and this is going to be an extremely bumpy road for the City for the duration of time it's pursued.

As I have expressed in earnest to Councilor Batson and as I said in person at the July 10th hearing: I want to be a part of the solution. All of my neighbors do as well. We know the situation in Bayside is beyond repair. Give us a stake in this. But don't give us a 200-bed shelter and the inevitable 'co-location' of services and smaller shelters. No neighborhood can (or *should be asked to*) safely bear this burden.

The path is plain:

- If the City insists on building one big 200-bed shelter with co-located services, then it shouldn't be in a residential area. It is not a fair and equitable distribution of costs born throughout the City. To this end, I find the District Road counter-proposal (furnished to you by Casey McCormack) very compelling.
- If the City decides to do this the right way, it will build a network of small shelters in residential areas and Nason's Corner will gladly step up to the plate. The City will use this as an opportunity to unite neighborhoods, not divide us. The City will live up to its compassionate, progressive, creative values. (I look forward to reviewing a detailed cost-benefit analysis of the single site vs. scattered site models, as the Mayor requested at the hearing.)
- Please note that the 2 paths above are not mutually exclusive, as explained in the District Road counter-proposal.

Please be in touch if you have any questions or comments. Thank you very much for your time and attention in this important debate. I am looking forward to its continuance.

Steve Sclar, MPH
25 Sandy Terrace

**On the topic of accessing the voices of those currently experiencing homelessness, many neighbors would like to see more than informal surveys which were mentioned at City Hall. If the City has been studying this for the past decade, surely there must be substantial data beyond informal surveys? We hope to see formal surveys, interviews, ethnographic analysis and/or focus group discussions.

--

Director, Health & Human Services
[City of Portland](#)
[389 Congress Street](#)
[Portland, Maine 04101](#)
o 207.874.8775
c 207.956.3262
dcsl@portlandmaine.gov



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Largest Shelter in New England

2 messages

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Fri, Aug 17, 2018 at 2:50 PM

To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>, Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Natasha J** <natashaonfya@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Jul 30, 2018 at 9:15 PM

Subject: Largest Shelter in New England

To: jpj@portlandmaine.gov

Dear Jon Jennings,

I am writing as a concerned citizen and parent in regards to the City of Portland's proposal to build the largest emergency shelter in New England at the Barron Center campus, near the Portland/Westbrook line on Brighton Avenue in the Nason's Corner Neighborhood.

Since hearing this proposal, I have felt incredibly disappointed in the City of Portland, and sick to my stomach that the City has not engaged in informed decision-making, nor done due diligence in to choosing the site, just a short walk from a newly renovated elementary school-built to draw young families to this neighborhood. I am a young mother, who bought in this neighborhood just before the announcement of this proposal. I spent years picking the perfect house and perfect location for my family's needs, and now my dreams are crumbled. Even since the announcement, our home values have taken a plunge. We bought at the top of the market, believing in the future of this neighborhood and Hall School. What will you do to compensate us for that? I'm a public school teacher, dedicated my life to being a good person and a positive role model. I have spent every penny I have to follow my dream of home-ownership, and now it feels that you have taken that pride and sense of accomplishment away from me.

I am struggling to understand why this proposal is even being contemplated, and I have begun to educate myself and research different city's models and approaches to working to decrease homelessness. Stakeholders in downtown areas and people affected by the problems that arise from homelessness in their own neighborhoods may be attracted to the idea that there would be a facility large enough to house most of the city's homeless citizens. Theoretically they're off the streets, and developers can develop the valuable land, and everyone is happy, right? Wrong. Current research shows that building a large "mega-shelter" is not the answer, and has not worked *anywhere*.

As a citizen, I reject this proposal strongly. In recent years, cities nationally are moving away from this ineffective model, as it creates more problems than it solves and has wasted time and money with adverse results to get people in to permanent housing.

Portlanders deserve for you to take a closer look in to how better results can be achieved. We must look at a more scattered, spread-out demographic diversity and work to get people in to actual housing. How is it consistent with "OnePortland" for one unlucky neighborhood to accept the burden of an enormous homeless facility? Why do you want Portland to be known for the *largest emergency facility in 5 states*? Why are you trying to attract more transient people? News of this mega-shelter

will travel quickly in the transient communities, and not surprisingly, this will quickly lead to more homeless people in Portland.

Whether it is subsidized, affordable, or just within a person's financial ability, we need to be providing affordable options with the needed wraparound services to help people stay afloat. Effective housing models must work to get people housed rapidly, and should not be focused on the large emergency sheltering models that create more problems for the homeless and the surrounding communities, and are not focused on getting people in permanent living situations. We have to stop this backward thinking. The data does not support the clustered model of large homeless centers in one area- that is an invitation for crime and predators to follow. I ask, what will you do to ensure the safety of the children in this neighborhood? The drug dealers, human traffickers, and other predators are going to swarm a giant center such as this, and there are NO PUBLIC SPACES nearby- They will take to our woods and our quiet streets to use drugs, drink, engage in illicit activity. That is completely unacceptable. In this area, we do not have a nearby police station/fire station/hospital.

Putting all homeless people with vastly different needs in one building is negligent and inconsiderate. Why would you repeat this on a grander scale if you have seen the outcomes in the Bayside area? What exactly are you doing to ensure this does not become a repeat of the same congregation of heinous behavior concentrated in one area? The people who live in Bayside moved there knowing the area had a homeless shelter. We bought in Nason's Corner knowing there *wasn't* a homeless shelter out here.

Additionally, the citizens who currently live in the Barron center are those with low-income, who suffer from disabilities such as Dementia and Alzheimer's disease. I sincerely ask how is it best practice to build a large magnet for transient folk all across the Northeast to their exact location, a location that is a quiet, wooded neighborhood full of single-family homes with many young families, a newly renovated elementary school just a short walk away, no public spaces or parks, a 30-45 minute commute to the downtown area, and not a highly consistent public transportation system?

I have had so much excitement and hope and contentment in the Nason's Corner neighborhood. I have enjoyed the short walk to trails, the quiet and serene atmosphere. I have been proud to be a citizen of Portland, and specifically chose this location to start my family, and raise my children. I want to trust my city officials and have faith that you have our best interests at heart. I am positive you will listen to our voices. I encourage and challenge you to please think deeper, to consider more up-to-date options and current models of getting people in to housing. There are other solutions that will benefit everyone involved. Building a bigger, better shelter is not best practice, and seems as though the City is aiming to attract *more* transient people with this proposal. 200 beds is a disproportionately large facility for our small city. I sincerely ask why would you do this? If you build it, more will come.

Mr. Jennings, I'd like you to really think about it: How would you feel if the largest homeless shelter in New England was proposed to be built at the end of your street? Don't build a mega-shelter in *anyone's neighborhood*. Instead, build a few 40 bed shelters that focus on getting people housed.

Please reconsider this proposal.

Thank you,
Kendra J

--

9/5/2018

City of Portland Mail - Fwd: Largest Shelter in New England

Jon P. Jennings
City Manager
[City of Portland](#)
[389 Congress Street](#)
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 874-8689 Office
(207) 874-8669 Fax
jjp@portlandmaine.gov
www.portlandmaine.gov
Twitter: @portlandmanager

Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fri, Aug 17, 2018 at 2:51 PM

Public Comment

Director, Health & Human Services
[City of Portland](#)
[389 Congress Street](#)
Portland, Maine 04101
o 207.874.8775
c 207.956.3262
dcs@portlandmaine.gov
[Quoted text hidden]



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: NCNA Statement - Homeless Services Center

1 message

Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Thu, Jul 26, 2018 at 8:30 AM

Public Comment

Director, Health & Human Services
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04101
o 207.874.8775
c 207.956.3262
dcs@portlandmaine.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jon Jennings** <jjp@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Mon, Jul 16, 2018 at 7:38 AM
Subject: Fwd: NCNA Statement - Homeless Services Center
To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>

For the record

Jon P. Jennings
City Manager
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 874-8689 Office
jjp@portlandmaine.gov
www.portlandmaine.gov
[@portlandmanager](#)

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nick Mavodones <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: July 14, 2018 at 10:00:21 AM EDT
To: Jon Jennings <jjp@portlandmaine.gov>
Subject: Fwd: NCNA Statement - Homeless Services Center

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Nason's Corner Neighborhood Association** <nasonscornerneighborhood@gmail.com>
Date: Saturday, July 14, 2018
Subject: NCNA Statement - Homeless Services Center
To: Belinda Ray <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, Pious Ali <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, Brian Batson <bbatson@portlandmaine.gov>
Cc: Ethan Strimling <estrimling@portlandmaine.gov>, nmm@portlandmaine.gov, jduson@portlandmaine.gov, Spencer Thibodeau <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, kcook@portlandmaine.gov, jcosta@portlandmaine.gov

Dear Health and Human Services and Public Safety Committee and City Council,

Attached, please find the statement from the Nason's Corner Neighborhood Association regarding the Homeless Services Center proposal.

Regards,
Maya Lena

Maya Lena, President
NASON'S CORNER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



--
Nick Mavodones
City Council At-Large
389 Congress Street
Portland ME 04101
(207) 874-8685
nmm@portlandmaine.gov

Sent from Gmail Mobile

 **NCNA Statement - Homeless Services Center .pdf**
117K



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: opposed to mega shelter on Brighton Avenue

1 message

Michael Sauschuck <mjs@portlandmaine.gov>

Wed, Sep 5, 2018 at 5:54 AM

To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Cc: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>

Hey Adam,

Please add this to the public comment portion of the packet. Thanks

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **rick zaccaro** <rzaccaro@maine.rr.com>

Date: Tue, Sep 4, 2018 at 9:04 PM

Subject: opposed to mega shelter on Brighton Avenue

To: Ethan Strimling <estrimling@portlandmaine.gov>, <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, <sthbodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>, <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>, <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, Brian Batson <bbatson@portlandmaine.gov>

CC: <Mjs@portlandmaine.gov>, Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Dear Mayor Strimling and City Councilors Thibodeau, Costa, Cook, Duson, Batson, Mavadones, Pious and Ray, AND City Manager Jennings and Assistant City Manager Sauschuck,

This is Richard and Bonnie Zaccaro, [22 Alden Circle, Portland](#),

We are writing to share our great concern, alarm and fear, about the proposal to build a 200-bed homeless shelter on Brighton Avenue, so close to schools, the Barron Center, residential neighborhoods.

It should not go there. Portland doesn't have enough police officers to handle what's downtown now, and what would come here: crime, loitering, drugs, more panhandler sprawl. It will harm, if not destroy, our area.

A shelter that size is far TOO BIG! We read in the Press Herald that few municipalities in New England have a municipal homeless shelter. Already Portland is a magnet for homeless from outside the city, throughout Maine and out of state. A bigger shelter with more beds will grow that problem, as has been demonstrated in the last 10 years on Preble Street. You build it and they will come.

We are not interested in spending our tax dollars to take care of everyone who comes from outside the city and outside Maine.

If Portland has anything, there should be residency requirements; it should be smaller, scattered shelters in non-residential areas, in locations that doesn't allow drug abuse, horrible behavior, sex and human trafficking.

We are watching. Please reject this location, and this size of shelter for Portland.

Sincerely,
Bonnie and Rick Zaccaro
[22 Alden Circle](#)
[Portland](#)
773-3243--
Michael J. Sauschuck
Assistant City Manager
[City of Portland](#)
[389 Congress Street](#)
Portland, Maine 04101
(207) 874-8681

9/5/2018

City of Portland Mail - Fwd: opposed to mega shelter on Brighton Avenue

Fwd: Pious Ali's Statement Regarding His Role on the Health & Human Services Committee

1 message

Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Wed, Aug 22, 2018 at 12:05 PM

FOr public record.

Director, Health & Human Services
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04101
o 207.874.8775
c 207.956.3262
dcs@portlandmaine.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Eric Kane** <erickane@maine.rr.com>
Date: Wed, Aug 22, 2018 at 9:55 AM
Subject: Pious Ali's Statement Regarding His Role on the Health & Human Services Committee
To: Estrimling@portlandmaine.gov, bsr@portlandmaine.gov, bbatson@portlandmaine.gov, pali@portlandmaine.gov,
nmm@portlandmaine.gov, jduson@portlandmaine.gov, jjj@portlandmaine.gov, dcs@portlandmaine.gov,
mjs@portlandmaine.gov

Good Morning,

I wanted to take a moment to submit the below screenshot of a recent Facebook conversation I had with Councilor Ali for the public record. Unfortunately, he has deleted the conversation from Facebook.

I am an opponent of the construction of the mega shelter and was voicing my concerns regarding Mr. Ali's position. I was absolutely flabbergasted by his response. My at large Councilor considers his mega shelter vote on the Health & Human Services Commission a "nominal" vote and can't understand why one of his constituents from Nason's Corner is so concerned about how he'll vote. I think this clearly demonstrates that Mr. Ali is entirely unfit to serve on this committee or as a City Councilor. He either doesn't understand the importance of the committee on which he sits or simply does not give a damn about his constituents. In either case, I would just like this in the public record so my fellow constituents can see the type of Councilor Mr. Ali truly is. I understand that being a Councilor and dealing with angry constituents must be difficult, but it is clearly not a job Mr. Ali is suited for. Sadly, this kind of dismissiveness has been ever present in the role out of this plan and I certainly hope the city will change course and engage with its citizenry in an honest manner. Have a good day.

Sincerely,
Eric Kane
Raymond Rd.

image1.png
121K





Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Portland Homeless Shelter Relocation

2 messages

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>, ash@portlandmaine.gov

Wed, Jul 18, 2018 at 5:58 AM

Jon P. Jennings
City Manager
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 874-8689 Office
jpj@portlandmaine.gov
www.portlandmaine.gov
[@portlandmanager](#)

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nick Mavodones <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: July 8, 2018 at 4:35:24 PM EDT
To: Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Portland Homeless Shelter Relocation

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <imachikadee@aol.com>
Date: Sunday, July 8, 2018
Subject: Portland Homeless Shelter Relocation
To: bbatson@portlandmaine.gov, jduson@portlandmaine.gov, nmm@portlandmaine.gov,
estrimling@maine.rr.com, jchrisos@wgme.com

While we were not able to attend the meeting on 7/5/18 due to the time it was scheduled (working - these meetings need to be later in the day so people who cannot get out of work early can attend - or would you rather they didn't??) it seems like all of the issues that were discussed and reported in the Portland Press Herald are issues that my husband and I and neighbors are concerned about. Just because this is the only property (the Barron Center) that seems to be available, that doesn't make it the right one! This is a quiet, kids playing outside, dog walking, joggers, etc., residential area. The last thing we need is trouble being transferred here to ruin it. There are already issues with panhandlers, etc., on the end of Brighton Ave near the Westbrook side. Relocating the homeless shelter would not only be dangerous for people who live near there, (near the nursing home, seriously??) but bad for business as well. And there was also a discussion about property value. What does it do to property value to be that close to a homeless shelter? Especially if it goes bad? If there will be police security on the grounds at a new location, why hasn't that happened already at the present location?? The people in the Bayside area are tired of what is going on, so it's going to be dumped elsewhere?? While these homeless people need someplace to go, it has to be the right place and done differently, as the current way isn't working. This sounds like an accident waiting to happen - only this time, it's in this neighborhood!

Dawn Wood

--

9/5/2018

City of Portland Mail - Fwd: Portland Homeless Shelter Relocation

Nick Mavodones
City Council At-Large
[389 Congress Street](#)
[Portland ME 04101](#)
(207) 874-8685
nmm@portlandmaine.gov

Sent from Gmail Mobile

Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Wed, Jul 25, 2018 at 4:30 PM

Public Comment

Director, Health & Human Services
[City of Portland](#)
[389 Congress Street](#)
Portland, Maine 04101
o 207.874.8775
c 207.956.3262
dcs@portlandmaine.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jon Jennings** <jjj@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Wed, Jul 18, 2018 at 5:58 AM
Subject: Fwd: Portland Homeless Shelter Relocation
[Quoted text hidden]



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Proposal to Move Bayside Homeless Shelter

2 messages

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>, ash@portlandmaine.gov

Wed, Jul 18, 2018 at 5:59 AM

Jon P. Jennings
City Manager
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 874-8689 Office
jpj@portlandmaine.gov
www.portlandmaine.gov
[@portlandmanager](#)

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nick Mavodones <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: July 8, 2018 at 10:11:49 PM EDT
To: Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Proposal to Move Bayside Homeless Shelter

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mike Amero** <mamero@maine.rr.com>
Date: Sunday, July 8, 2018
Subject: Proposal to Move Bayside Homeless Shelter
To: "Nicholas Mavodones Jr." <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>

Dear Nicholas,

I just heard that the City of Portland is considering moving the Bayside Homeless Shelter to the Barron Center. A couple years ago, I purchased a home on [210 Holm Avenue](#) which is connected to the Barron Center. This is a residential neighborhood and I am completely outraged with the proposal to move the Homeless Shelter near children and the Hall grade school. We have two young boys living here. We do not want our children put at risk.

Many of the homeless people are of questionable character. On 5/6/18 the Portland Press Herald published an article titled, "Bayside at rock bottom: Portland neighborhood is under siege". In this article, it states that the Preble Street Resource Center and the Oxford Street Shelter has people who have drunken brawls, overt sex, burglaries and drug deals. Rough-looking crowds gather on street corners. Alcoholics drink openly on public sidewalks and addicts slide needles into their arms and legs. Others in drug-induced stupors slump over in entryways. Some slip into alleyways and private driveways to relieve themselves.

Please do not expose our children to this mess. I drive through Bayside periodically and I have witnessed public urination, gangs of homeless roaming the streets like zombies and others are passed out on

sidewalks. A residential area is no place for this homeless shelter. I have a pocket of woods behind my house less than a half a mile from the Barron Center. I am seriously worried about child predators hiding out behind my house. It is not fair to everyone in this residential neighborhood. I don't know any of you, or if you have children, but please ask yourself if you would want your children growing up next to this. Please do everything in your power to prevent this move to the Barron Center. It's simply not the right thing to do.

Thank you for your time,

Mike Amero

--

Nick Mavodones
City Council At-Large
[389 Congress Street](#)
[Portland ME 04101](#)
(207) 874-8685
nmm@portlandmaine.gov

Sent from Gmail Mobile

Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Wed, Jul 25, 2018 at 4:28 PM

Public Comment

Director, Health & Human Services
[City of Portland](#)
[389 Congress Street](#)
Portland, Maine 04101
o 207.874.8775
c 207.956.3262
dcs@portlandmaine.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jon Jennings** <jj@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Wed, Jul 18, 2018 at 5:59 AM
Subject: Fwd: Proposal to Move Bayside Homeless Shelter

[Quoted text hidden]



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Proposed location for the homeless shelter

2 messages

Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Thu, Jul 26, 2018 at 8:20 AM

Public Comment

Director, Health & Human Services
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04101
o 207.874.8775
c 207.956.3262
dcs@portlandmaine.gov

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From: **Sally Bowden-Schaible** <1sallybs@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Jul 16, 2018 at 1:22 PM

Subject: Proposed location for the homeless shelter

To: "bbatson@portlandmaine.gov" <bbatson@portlandmaine.gov>, "bsr@portlandmaine.gov" <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, "dcs@portlandmaine.gov" <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>, "estrimling@portlandmaine.gov" <estrimling@portlandmaine.gov>, "jduson@portlandmaine.gov" <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, "jpj@portlandmaine.gov" <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>, "mjs@portlandmaine.gov" <mjs@portlandmaine.gov>, "nasonscornerneighborhood@gmail.com" <nasonscornerneighborhood@gmail.com>, "nmm@portlandmaine.gov" <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, "pali@portlandmaine.gov" <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, "rwp@portlandmaine.gov" <rwp@portlandmaine.gov>

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Sally Bowden-Schaible
27 Birchvale Dr
Portland, ME 04102
207-939-3254



--

Sally Bowden-Schaible, LCPC, CCMHC

Michael Sauschuck <mjs@portlandmaine.gov>

Wed, Sep 5, 2018 at 12:06 PM

To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Cc: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>, Robert Parritt <rwp@portlandmaine.gov>, Jessica Grondin <jgrondin@portlandmaine.gov>

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Michael J. Sauschuck
Assistant City Manager
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04101
(207) 874-8681

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From: **Sally Bowden-Schaible** <1sallybs@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Sep 5, 2018 at 10:46 AM

Subject: Re: Proposed location for the homeless shelter

To: "bbatson@portlandmaine.gov" <bbatson@portlandmaine.gov>, "bsr@portlandmaine.gov" <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, "dcs@portlandmaine.gov" <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>, "estrimling@portlandmaine.gov" <estrimling@portlandmaine.gov>, "jduson@portlandmaine.gov" <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, "jpi@portlandmaine.gov" <jpi@portlandmaine.gov>, "mjs@portlandmaine.gov" <mjs@portlandmaine.gov>, "nasonscornerneighborhood@gmail.com" <nasonscornerneighborhood@gmail.com>, "nmm@portlandmaine.gov" <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, "pali@portlandmaine.gov" <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, "rwp@portlandmaine.gov" <rwp@portlandmaine.gov>

Cc: nasonscornerneighborhood@gmail.com, Shelters Portland <portlandshelters@gmail.com>

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[27 Birchvale Dr](#)
[Portland, ME 04102](#)
[207-939-3254](#)

Sally Bowden-Schaible, MS, LCPC, CCMHC
 Founder of LivingWell
 836 Main Street
 Westbrook, ME 04092
 Tel: [207.939.3254](tel:207.939.3254)
 Email: 1sallybs@gmail.com
www.livingwellcenter.info

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[27 Birchvale Dr](#)
[Portland, ME 04102](#)
[207-939-3254](#)





Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Proposed location for the homeless shelter

2 messages

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To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Thu, Jul 26, 2018 at 8:20 AM

Public Comment

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389 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04101
o 207.874.8775
c 207.956.3262
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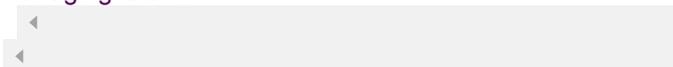
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The proposal to move the Oxford Street Shelter to the Baron Center campus is, in my view, short-sighted and wrought with foreseeable problems. The model described might work very well for people temporarily displaced and experiencing hard times, even for some persons who experience mental illness. But, I cannot envision it as being successful for the people I described above, the people that present the most challenge to the city. As we learned in the early ACCESS team days, a 'one-model-fits-all' kind of program doesn't work.

And, while it is very true that homelessness and criminality do not go hand in hand, it cannot be argued that chronic homelessness oftentimes results from behaviors (and in behaviors), especially as related to substance use, that contribute to homelessness. Sadly, as is well known, these behaviors also affect the surrounding community.

As this is related to the proposed site for the shelter, it surprised me when the location was described as meeting the criteria for an appropriate location: not pushing the homeless to an out-of-sight location, its being accessible to services and resources by centralizing many at the shelter location, and its being on a public transportation bus route. First of all, I can't imagine a location more out of the way than the edge of the city on the Westbrook border, and it is about 3 miles to downtown. Secondly, while some people would use public transportation and shuttle services, many would not. And, to expect people to remain on the Baron Center campus is unrealistic— And, thirdly, what will happen to the many services located downtown? Amistad, the soup kitchens, Preble Street Resource Center, to name a few.

Finally, the concern expressed at the Breakwater meeting about the location abutting an already vulnerable area of

the city is an important point. As has also been pointed out, sections of the Nason's Corner area (especially around Sagamore Village) are home to lower income people and most of the area is decidedly lower middle to solidly middle class. It is home to many families who couldn't afford living on the Portland peninsula in ever-growing market of higher income housing and gentrification. (Perhaps developers have in site the Bayside area for such development and won't proceed with their projects with a shelter site and social services located in the area?) Historically, this is a familiar pattern in our society— pushing to the edge, people on the edge. And it does feel exploitative of an already vulnerable population already living on the edge.

As city Councilor Batson and the Nason's Corner Neighborhood Association has recommended, more study is required and more planning is necessary. I would be very willing to participate in ongoing discussions and strategizing.

Respectfully,

Sally Bowden-Schaible
[27 Birchvale Dr](#)
[Portland, ME 04102](#)
[207-939-3254](#)





Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Proposed Shelter Site

2 messages

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>, ash@portlandmaine.gov

Wed, Jul 18, 2018 at 6:02 AM

Jon P. Jennings
City Manager
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 874-8689 Office
jpj@portlandmaine.gov
www.portlandmaine.gov
@portlandmanager

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nick Mavodones <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: July 9, 2018 at 9:53:48 AM EDT
To: Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Proposed Shelter Site

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jackie Parker** <jackie.parker77@gmail.com>
Date: Monday, July 9, 2018
Subject: Proposed Shelter Site
To: bsr@portlandmaine.gov, bbatson@portlandmaine.gov, pali@portlandmaine.gov,
nmm@portlandmaine.gov, jduson@portlandmaine.gov, kcook@portlandmaine.gov,
jcosta@portlandmaine.gov, sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov, estrimling@portlandmaine.gov

Dear City Council Members and Mayor Strimling,

My family resides in Nason's Corner, and we wish to and express our deep concerns about moving emergency shelter services to the Baron Center Campus on Brighton avenue.

My wife and I moved to Nason's Corner in 2010 after living in downtown Portland for almost a decade. At that time, were told by many that because of both the questionable hotels/businesses in the area as well as Sagamore Village, that this was not going to be the kind of neighborhood where we could start raising a family. We were SO glad we didn't listen to any of these people. Yes, at that time I would hardly call the neighborhood warm and inviting, however over the past 8 years it has become a wonderful area that continues to grow with families and people really invested in seeing the neighborhood thrive.

I listened to last week's City Council /Health and Human Services meeting and attended this week's community meeting and I'm glad that many of our concerns were addressed, however I'm not convinced by some of the answers provided by the many folks who spoke.

I truly appreciate the enthusiasm, commitment, and dedication that shelter director Rob Parritt has for his work and the community, still, I have a hard time reconciling some of the things he said. He spoke so passionately

about how we should not hide or push aside our homeless residents, however moving the shelter from the middle of downtown to literally, the city limit border, is doing just that. Most of the services for our homeless residents including job searching, job placement, mental and physical health and wellness services, and food security are in the heart of Maine's largest city. By moving the shelter a significant distance away we will be limiting the support that our most at risk neighbors need most. This was the case when DHHS was moved from Marginal Way to South Portland, and folks are still having a hard time accessing those services. It feels to us that the city would be moving the shelter away from the eyes of tourists and a growing dining and entertainment district to somewhere it wouldn't be seen at all by those bringing money in to the city. While the proposed move will make one neighborhood safer, it could significantly alter the growth and safety of Nason's Corner.

I understand the plan for transportation, but question what bringing multiple buses, shuttles, vans, personal vehicles and taxi-cabs into the neighborhood is going to do to the traffic and walk-ability, especially down Holm Ave. Currently, the "walking school bus" to Hall/Rowe School walks right down Holm Ave, and many of the walking residents of the Baron center and those who live in the area take walks/bike rides down the street as well. I have concerns about the safety of those residents and our neighborhood kids as what sounds like a huge increase in traffic is being proposed on what is already a major gateway through the neighborhood.

He also mentioned how no one could ever conceive of needing 200 beds for emergency shelter when the Oxford Street facility opened years ago. I have serious concerns about the rising numbers of Portland's homeless population that I don't think this shelter will address. Portland rents are already higher than they have ever been and every day more and more residents are being pushed out of their homes to make way for luxury condos and high rent apartments all over the city. The Press Herald reported on May 1 that a "mystery" investor is buying multiple properties in Bayside and I feel that this investor, or other investors, are going to be the only ones to benefit from the shelter moving. I understand that what is happening in the area around the current shelter isn't OK on any level and there needs to be a solution, but removing it to make way for expensive properties is likely going to be the result - which will not benefit the people most in need of housing. With the current state of Portland and the surrounding area's market of available and affordable housing, as well as the opioid crisis wreaking havoc on our Maine cities and towns, the homelessness problem is going to keep increasing and we worry that the needs will not be met by this new shelter either by its location or model of support, and will create the Oxford Street "situation" in Nason's Corner within a few years.

Particularly concerning to me was the statement made by Police Chief Sauschuck at the HHS meeting stating that he didn't think there would be crossover problems between residents of Sagamore Village and clients at the new shelter, citing that he didn't believe that problems in Kennedy Park had been caused by those visiting the Oxford Street Shelter. This is deeply concerning and misleading for a few reasons. We have found that while there is occasional police presence in Sagamore Village, the folks who live there are very hard working and are grateful to have housing in Portland for their families. Lawns are clean and well kept and lots of kids play together - from all over the neighborhood which is how it should be. Kennedy Park also has its own set of problems and positives, but it is OVER half a mile from the Oxford Street Shelter, and has a huge natural barrier of the Franklin Arterial separating East and West Bayside! Sagamore Village has homes on Taft Avenue, and the shelter would be about a block and a half away from the closest home on that street. This is a little too close for comfort for many neighborhood residents, including those who live in Sagamore Village! As came out in the community meeting, Chief Sauschuck only thought there were 50 units in Sagamore Village, he is mistaken, there are 200. It seems that those doing the endorsing of this project are not actually in-tune with the needs of the neighborhood they're proposing, nor have they taken the time to research what currently exists in Nason's Corner!

Additionally, the proximity of the proposed shelter location to the before mentioned hotel properties is also a concern. While a Hampton Inn is replacing the problematic TravelLodge, and we have hopes it will bring great guests to stay in our neighborhood, the Motel 6 is still a den of people outside at all hours, conducting illicit activities in the parking lot. It has seen some improvement over the years, but having the new facility so close to what is already a problem does not put neighborhood residents at ease. We are not convinced that with the

addition of the shelter that the neighborhood will continue to improve or that the shelter residents (as well as existing Baron Center/Loring House residents) will have the safe, supportive environment that they need.

We would also like to be updated on the status of the Avesta housing project that has been slated to break ground next Spring and was to be located at [977 Brighton Avenue](#). This is planned to bring 40 low income senior housing units to a mere 4 blocks away from the proposed new shelter location. That, combined with Sagamore Village already in the neighborhood and the Baron Center itself is enough saturation of city services and assisted or low income housing in one neighborhood. Such a cluster threatens to overwhelm the availability of the services and the resources of the neighborhood to the detriment of both the people who already live in Nason's Corner as well as the people who so need those services. No matter how convenient it might be for the city to put the proposed shelter on land they already own rather than look for other locations OR solutions such as the small vacancy unit housing shelters that had been talked about in the past, ultimately such convenience is short sighted and does not serve anyone but the developers looking at the land on which the current shelter exists.

I know that other residents have additional concerns with regards to proximity of the new Rowe School, as well as the new shopping/housing project in Westbrook in the Pike quarry, and while I do worry about how a shelter will affect both of those new additions to this part of Cumberland County (as well as how many non-Portland homeless this shelter will attract) those concerns pale in comparison to the ones I've outlined above. I do believe that shelters CAN be good neighbors – but the City of Portland needs to look elsewhere this time around. I'm sure that there are few homeowners who would actively want these kinds of services in their neighborhoods, but they are necessary and it's time for other neighborhoods to step up and share in the solution.

After years of hard work and folks deciding to buy in the neighborhood, invest in their homes, and get involved with the public school community and their neighbors, Nason's Corner has become a vibrant community. It would be short sighted of the city to move the shelter to this neighborhood, one which has been open to accepting challenges in the past, but would be pushed to the breaking point with more of a burden. It's time to look at other locations, or other shelter models.

Thank you for your time.

Jackie Parker

--

Nick Mavodones
City Council At-Large
[389 Congress Street](#)
[Portland ME 04101](#)
(207) 874-8685
nmm@portlandmaine.gov

Sent from Gmail Mobile

Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Wed, Jul 25, 2018 at 4:22 PM

Public Comment

Director, Health & Human Services
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04101
o 207.874.8775
c 207.956.3262
dcs@portlandmaine.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jon Jennings** <jjj@portlandmaine.gov>

Date: Wed, Jul 18, 2018 at 6:02 AM

Subject: Fwd: Proposed Shelter Site

[Quoted text hidden]



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Proposed shelter

3 messages

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>, ash@portlandmaine.gov

Wed, Jul 18, 2018 at 5:59 AM

Jon P. Jennings
City Manager
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 874-8689 Office
jpj@portlandmaine.gov
www.portlandmaine.gov
[@portlandmanager](#)

Begin forwarded message:

From: Sean Kerwin <cairdhubain@gmail.com>
Date: July 9, 2018 at 7:55:37 AM EDT
To: bbatson@portlandmaine.gov
Cc: pali@portlandmaine.gov, Belinda Ray <BSR@portlandmaine.gov>, Ethan Strimling <estrimling@portlandmaine.gov>, Spencer Thibodeau <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, jcosta@portlandmaine.gov, kcook@portlandmaine.gov, jduson@portlandmaine.gov, nmm@portlandmaine.gov, John Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>, Robert Parritt <rwp@portlandmaine.gov>, Michael Sauschuck <mjs@portlandmaine.gov>
Subject: Proposed shelter
Reply-To: cairdhubain@gmail.com

Greetings Councilor Batson,

I read with disappointment your letter to the Nason's Corner Neighborhood Association on their Facebook page regarding the siting of a new shelter on the Barron Center property. It is to be expected that the residents of any neighborhood where a shelter is proposed will offer resistance, but I had hopes that you - particularly given your experience in the healthcare field - would demonstrate greater leadership than your communication with them indicates.

As you know, this is an issue that the city and stakeholders have been working on for years. There have been two separate homeless shelter task forces, and countless hours of meetings between stakeholders over the years that have lead to this proposal. Of course, until it potentially impacts them personally, most citizens of Portland are not going to tune into that long process until it becomes more concrete and personal, but we cannot, and should not, wind back the clock on years of hard and open work as every new participant enters the process.

Threading the needle of what we need to see in a new shelter to provide the best situation for the homeless, for our service providers, and for our neighborhoods is admittedly tricky, but this location addresses all of those concerns. It is located in a neighborhood (rather than an industrial area like some feared) yet it is contained to its own campus, a well thought out system to access transportation is part of the proposal, partner providers will have space on

site to serve their clients, a medical center will exist on site as well as a community policing office, and the fact that it is city owned land makes the financing of this proposal hard to improve upon. This proposal has the support of the police department, the manager of the shelter, and most of the social service providers who work with the homeless. This proposal is absolutely based on a review of "best practices" that you call for.

Again, I understand that the people of Nason's corner are concerned - that is to be expected. I have hopes that, instead of feeding their fears, you will have the courage to step up and lead - to push to make this project the very best it can be, but to explain to your constituents that what is proposed is not what they fear, and is critically needed. I assume you agree that the current situation is untenable chaos destructive to all, most particularly to the homeless themselves. We do not need to step back and study the situation. That has been done - for years. We are in a moment of crisis and the time to lead is now.

Thank you for considering my concerns and opinion.

Respectfully,

Sean Kerwin
[18 Parris St.](#)

Jon Jennings <jjp@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>, ash@portlandmaine.gov

Wed, Jul 18, 2018 at 6:00 AM

Jon P. Jennings
City Manager
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 874-8689 Office
jjp@portlandmaine.gov
www.portlandmaine.gov
[@portlandmanager](#)

Begin forwarded message:

From: patrice perreault <murphperreault@gmail.com>
Date: July 9, 2018 at 8:21:50 AM EDT
To: jjp@portlandmaine.gov, bbatson@portlandmaine.gov, nmm@portlandmaine.gov, estrimling@portlandmaine.gov
Cc: nasonscornerneighborhood@gmail.com, omc@maine.rr.com
Subject: Proposed shelter

Dear City Staff,

I saw the the outline for the proposed new shelter. I didn't see the pro's and con's ect. for each location. I see cost and connectivity appear to be the criteria according to the study.

10 million dollars should not be a factor in any other location, period. Buses run through St.John St., Forest Ave. and Washington Ave.

Business are also located in these districts along with shopping centers and restaurants.

Mercy Quick Care can be accessed from County Wy, Bishop St and Washington Ave, would be about the same distance if not closer. Maybe a littler further form Washington Ave.

These other locations are not as densely populated and wouldn't have such a negative affect on residential areas. Please, think about it.

The city doesn't want to "hide the homeless", but yet move this shelter out of in town and relocate it to furthest city border. It will be well hidden from in town Portland. The city will pay for transportation to shuttle clients back and forth. This is a problem that was "created" and now it's out of control.

Bishop St & County Wy appear to be a much more practical choice,if the shelter must be moved from the Baysite area due to the development. allowing close access to the necessary amenities.

I believe what the former officer said at the other night at the meeting."You don't want this in your yard". (I know NIMBY) If anyone knows it's the officers. I sincerely hope before the city makes this decision, they **choose not to impact a residential area and destroy it**. That being said, I know other councilors feel the same about the area they represent. Why wouldn't they?

The trails, Fore River Sanctuary and Capisic Pond are in the Brighton Ave area, This makes camping a lot easier. Saturday evening I saw campers at Lucas St. The pond is a nice area to spend an evening along with the all other wooded areas in this district.

Hopefully this decision hasn't been made, as a lot of people feel this is already a done deal. I'm not sure how this could be true with an impact as huge as this could be for an entire district.

Sincerely,

Patrice Perreault

Dawn Stiles <dcsc@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Wed, Jul 25, 2018 at 4:25 PM

Public Comment

Director, Health & Human Services
[City of Portland](#)
[389 Congress Street](#)
Portland, Maine 04101
o 207.874.8775
c 207.956.3262
dcsc@portlandmaine.gov
[Quoted text hidden]



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Questions for City Council

3 messages

Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Tue, Sep 4, 2018 at 4:11 PM

Public Comment

Director, Health & Human Services
[City of Portland](#)
[389 Congress Street](#)
Portland, Maine 04101
o 207.874.8775
c 207.956.3262
dcs@portlandmaine.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jon Jennings** <jjj@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Tue, Sep 4, 2018 at 1:53 PM
Subject: Fwd: Questions for City Council
To: Michael Sauschuck <mjs@portlandmaine.gov>, Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>

FYI--

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Pious Ali** <pali@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Thu, Aug 30, 2018 at 8:18 AM
Subject: Re: Questions for City Council
To: Tania Tonos <tonostania@gmail.com>, Belinda Ray <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, Jon Jennings <jjj@portlandmaine.gov>

Ms. Tonos

Thanks for your detailed email. I am sharing this with the chair of the HHS&PS committee chair Councilor Ray and the city manager, Mr. Jon Jennings. so that the response to some of the questions that are directly related to the moving of the shelter be printed and shared at the September 10th meeting you are organizing. Thanks

*Respectfully***Pious Ali**

City Councilor At-Large

City Hall

[389 Congress Street](#)[Portland, ME 04101](#)PALI@PortlandMaine.gov[2078074283](tel:2078074283)<http://www.portlandmaine.gov>[Sign up to receive updates on my work](#)

On Fri, Aug 24, 2018 at 2:34 PM, Tania Tonos <tonostania@gmail.com> wrote:

August 24th, 2018

Council Member Mr. Pious Ali
389 Congress St, Portland, ME 04101

Dear Councilman Ali:

Hello, Mr. Ali. I hope that you have had a pleasant week. I can share with you some of the comments that the those living in homelessness have. Please be aware that these comments may not reflect the views of myself or Homeless Voices for Justice.

Some of the questions from the homeless community for City Council are:

- why do people at Oxford Street Shelter have to leave the area where they go to social service providers in the area, such as Maine Behavioral Health, and employment day labor agencies?
- why were those experiencing homeless not asked beforehand, and left out of the decision-making process?
- why does City Council move forward with the new shelter when they have not experienced homelessness?
- what makes City Council think the same problems will not happen at "the new Oxford" on Brighton Avenue?
- why aren't any of the City Council members coming to Preble and Oxford themselves to speak to those in homelessness?
- why Brighton Avenue? It's the DHHS to Jetport all over again
- why \$10 million dollars when everyone could just be housed for less money? Why are landlords allowed to raise rent above vouchers?
- why is no one addressing no cause evictions that send the housed back to the shelter where they may not be allowed back in as in several cases?
- why aren't other areas of Maine addressing their own homeless issues and sending them to Portland?
- why does City Council keep avoiding affordable housing? It's responsible for this whole mess, and just makes new "homeless people"
- why aren't they putting up tiny houses?
- why are "homeless people" forced to move away from friends, resources, and loved ones?
- why don't we see City Council at the (Preble Street) soup kitchen?
- why can't we have our service animals in the shelter? emotional service animals?
- why is City Council only exploring the option that personally benefit City Council members?

Those are the more popular questions in the homeless community. Jane's concerns were safety issues in shelters themselves: violence, theft, exposure to substance use, health issues unaddressed of those with disabilities, seniors, teens, the aged, domestic violence, those with alternative lifestyles, etc. My concerns were having exposed bio-hazards in clinical and eating areas. Also, I fully agree with Mark Swann in that there should never be sleeping areas on the ground floor. A one floored unit is unsafe, unsanitary, and congested. Many diseases are contracted in confined spaces. Illnesses are very easily transmitted to staff, volunteers, and clients. And what of allowed animals?

I also had issues with the lack of set policies and rules for staff to follow when dealing with emergencies, theft, violence, re-entry, and clients being forced out into inclement weather and no one being held accountable. Clients are not being able to fill out police complaints, complaint forms go missing, and people are told to leave for the slightest of offenses. People are forced to take apartments, and some far away, or they must leave the shelter. The blind, deaf/mutes, those with disabilities, and those with sever illnesses are not given priority housing status. Long term stayers are given priority. Pregnant women are placed at the Oxford Street Shelter instead of in family shelters-7 months pregnant and with medical histories that affect their pregnancies. Teens are being asked to engage in alternative lifestyles and/or sexual activities against their will, partake in criminal activities, and take substances-illegal and otherwise. Those who choose alternative lifestyles are verbally insulted by staff and clients, threatened, and physically harmed-including being kicked in the head repeatedly. Many of these incidents I have witnessed first hand. And where are the incident reports that should have been forwarded to authorities?

The lists go on and on. No matter who you ask that are involved in the community that sincerely empathize with homelessness, the greatest fears are: wasting 10 million dollars on a band aid solution that does nothing to end homelessness, ignoring the root causes of homelessness, going through great lengths to waste time, energy, resources, and money on another failed Oxford Street Shelter, ignoring true concerns of homelessness, and those that experience homeless, and not exploring other options of small scattered shelter sites and other solutions to homelessness, ignoring affordable housing solutions, ignoring the concerns of social service providers, not consulting

these providers, and rushing headlong into the decision of the one shelter location despite the obvious problems with the site.

My concern is also that of City Council making these decisions without asking "homeless experts" to join in the decision making process. I thank you Mr. Ali for getting involved and asking to meet with different individuals in the homeless community to find out what is involved and at stake for those living in homelessness.

I would ask for a committee watchdog group that would oversee client complaints, shelter regulations being met, police reporting and handling, legal concerns, code enforcement measures, exiting and re-entry policies being met and how all of these issues are being enforced and regulated. This committee would not be handled by shelter or social service provider staff, but people that are experienced in the community without personal stake in the outcomes of these decisions. A group of people that those being regulated must answer to and be held accountable for their actions and decisions.

I hope that this gives you some idea of how great an importance City Council decisions will be and the multitude of vulnerable lives they will affect. I hope that I have answered all of your questions satisfactorily. Please contact me if you or other Council members need clarification. Thank you and the rest of City Council for taking an active interest in the community. I appreciate the presence of City Council at different functions around Portland, and for the dedication shown to finding viable solutions to this now growing problem of homelessness in the community, Bayside, Portland, Maine, and The United States.

Respectfully,

Tania T.

--

Jon P. Jennings
City Manager
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 874-8689 Office
(207) 874-8669 Fax
jjp@portlandmaine.gov
www.portlandmaine.gov
Twitter: @portlandmanager

Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>

Wed, Sep 5, 2018 at 9:42 AM

To: Robert Parritt <rwp@portlandmaine.gov>, Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>, Jessica Grondin

<jjgrondin@portlandmaine.gov>

Cc: "MacLean, David" <dem@portlandmaine.gov>

Great - maybe they can get posted at the end of the day with the other material. thanks

Director, Health & Human Services
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04101
o 207.874.8775
c 207.956.3262
dcs@portlandmaine.gov

On Wed, Sep 5, 2018 at 9:28 AM, Robert Parritt <rwp@portlandmaine.gov> wrote:

I can have them answered by lunch.

On Wed, Sep 5, 2018 at 9:28 AM, Robert Parritt <rwp@portlandmaine.gov> wrote:

I am happy to just answer these today and send along to you guys for comment.

On Tue, Sep 4, 2018 at 4:12 PM, Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov> wrote:

We need to respond to these when you return Rob.

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Rob Parritt
Director
City of Portland
Oxford Street Shelter
rwp@portlandmaine.gov
(207) 482-5213
fax (207) 761-0536

--

Rob Parritt
Director
City of Portland
Oxford Street Shelter
rwp@portlandmaine.gov
(207) 482-5213
fax (207) 761-0536

Robert Parritt <rwp@portlandmaine.gov>

Wed, Sep 5, 2018 at 9:50 AM

To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>

Cc: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>, Jessica Grondin <jgrondin@portlandmaine.gov>, "MacLean, David" <dem@portlandmaine.gov>

No problem!

[Quoted text hidden]



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Regarding the proposed homeless shelter at the Barren Center

2 messages

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Wed, Jul 18, 2018 at 5:11 AM

To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>, ash@portlandmaine.gov

For the record.

Jon P. Jennings
City Manager
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 874-8689 Office
jpj@portlandmaine.gov
www.portlandmaine.gov
[@portlandmanager](#)

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mara Sullivan <marasullivan4444@yahoo.com>
Date: July 11, 2018 at 11:52:23 AM EDT
To: "estrimling@portlandmaine.gov" <estrimling@portlandmaine.gov>
Cc: "bsr@portlandmaine.gov" <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, "bbatson@portlandmaine.gov" <bbatson@portlandmaine.gov>, "pali@portlandmaine.gov" <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, "nmm@portlandmaine.gov" <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, "jduson@portlandmaine.gov" <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, "jpj@portlandmaine.gov" <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>, "mjs@portlandmaine.gov" <mjs@portlandmaine.gov>
Subject: Regarding the proposed homeless shelter at the Barren Center

To whom it may concern,

I am a resident of the Nason's Corner Neighborhood. I have attended all three meetings provided by the committee to learn more about the proposed Homeless Shelter on Brighton Ave and have read all possible materials made available. I have not at this point provided any public comments on the matter, as I believe in being educated as much as possible about a topic before taking sides and sharing my opinion. This morning I woke up compelled to speak out. I love the diversity the city of Portland offers. Our neighborhood in particular with Sagamore Village creates a beautifully diverse population. I believe that all people deserve the right to a safe environment in which to live, a community that they feel connected to and neighbors that treat them with dignity and respect. It wasn't until I started attending the meetings and doing my research that I began to feel uneasy about the plan proposed by the city. As a resident I feel completely unsatisfied with the level of planning and communication surrounding this plan. There is an emergency situation happening in Oxford Street, I understand that and something needs to change. This massive 200 bed shelter on the outskirts of town feels like a band aid to this situation. I feel the answers to all our questions as concerned neighbors have blatantly been disregarded. We are being asked to buy into a model that has no proven track record of success. There are so many inaccuracies in the handout provided by Oxford street shelter last night. Just a few I would point out are outdated budget numbers, incomplete lists of other sites researched, and blatant lies about walk-ability (Mercy Quick Care in Westbrook is almost three miles away from the barren center, down busy, sidewalk-less roads). I also need to point out the possible conflicts of interest. This includes a committee chair who has property in the Oxford Street Area, a chief of police who promises us safety but then accepts a high paying position as assistant city manager, an absent city manager from the meeting & the fact that anonymous buyers are buying up properties in Bayside just waiting to develop that land as soon as the homeless move out. Everything about this plan feels rushed, corrupt and misleading. The city is ultimately asking a small residential neighborhood to support a 200 bed emergency all inclusive shelter 4 miles outside of the center of town. There has been no plans provided to us on how our neighborhood will be kept safe. We have been given answers such as "the bad actors will be

easier to spot" and " first floor windows should be locked anyways" I urge the committee to take a look at their way too aggressive timeline, slow down, and come up with a plan that works for all of Portland's residents. One that keep all of us safe.

My husband and I love Portland, We have lived here for 17 years. Unfortunately, like all of our friends, we were driven off the peninsula 11 years ago due to the cost of living. As a public school teacher and an electrician we didn't make enough to even rent let alone buy in town. We found this beautiful little house on the outskirts of town that allowed us make our dream of raising our family in Portland a reality. We now have two children in Portland Public Schools and have fallen in love with our tree lined, quiet neighborhood. Although our house and yard are way too small and our tax bill is way to big we are still committed to staying here because we love Portland so much. This proposal feels like a kick in the face to us. We once again feel as if we are being pushed out of the area we love. I have to be honest, it's becoming more and more obvious that Portland cares nothing about it's middle class citizens. It's so discouraging to care so much for a city who does not care about you. This is completely evident in the lack of communication with our neighborhood at ANY point in this process. I encourage you all to come for a walk behind the Barren center into our neighborhood. You will see so many kids riding their bikes in the street or playing massive games of tag through out each other's yards. You will see elderly people sitting in their driveways who have lived in this neighborhood for years and raised their own kids here. They love to chat you up about life and tell you stories from back in the day. Please take a walk in the beautiful paths surrounding our neighborhood where I run every night after dinner and never feel unsafe. Swing into Sagamore and see the amazing progress this community has made, you would never believe it is the same development that had such a bad reputation years ago. Our neighborhood is unique this day in age. It a special place, and one I am so proud to raise my kids in. Please, do your research on the impact this shelter will have on our neighborhood before moving forward. Do your due diligence. Come knock on our doors and shake our hands and talk to us face to face like you all did when you were campaigning. WE are your people too. WE voted for you because we hoped you would represent us. I once again urge you to slow down this process and to extend the timeline. The proper work has not been done by the city to make sure this is the right move for all of it's residents.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, I look forward to any future conversations with the committee.

Sincerely,

Mara Sullivan
49 Pinecrest Ave

Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Thu, Jul 26, 2018 at 8:11 AM

Public Comment

Director, Health & Human Services
[City of Portland](#)
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Portland, Maine 04101
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dcs@portlandmaine.gov
[Quoted text hidden]



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: shelter

2 messages

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>, Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, Jul 16, 2018 at 8:50 AM

For the record,

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <jesposi1@maine.rr.com>

Date: Thu, Jul 12, 2018 at 6:11 PM

Subject: shelter

To: bbatson@portlandmaine.gov

Cc: estrimling@portlandmaine.gov, bsr@portlandmaine.gov, pali@portlandmaine.gov, nmm@portlandmaine.gov, jduson@portlandmaine.gov, jpj@portlandmaine.gov

As our district's elected official, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the interest you have shown in our neighborhood, Nason's Corner area.

After being a resident on Rowe Ave. for 60 years, I find it very difficult to accept the fact that it appears that the majority of city officials are pushing to replace a shelter in this residential neighborhood and have done so behind "closed doors". I am appalled that there isn't more concern for the neighbors in this area from those who are representing our city governing body.

I have had a 47 year career in health care before retiring, so I certainly understand the obligations and challenges before you. Nevertheless, I have concerns.

With this new facility combined services will be possible. Increased much needed bed capacity, conference room, office space for outside services, an interest in a mini library, and even a medical clinic for the residents and neighbors. It was stated that a medical interest in the proposed clinic, but no name was mentioned. What are the cost implication for the city for such a service and why is one needed with those same facilities available on many a corner?

I'm sure concerns regarding the families and visitors for patients at the Barron Center as well as those residents on the present site were addressed.

It has been stated that 30% of the residents are from this area, 30% are from surrounding areas, and the rest come from other states and/or countries. Why aren't we trying to reduce those numbers and is Portland the only shelter in the state? Change in traffic patterns due to the increase of shuttles, vans, taxi vouchers given, RTS services and the individual staff using these services for the residents. I understand there will be improved lights and signals, sidewalks and bike lanes, for who? Bike lanes on Brighton Ave., are you kidding me? This appears to be another "Morrill's Corner" traffic nightmare for all residents of the Nason's Corner area. Who pays for all these changes?

After the "start up" year, what is the extra expense to the city, or will this be another excuse to increase the property taxes?

In closing: I have never seen any system, change in policies, and/or procedures, or the implementation of new programs that don't effect extra staffing, increased funding, and in this case, extra traffic flow and patterns.

I hope that we are not fooling ourselves by thinking that building a new "Taj Mahal" in a residential neighborhood that we can expect major change in the present behavior and/or criminal activity. As previously stated, these residents are very vulnerable to sex trafficking and drug dealers. Do you really think by moving from the Oxford Street area to Brighton Avenue is going to change habits and behaviors? I don't think so. (Where do they get the money for drugs?)

With the millions spent on a new school, play grounds, the nature trails, the falls, the new shopping facility on the Blue Rock areas coming in Westbrook, our great shopping areas, and all the beautiful wooded areas, it appears the city officials are pushing this on us. Please stay with us. It does not need to be in a residential neighborhood, and certainly not in the Nason's Corner area. Thank you for your time.

Estella Esposito from Nason's Corner in Portland

--

Jon P. Jennings
City Manager

9/5/2018

City of Portland Mail - Fwd: shelter

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www.portlandmaine.gov
[@portlandmanager](#)

Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Thu, Jul 26, 2018 at 8:29 AM

Public Comment

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Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Thoughts on Barron Center megashelter proposal

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Tue, Sep 4, 2018 at 1:37 PM

To: Michael Sauschuck <mjs@portlandmaine.gov>, Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>, Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lois Winter** <loiswinter54@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 3, 2018 at 2:24 PM

Subject: Thoughts on Barron Center megashelter proposal

To: Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>, Mike Murray <msm@portlandmaine.gov>, Mona Bector <mbector@portlandmaine.gov>, Jeff Levine <jlevine@portlandmaine.gov>, Ethan Strimling <estrimling@portlandmaine.gov>, Belinda Ray <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, Spencer Thibodeau <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, Brian Batson <bbatson@portlandmaine.gov>, Justin Costa <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>, Kimberly Cook <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>, Pious Ali <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, Nick Mavodones <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, Jill Duson <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>

Nearly a month ago, on August 8, I sent a note to you and a dozen other City officials that I believe to be directly involved in decision-making pertaining to the proposed new homeless shelter in Portland. I have been dismayed and a little disillusioned to have not received a single response from any of you. I appreciate that you are busy with much City business, but I have written other notes to you on other issues over the years, and always received responses in the past. Why not this time? I hope you can appreciate that I am also busy and took time to write a carefully crafted letter, with the intent of sharing my concerns for the welfare of all -- shelter residents and other City residents. Please refer back to your August 8th emails and find the note from me about the homeless shelter, focusing on the design of the facility and the location of the facility. I am now writing you a second letter and would appreciate a response from you regarding your ideas and position on a new approach to dealing with homelessness in Portland, surrounding communities and the state of Maine.

To me, the bottom line is that the need for a homeless shelter in the first place demonstrates the failures in our society to help the weak and vulnerable, and I hope we can collectively come up with a solution that truly helps solve problems and alleviate suffering, by doing more than offering a cheap/expedient fix that exacerbates current problems and transports those problems to a new location. Can we carefully consider how to move people away from homelessness to a better future and maintain quality in our current residential neighborhoods at the same time? I believe that the process of selecting a new model for homeless sheltering that won't simply dump the considerable problems of Oxford St. elsewhere needs to be careful, compassionate, transparent and deeply engaging with interested community members. From what I have read and heard, I am not convinced that the decision-making process to-date has been any of that. It feels as if some in the City are focusing on an exceptionally short-sighted decision to ramrod a new megashelter in as quickly and cheaply as possible. The decision to select the Barron Center location seemingly ignores a recent City study regarding a number of presumably more appropriate locations for shelters and instead selects the Barron Center simply because the land is already owned by the City and because (contrary to what has been said by some City officials), the Barron Center location will be out-of-sight and as far from the "hot real estate districts" on the Peninsula. Clearly, the Barron Center is located on the fringe of the City, in a moderate-income and not-well-connected neighborhood adjacent to lots of woods that are challenging to police -- and also with ready access to the Northeast's notorious drug-running corridor of I-95. Selecting the Barron Center location also ignores the very real difficulties inherent in locating a large megashelter in a quiet residential neighborhood that also hosts vulnerable populations -- homeowners, elementary school children, Barron Center residents and Sagamore Village residents.

In addition, any social services professional "in the know" tells me that megashelters are a discredited and ineffective model for providing decent support for shelter residents. In contrast, the scattered model of smaller shelters housing no more than 40-50 people, segregated by the needs that residents, is far more humane and effective for shelter residents and stands a better chance of heading people back to self-sufficiency. The scattered model is also far better for the quality of life and even safety of nearby residents, avoiding the problems associated with one large facility that acts as a magnet, attracting large numbers of criminals to prey on shelter residents (as nearby residents). Perhaps, the scattered model is more costly in the short-term, but there's nothing more expensive than dumping an estimated \$10 million in construction costs towards a megashelter model that is likely to fail on multiple fronts -- for shelter residents and for nearby residents. Let's think clearly about the problems and figure out how to not just spend money, but to spend money

wisely. Clearly, a more expensive approach that actually works to solve a problem is more cost-effective than a cheaper approach that fails.

The proposed megashelter at the Barron Center seems to provide short-term wins only to the real estate developers hoping to make a lot of money on luxury condo developments near Oxford St. After all, our country has a sad history of kicking poor people out-of-site and out-of-mind when the real estate that has long harbored poor people becomes attractive to those with wealth and power.

It's disparaging, insulting and inaccurate to characterize those who question the location of a new shelter (or shelters) in Portland as a NIMBY issue. It is probably true that some people living nearby have paid more attention, researched and learned about the issues -- After all, people first pay attention to what they know and love, and that's usually the starting point for many people that become deeply involved in civic action for social and environmental justice. Those with power and position often try to discredit civic action with disparaging terms like NIMBYism when it runs counter to their plan. There's nothing compassionate or cost-effective about throwing \$10 million and more at a problem without solving it or by simply transferring existing problems elsewhere. That's an issue that should be of concern to all Portland residents. If we blow \$10 million today on a problem we don't solve and maybe make worse, will City officials come back in a few years asking for :

- more money to expand the megashelter?
- funds for more emergency police runs?
- funds for more emergency room visits?
- ways to deal with a neighborhood that declines in quality and value as people contend with the problems associated with a nearby megashelter?
- money to establish the scattered shelter approach that we should have tried in the first place?

Effective solutions to homelessness are an issue of vital importance to the entire City, surrounding cities and state of Maine. We deserve to give the issue appropriate clarity of intent and thought to devise a comprehensive approach that stands a chance at solving the complex problem of homelessness.

Please send me your response.

With concern and respect for coming up with a better solution,
Lois Winter
[50 Alden Circle, Portland](#)
207-871-8029
loiswinter54@gmail.com

--

Jon P. Jennings
City Manager
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Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Thoughts on homeless shelter proposal

1 message

Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Thu, Aug 9, 2018 at 2:10 PM

Public Comment

Director, Health & Human Services
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dcs@portlandmaine.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jon Jennings** <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Wed, Aug 8, 2018 at 4:08 PM
Subject: Fwd: Thoughts on homeless shelter proposal
To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lois Winter** <loiswinter54@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Aug 8, 2018 at 3:28 PM
Subject: Thoughts on homeless shelter proposal
To: Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>, Mike Murray <msm@portlandmaine.gov>, Mona Bector <mbector@portlandmaine.gov>, Jeff Levine <jlevine@portlandmaine.gov>, Ethan Strimling <estrimling@portlandmaine.gov>, Belinda Ray <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, Spencer Thibodeau <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, Brian Batson <bbatson@portlandmaine.gov>, Justin Costa <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>, Kimberly Cook <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>, Pious Ali <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, Nick Mavodones <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, Jill Duson <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>

As a Portland resident for more than 25 years, I am writing to share my thoughts on the proposed new homeless shelter near the Barron Center.

First, I recognize that homeless people can be any of us, and accordingly, for whatever reason those folks ended up down on their luck, they deserve our compassion and support.

Second, the biggest issue is NOT who's neighborhood the shelter is or isn't built in. After all, any shelter is, will be and should be located near somebody! The main issue, in my mind is a City-wide issue regarding whether we are spending the funds wisely, adhering to best practices recommended by social services professionals, for constructing and locating a shelter -- or shelters.

Third, I want to thank all of you for your hard work on behalf of our city. I recognize that you have many competing needs and far too much to do with never enough resources.

That said, I have two major concerns with the current proposal for the homeless shelter -- one having to do with the design of the proposed facility, and the other having to do with the location of the facility.

Design:

My understanding is that in contrast to the discredited large "warehouse facility" (200 residents) as currently proposed near the Barron Center, the "scattered model" of multiple smaller facilities (40 - 50 residents), tailored with specialized services that can support the variety of reasons people become homeless, in concert with an emphasis, when feasible, on "Housing First!" is a better approach. The "scattered model" more effectively serves shelter residents and can also be more successfully integrated into existing communities (residential neighborhoods or commercial business complexes). I understand that some City officials counter that the scattered model would be more expensive. That claim, in itself, shouldn't end the discussion, for the following reasons:

1. Let's examine all the costs. First, as I understand it, the cost of building the "warehouse facility" is only a preliminary estimate, without sight plans completed that could change the price tag significantly. Second, let's be sure we are comparing the total costs associated not only with construction but with annual administration and emergency services. Might the "warehouse model" costs go up if associated emergency services (police/hospital), transportation costs and higher and longer residency rates for clients are included?
 2. Let's think strategically about what we are trying to accomplish by building new shelter(s). Is it to simply serve more and more homeless people, or is it help homeless people find their way back to dignity, to a home/apartment of their own -- and over time, reduce the number of shelter residents? Is it to build a giant facility today, only to find that we need to spend more money to add more beds in a few years? Is it to spend a pile of money now to move an existing problem from Oxford St. neighborhood to the Nason's Corner neighborhood, or is it to build new facilities that honor the needs of the homeless as well as honor the quality of life requirements of surrounding City residents?
 3. Let's take the time needed to take a positive approach to dealing effectively with homelessness in our community, and let's avoid a quick knee-jerk response that will simply move a problem away from Oxford St. Let's get creative about fundraising. Can we locate more funding sources (i.e. larger contributions from local real estate developers, federal and state grants, GPCOG, and city taxpayers, foundation grants, local hospitals that benefit from less uninsured emergency room visits, etc.).
- In the end, let's have facilities for our most vulnerable homeless citizens that our city can be proud of.

Location:

It appears that the process by which the Barron Center location was selected was hurried, secretive and flawed.

1. Simply moving a "warehouse facility" shelter from Oxford St. to the Barron Center property doesn't appear to be a "win" for anyone in the City, except for Oxford St. neighborhood real estate developers and nearby Oxford St. residents. It wouldn't be the first time in the sad history of social injustice in our country that vulnerable people get kicked out of an area that has turned into "hot real estate" and pushed into less desirable neighborhood. It's pretty tempting to believe that the overarching interest in moving the shelter right now is to cater to the interests of real estate developers and city planners who are working hard to gentrify the Peninsula.
2. Why were all the other sites identified in a recent City planning process dismissed? And why was one of the key criteria in that planning document of avoiding nearby residential neighborhoods for siting a shelter ignored? (Wouldn't the scattered model of multiple small shelters make it more feasible to co-locate shelters near residential communities?)
3. Why were existing community members and many other City stakeholders not invited into the early planning process?
4. The proposal to move a "warehouse facility" shelter to the Barron Center seems to demonstrate little regard for legitimate needs of other city neighborhoods, including vulnerable people already living in the Nason's Corner neighborhood -- elementary school kids walking to school, Barron Center residents enjoying the outdoors, or Sagamore Village residents that may be unaware of dangers in their new country. I appreciate that most shelter residents are not a threat to anyone, but it's also true that "warehouse facility" shelters are hard to police and that "warehouse facility" shelters attract criminal hangers-on that prey on the shelter residents and any other vulnerable people nearby. That's another important reason for working with the "scattered model" approach in order to minimize issues of community safety.
5. Is law enforcement even more costly, time consuming and challenging/ineffective than at Oxford St. if a new facility is located near lots of woodlands, near the Maine Turnpike (with ready get-away access) and distant from the downtown police department headquarters?
6. Why have shelter residents depend on inconvenient public bus schedule on Brighton Ave. and a new costly community-funded shuttle service to receive needed services?

In my opinion, these are some of the questions of City-wide importance that need to be addressed before moving forward with planning a new "warehouse facility" shelter at the Barron Center. There's nothing compassionate or cost-effective about throwing \$10 million and more at a problem without solving it or by simply transferring existing problems elsewhere.

With concern and respect for coming up with a better solution,
 Lois Winter
[50 Alden Circle, Portland](mailto:lois.winter@portlandmaine.gov)
 207-871-8029

--

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9/5/2018

City of Portland Mail - Fwd: Thoughts on homeless shelter proposal

Twitter: @portlandmanager



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Re: New shelter

2 messages

Pious Ali <pali@portlandmaine.gov>

Sun, Jul 22, 2018 at 11:02 AM

To: Mary <marvy00@hotmail.com>, Belinda Ray <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Mary

Thanks for your email, as per our communication via FB I am copying Councilor Ray (HHS Chair) and Mr. Harr (HHS staff) so that it is added to the public records. I hope your weekend is going well.

Please excuse any discrepancy, this email is sent from a mobile device.

> On Jul 21, 2018, at 5:17 PM, Mary <marvy00@hotmail.com> wrote:

>

>

> Hello,

> As a Portland community member and taxpayer I wanted to let you know that I hope you listen to your community members and plan on voting against the construction of the new homeless shelter on Brighton Ave. I am for the building of a new shelter and providing services for those in need. I do not like how this project is being done and presented.

> The first problem is that the reason some want this to happen is so that they can build expensive housing in the area.

> I have no doubt that once the new shelter moves out, expensive condos will move in. Further gentrification of Portland is not needed.

> The second problem with this plan is the current unfortunate problems and crimes that seem to happen near the shelter are not controlled well. To move the shelter further means that some of the problems will be moving to Brighton and even more likely to get worse given that the area has even less police presence.

> The area near the shelter is home to drug use, violence, and crime in general. I am not saying that this all due to people who are homeless. There are people who also prey on the homeless that are in this area. For example, human trafficking has been linked to the area.

> The area where they are proposing the new shelter is close to wooded and secluded areas which will become breeding grounds to crime. Having an on-site police officer at the shelter will not stop things from happening in these woods and trails.

> Many members of the community, myself included feel the city is just moving its problems instead of solving them. The homeless aren't going to benefit from these problems not being solved and neither will the Nason Corner community.

> Why not work on solving the problem before creating new ones.

> Thank you,

> Mary Labady

Mary <marvy00@hotmail.com>

Tue, Jul 24, 2018 at 1:52 PM

To: Pious Ali <pali@portlandmaine.gov>

Cc: Belinda Ray <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Thank you!

Mary Labady

Sent from my iPhone

[Quoted text hidden]

> --

> Notice: Under Maine law, documents - including e-mails - in the possession
> of public officials or city employees about government business may be
> classified as public records. There are very few exceptions. As a result,
> please be advised that what is written in an e-mail could be released to
> the public and/or the media if requested.



Search



position is you don't have a position (how convenient for you) and until you do have a position I will continue to lobby you to oppose the mega shelter through every platform available to me. If you and anyone else are uncomfortable with that I don't care.

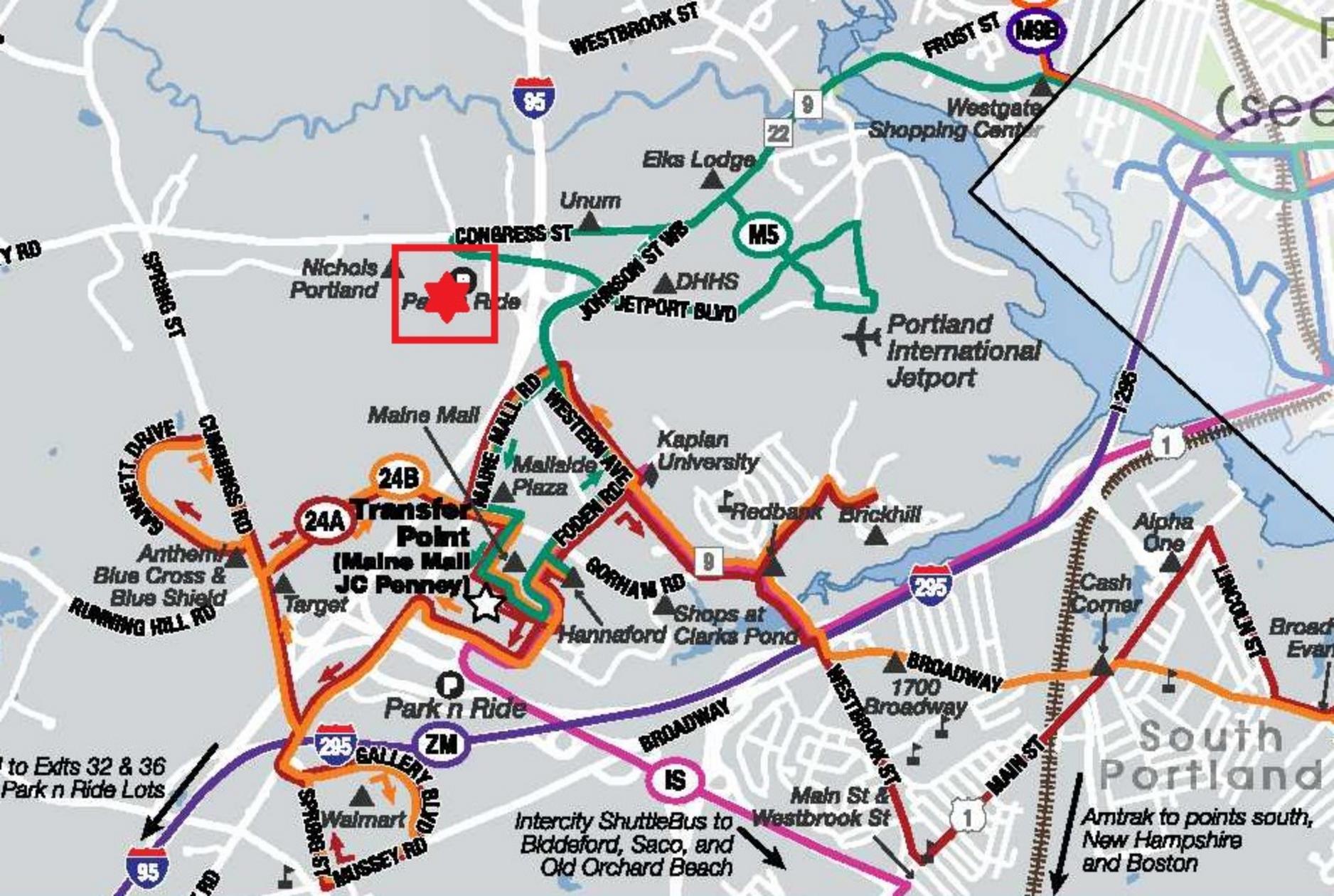
2h Like Reply

**Pious Ali**

Eric Kane I do its just not the one you want to hear. Why are you going to this extent, for a nominal vote because irrespective of how I vote it's moving forward.

Write a reply...





Cathy Mackowski

- She's talking about needles, so many needles that the Zip Trip [*gas station/convenience store ¼ mi from the Pov*] now has a needle collection in their bathroom. The bicycle cop told her he finds many needles. The neighbors have seen people shooting up on the California Street Bridge [*pedestrian bridge off a walking trail, ¼ mi from the Pov*]. They've seen transients pass up and down her street. She used to tell people who don't live in Missoula, that Missoula is a magic town. It was beautiful and a wonderful community to live in and it was safe. She is quite concerned now that she is not sure she can say that last line any longer. She hears from parents who are afraid for her children. They will not send their children to the park by themselves. She hears of children who will not ride their bicycles across the California Street Bridge, even during the day.
-the problems are not limited to West Broadway, but are seeping back into the residential neighborhood....
- She said she wanted their stories to be heard so that the Council and Mayor could start to understand the desperate and heartbreaking nature of the situation that the neighborhood is in. They have to play catch-up now and they have to do it fast and are begging for the City's assistance to do that.

Matthew LaRubbio – co-owner of Western Cider [*1/4 mi from the Pov*]

- Mr. LaRubbio represents his partners, Michael Billingsley and John Clarenbach, as well as the growing number of neighbors in their area, including Imagination Brewing [*across the street from the Pov*], Youth Homes [*1/4 mi from the Pov*], Blue Mountain Clinic [*1/4 mi from the Pov*], Tia's Big Sky [*across the street from the Pov*] and the interest of many residents with the same concerns. There's a number of issues that are beyond their control on Missoula's west side and they are here to highlight these challenges and ask the City to work with them in creating solutions. Most of their concerns are related to criminal activity with the increasing transient population, the status of City plans and the condition of the area in general.
- Lions Park [*1/4 mi from the Pov*] continues to be a place of constant drug use and sales, prostitution, fighting and a congregation of people with no regard for law or decency. These daily incidents in the park are not solely perpetrated by the transient community. It is a hub for people with and without homes in Missoula but is known as a place where open containers, drug use and fighting are rarely prosecuted. Youth Homes, unfortunately, receive the brunt of these problems, being direct neighbors to that park and it is sad to see kids that need a safe space being exposed to these things daily. Broadway Island is a refuge when police are patrolling Lions Park and serves as a hidden campground for the transient population. During river cleanups they find dozens of needles as well as a massive accumulation of trash and bedding on the island and in the stream. A side note is they appreciate the City's effort in cleaning that up. They know, as a city, we spend a lot of money cleaning up the island all along the river trail and understand there are solutions in place to try to mitigate that. California Street Bridge is a pedestrian resource that has become a spot for graffiti throughout the years. The graffiti on the Free Wall, which he personally used to paint on, has long migrated from the fence to the lamp post to the sidewalk and now every part of the bridge. The tags are vulgar, obnoxious and are rarely, if ever, removed. The bridge represents a lack of pride our community has in Missoula's Westside in some ways.

Dan Corradina, Program Director for the Shirley Miller Attention Home and part of Youth Homes [*1/4 mi from the Pov*]

- He's been there going on 11 years and has spent a lot of time as a direct care worker so has played a lot of football and Frisbee in that park and can no longer do that. There are a lot of people sleeping in the park, maybe trying to recover from the night or day's activities, lots of drug use, feces by their bedroom windows, needles in the bushes, vomit and repeated acts of violence. They call the police and the police are very responsive and they appreciate that, but it is hard to watch and it's hard for kids at risk and coming from difficult homes to watch that on a routine basis as well and so they end up being inside or going somewhere else to try to recreate versus being outside to have a conversation. He said he's selfish for being here tonight because the Lions Park has been awesome and the neighborhood has always had things happen that they've witnessed but it has exponentially increased in the last two years but this summer specifically.

Patrick Montgomery

- He lives at 1333 Toole Avenue [*condo unit 1/10th mi from the Pov*] and he is president of their condominium homeowner's association. There is a lot of fear among the ground floor residents in their condominiums where mostly elderly and/or disabled live. Because of their proximity with the Poverello Center and the casino, they have a lot of loitering that goes on around and on their property and the ones most affected by this are the first-floor residents who are elderly and disabled. They now have transients going door-to-door asking for money. They just had an episode where a gentleman was trying to sell, he's sure, stolen goods on the property and made a huge scene when Shelly asked him to leave. The personalities are extremely unpredictable. Patrick has felt threatened twice this year just because he's politely asked people to leave the property. One young gentleman, who's mentally disabled, was walking home and someone asked him for a cigarette and apparently because he didn't give it to the man, he got punched from behind and went right to ER. It's a problem if a fairly competent, capable person is nervous, think about these other people. There are people in the units who don't want to go to their cars at night. They've had three automobiles broken into just this summer. This is stuff you hear all the time. He's concerned about his neighborhood and he agreed with Cathy, for them to get a handle on this problem before it gets to the point of where it's out of control. Also, they have a young family in the condominium units who just had their first child and the first thing they did was put their unit up for sale.

Shelly Wilson

- ... she's at the point of feeling bad calling 9-1-1 because she's called it so many times that she's hoping dispatchers aren't thinking she's a crazy lady with nothing better to do, but even the dispatchers have encouraged them to call because they need to know what's going on. Today, before noon, she had to make three people get off of her property. Two of the young people felt comfortable enough to be wrapped up in their blanket on the lower level next to somebody's front door with their phone plugged in. She woke them up and said they are trespassing and need to leave. The problem is people aren't getting up and leaving. They're trying to argue. She doesn't go anywhere outside of her condo without her dog and it's a good thing because she's had a few incidences where she's felt that if she didn't have her dog with her it might have turned out pretty bad. When she went out the second time to take her dog out to go to the bathroom today, there was a gentleman sitting on the wall, which is basically somebody's front door on the lower level condo, at their patio, and the man was two feet from the "No Trespassing" sign and she asked, "Sir, can you read that?" He looked at it and wanted to talk to her about her dog. She said to him that he needed to leave, he was trespassing and they are instructed to call 9-1-1 because this is ongoing and she asked him to please leave. He continued to argue with her and hid his beer can behind him. She said she's calling 9-1-1 because he's drinking on private property and he got up and left. That happened just today before noon. There are so many incidences she doesn't have enough time to talk about it all. She's only lived in Missoula for 11 months. She bought the

condo thinking it's awesome that she's within walking distance of downtown to go have coffee, within walking distance to the park and river and she doesn't feel comfortable at all and this started as soon as she got here. She gave several other incidences that she has experienced. One of their vehicles has been broken into on their private property, in their parking lot, two times within two months. Things are going on in the middle of the night. Her son and fiancé live in one of the condos and have to go out at 4:30 a.m. to go to work and they are afraid to go out there at night. This is dangerous. The neighbors are not just whining and sniveling about somebody walking on the grass.

Unknown (off microphone)

- she's stood before the Council before trying to prevent Poverello coming right into the middle of their neighborhood and she's wondering what happened to the assurances that they had that this would not happen. She also has plenty of incidences that have happened. She lives on Cooper Street [1/6th mi from the Pov]. This summer they had a white, locked bike stolen that was in a truck. They've had strangers come onto their gated property. This is not complicated. She would like to see police cars going through their neighborhood five or six times a day. If police presence was seen all the time where these horrible problems happen, these problems would end. She doesn't feel like people care about their low economic neighborhood and it makes her very angry.

Tony Crescenzo, co-owner of On Center Performing Arts [1/4 mi from the Pov]

- He thinks the important things to be put on the record this evening are several times in the last two years they've had people who are not part of the studio, who don't have children and who are transient in nature, walk into the studio and either try to use the restroom or try to sit down and watch the dance classes as they're happening. He's talking about dance classes that involve children, young women and girls from the ages of 2 to 16. There has been several times when late at night, families leaving the business have been approached and asked for money, followed to their cars and thankfully nothing worse than that. They are directly across the alley from Zip Trip so many of the same problems and people who frequent the Zip Trip are part of the same problems that many neighbors experience such as issues with vandalism, needles, trash, loitering, food, unwelcome and other conversations and people looking through the windows. They have had to add covers for the windows and kept all outer doors closed except the front door while classes are going on.

Brian Dirnberger, Montana Glass [across the street from the Pov]

- Instead of the car-camping situation being addressed just with RV's, needs to be specifically addressed with cars. The second is the overpopulation of the Poverello itself. When it was first opened, the population was to be maxed out to 120 and now it's at 175, capping at 150 on a regular basis. The third is possibly moving the soup kitchen outside of the Poverello and having that separate. A lot of the transient population moving through the neighborhood is people coming to and from Poverello to get their meals. They are not monitored as closely for substance abuse and that's probably the people who are bothering the businesses and the people in the neighborhood.

Jay Kirby, 1533 Phillips St. [1/3 mi from the Pov]

- he and his wife walk almost every night to the California Street Bridge and across to the Silver Park and they've seen things like a guy shooting up, looks at him and smiles and pokes the needle in. He's seen kids in the youth homes that were playing on the backside of their fence and a couple of rough looking transients walk over and try to talk to the girls. The California Street Bridge is a treasure in this community. It's the most beautiful bridge that he's ever seen

and to see the graffiti that's starting to grow on the floor of that bridge is absolutely something that we shouldn't stand for. We should paint that bridge every day if we have to, to keep that stuff from happening. Silver Park and California Street Bridge and the whole west side are really great places to be in and to live but in the last year or two things have changed. His car has been broken into and tools stolen out of it. They worry about leaving their door open.

Bruce Allen, 1538 Cooper St. [*1/3 mi from the Pov*]

- He's been physically confronted at the California Street Bridge by a guy who wanted to fight him. He's also been physically assaulted in his driveway.

Connie Boatwright, North Davis and River Road [*1.3 mi from the Pov*]

- She just bought the place less than a year ago. They walked their dog down to the river and a guy asked what are they doing there? They replied that they're taking their dog for a walk and then asked him what he's doing there. The man responded that he lives here at the North Davis/Reserve Street Bridge. Then he said he'll kill their dog. They said, "Oh, really." Her sons didn't like that and they went back down there and said, "We'll kill you." Ms. Boatwright said, "Not cool." Another trip down there on a different route. Again, they were asked what they're doing down there and they replied that they're taking a walk with their dogs. Then the man threatened to kill her husband and he followed them home and threatened to burn down her house. She called the cops, they came out and said there's nothing they could do and keep a shotgun by her door.

Skyler Hollingsworth

- People take pride in that community, but unfortunately, over the past couple of years there are been a lot of really negative incidents. His father lives at the corner of Cooper and Cowper [*1/3 mi from the Pov*]. Walking home from the Zip Trip he has been followed and threatened. His father is visually impaired and worries about him. He tries to check in on him as often as he can. While going around his yard Skyler found different makeshift camp sites, stolen goods, such as bicycles or large propane tanks, dirty needles scattered up and down that block. Skyler's friend had the great misfortune of working as a graveyard shift gas station attendant at the Zip Trip and one evening he goes into the store and his friend showed him that in the women's bathroom someone had taken a piece of bubble gum and a dirty needle and set it as a booby-trap rig so if you were to sit down it would get you in the thigh. That's the kind of thing we used to not hear about in this neighborhood, in Missoula as a community as a whole. There's been a lot of wonderful investment as far as building up the Old Saw Mill District and that California Bridge does serve as the corridor in the connection but he fears no one will be safe to cross it whether it be in broad daylight or at night.

Rebecca Hamilton, Magic Diamond Casino and Liquor Store [*1/10 mi from the Pov*]

- She knows very well they are a magnet for this population that we're talking about and she wanted to assure everyone that she and her staff go above and beyond to deny service. They do everything they can to eliminate loitering and try to have them go off the property but then where do they go? They go down to the parks and to people's backyards and to the alleys and so it's been a battle. She or her staff get threatened on a daily basis with their lives. She's been called some really colorful names lately. Because they find so many needles, they currently have to keep Sharps containers in their maintenance closet and take them down to the hospital when they're full. In the past two years they've filled three quart-sized and now they're on their three-gallon one. They lock their bathrooms and because of that people go pee out in the parking lot and on other buildings. They lock their doors, maximum for company hours, and from midnight to 8:00 a.m. people have to be buzzed in mostly because of employees being threatened

inside. They are always double-staffed. There is never anybody there by themselves. She's been at this location for almost six years and in this industry managing locations for 15 years and this is a special little neighborhood that has some problems that definitely need to be addressed and she doesn't know the answer. It's not just the transients and the people at the Poverello Center. It's a drug problem across the board. The number of needles that she has seen in the past couple of years is astonishing. Their sales, as a company, over the past three years have dropped. They've lost a lot of good customers that are basically afraid to come there and they know that they are trying, but they can't monitor who walks through their parking lot. They've tried coming up with ideas, other than put a fence up, but they are a business and people walk through their parking lot, walk through their grass and there's nothing they can do about it. The only time they have control is when people come into their building and they can kick them out but then where do they go? The police officers really do a great job for them and they call them about once a day if not more.

Heather Morris, 1433 Sherwood Street [1/4 mi from the Pov]

- She gets a lot of foot traffic from Zip Trip as well. When she was doing yard work last year and realized someone had pried the crisscross fencing that's at the side of her garage because she lives up on the hill so there's a big gap under her garage so the siding covers that. Someone had ripped it down and set up camp under there. She doesn't know how long they were there. She found six cell phones and multiple blankets. The police came and they were great. They said there's not much they can do. She boarded it all back up. She commutes on her bike year-round to work and back and sometimes when she's approaching her home she's afraid to actually pull into her driveway on her bicycle so she'll ride around the block a couple of times until whoever looks a little sketchy has moved on so they don't see where she lives. A couple of weeks ago her cameras caught someone at 2:30 in the morning just waltzing into her backyard, opening the gate, walking right in. He wasn't there in the morning when she woke up and found the footage but she found evidence of him camping, picnicking, she's not sure what, but in the last two years there's been an increase of that type of thing occurring significantly. She's on high alert because several years ago she caught someone referred to as the "Westside Winker" at her back door where he had sliced her screen door and tried to get in. She lives alone and it's a little nerve-racking.

Bernadine Gantor, 708 Toole Avenue [1/2 mi from the Pov]

- With Little McCormick Park [1/2 mi from the Pov] they've always had transient issues, hobo issues in the old days, where they'd come off the trains and camp out in the park for a day and then get back on the train and leave. Over the course of years, it's changed. The hypodermic needles are an issue. Her neighbor found four when the snow melted this spring. Her other neighbor in the alley-way found a collection of them on top of a garbage can back there. Ms. Gantor called 9-1-1 earlier this week because there was a gentleman who was passed out in the alleyway. They asked her if he was sleeping and she said she didn't stop to check so they apparently came and did a well check on him. What the gentleman that spoke before her said rings true because we gentrify Missoula. We have to recognize that there's consequences and she doesn't think we have an infrastructure to actually deal particularly with the drug issues that are intense. For 40 years she has thought the police department needs stronger community policing so that they are a presence in our community and that's what she would urge the Council and Mayor to consider.

Austin Chaffin

- A lot of the things that have been said have been true at some of the properties that he has including people just camping in the backyard and when asked to leave, very combative, wouldn't leave, 24 hours goes by and they're still there, he calls the police to get them

removed. Hypodermic needles are a big issue on some of the places he's working at. He'll come back in the morning and find bags of them thrown around, human feces on doorsteps at places that he's working as well as dog feces and things like that. There are a lot of great things going on in the Westside, as everybody said, but he wanted to call to light some of the issues that he's seen.

Sanderson Clement

- He remembers when the old Poverello was here and there's definitely been an increase in the amount of transient traffic since then and he thinks the city is growing exponentially and the things that are being talked about is going to continue to be a problem. Maybe we'll be able to mitigate that a little bit by maybe for students having a class that explains what's going on, why the money is not helping, why it draws people here nationwide. He's heard this is a hot spot for transients. This is a great place to be homeless. It's an awesome place to be but when you have people who don't have a whole lot of happiness in their lives, you often have a lot more drug use so you're going to have these problems that everybody's mentioning. It's not really going to stop because the population size is going to grow but if you have some educational classes, expand awareness a little bit as to what is bringing these people here, which is probably mostly how eager people are to just dole out dollars to people begging on the streets, that will help turn down the problems a little bit. Obviously we need to help people who are in need but having it be so appealing for people who aren't native to this place to come here, be here and stay here isn't helping anyone.

Parker McCullick, 1200 block of Howell [1/3 mi from the Pov]

- In April of this year in went out to his garage and found the door had been pried open and two bicycles and a handful of other tools had been stolen. He dutifully made a police report and they were great but told him not a lot could be done or it's hard to solve these kinds of crimes, which he totally understands. Since then, he's been very acutely aware of the issue on the Westside of seeing individuals in alleys, almost patrolling the alleys, looking maybe unlocked garages or unlocked bikes and he does know that's an issue that happens everywhere, but hearing some of the other people speak tonight, he wanted to talk to hopefully expedite a solution because his biggest fear is that six months from now they will all be here again at a City Council meeting after something worse has happened. Maybe one of those idle threats on the California Street Bridge comes to fruition or one of the idle threats of asking someone to get off of their property comes to fruition or his garage is broken into and they got away with it and maybe next time they enter a backyard to get a bike and maybe on someone's back doorstep to get a bike and maybe they try someone's backdoor handle and it's open, they enter the house and a worse case scenario could happen.



Nason's Corner Neighborhood Association
nasonscornerneighborhood@gmail.com

Health and Human Services and Public Safety Committee
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101

July 14, 2018

To Councilors Ray, Ali and Batson,

After listening to the concerns of our neighbors, the Nason's Corner Neighborhood Association opposes the building of a 200-bed homeless shelter at 1145 Brighton Avenue, on the campus of the Barron Center and the Loring House Apartments. We believe this plan is not well studied and must be rejected.

While we find genuine concern and compassion for the homeless among our neighbors, we stand firmly on the belief that this proposal does not encompass best practices for ending homelessness nor is appropriate for the suggested site. Locating a homeless services center less than ¼ mile from the town line, among low income housing projects and in a vulnerable area already known for illegal behavior is not a best practice.

In this proposal we have not seen any plans for addressing the opioid epidemic as well as the emergence of synthetic cannabinoids or "spice", which appear to be root causes of the increased troubles that Bayside has experienced in recent years. We have heard from numerous Bayside residents that the Oxford Street Shelter used to be a wonderful neighbor, but in the past few years it has grown unmanageable and out of control. Without clear plans from the City for how to address this crisis head-on, it is difficult to see how these behaviors will not follow the shelter to its new location. Families in Nason's Corner are concerned they and their children will begin to find syringes, and begin witnessing lewd behavior in private yards, in the woods and playgrounds of our neighborhood as the playgrounds and woods are the only public space this area has to offer. We have not seen any viable argument as to how this behavior from troubled people or predators will not follow the homeless population to this neighborhood as its proximity to I-95 places it in an easily accessible area.

Additionally, the City's current proposal does not include a long-term operating budget nor a commitment to uphold the quality of on-site services, which creates a sense of worry this site will not be maintained and will quickly follow in the footsteps of its predecessor at Oxford Street.

We have seen no plan as to how the City will address shelter overcrowding at this location or handle those turned away because of substance abuse or whose addiction leads them to prefer the wooded and secluded areas of our neighborhood.

When asked, City Staff was unable to answer the question about the size of the building or the size of the proposed lot. This lack of knowledge highlights the concern that this plan has not been created with consideration of the site location and its surroundings.

Recently, we learned the property at 1085 Brighton Ave. is actively being pursued by the Opportunity Alliance to be purchased for conversion to a 12-bed group home. If more service agencies expand their operations to the empty storefronts of our neighborhood, we believe we would begin to see the kind of street activity that now plagues the Bayside neighborhood. Such clustering of services has already been blamed for many of the problems in Bayside.

We are concerned about zoning as it relates to this proposal. Zoning is an important factor in maintaining the stability and predictability of an area, particularly where single-family homes are involved. An inappropriate use created by spot-zoning may negatively impact property values.

This is a City-wide issue and the current proposal must be rejected by the HHS Committee and the City Council. Our councilor, Brain Batson, has also taken a stand against this recommendation. We charge City staff to do further research and due diligence on other sites and more variations of scattered site models.

Once again, we empathize with the plight of the homeless, but the proposed solution is the wrong one for the homeless and for our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Maya Lena'.

Maya Lena, President
Nason's Corner Neighborhood Association

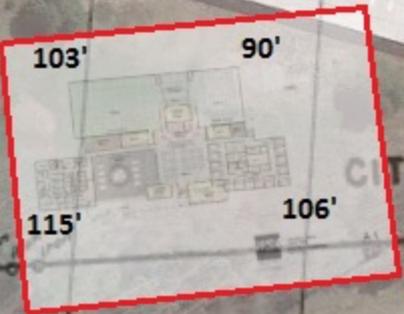
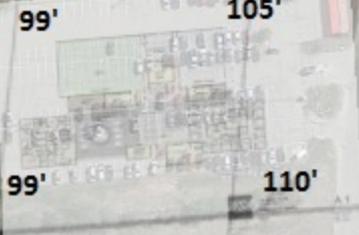
3025' TO END OF RUNWAY

50:1 APPROACH SURFACE

RUNWAY 11-29

PORTLAND WATER DISTRICT R.O.W.

CITY OF PORTLAND



ELEV. 135'

140'

145'

150'

155'

160'

165'

170'

Skyway Dr

180' ELEV. 185'

7:1 Transition Surface

CONGRESS ST

Congress St

22

State of