

# Health & Human Services and Public Safety Committee Agenda

Tuesday, July 10, 2018, 5:30pm

Council Chambers, City Hall

*Councilor Belinda Ray, District 1, Chair*

*Councilor Brian Batson, District 3*

*Councilor Pious Ali, At-Large*

1. Announcements
2. Review And Approval Of Minutes From The June 26, 2018 Meeting

Documents:

[HHS PS MINUTES JUNE 26 2018 DRAFT.PDF](#)

3. Staff Overview Of Homeless Services Center Site Recommendation And Answers To Committee Questions From 6/26 Presentation.

Documents:

[CITY STAFF RESPONSE TO HRC LOCATION QUESTIONS FOR 7.10.18.PDF](#)  
[INITIAL COMP PLAN ASSESSMENT RE HOMELESSSERVICECENTERS.PDF](#)

4. Public Hearing On Homeless Services Center Recommended Site (1145 Brighton Avenue) And Required Zone Change.
  - Rules for a Public Comment are Available Here:  
<http://www.portlandmaine.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/6136?fileID=33387>

Documents:

[RULES FOR A PUBLIC COMMENT.PDF](#)  
[HRC SUBMITTED TESTIMONY HHS AND PS 7.10.18.PDF](#)

5. Next Meeting: July 17, 2018

*The meeting can be watched online via livestream: [www.portlandmaine.gov/livestream](http://www.portlandmaine.gov/livestream)*

*Keep up to date with the new shelter design and planning process at the City's and Bayside Neighborhood Association's websites:*

[www.portlandmaine.gov/shelterplanning](http://www.portlandmaine.gov/shelterplanning)

<https://baysideportland.org/category/shelter/>





## Health & Human Services and Public Safety Committee Minutes

**Tuesday, June 26, 2018, 5:30pm, Council Chambers, City Hall**

Committee Attendance: Councilors Belinda Ray, Chair (District 1), Brian Batson (District 3), Pious Ali (At-Large)

Councilor Attendance: Jill Duson (At-Large)

City Attendance: City Manager, Jon Jennings; Mayor, Ethan Strimling; Director of Health and Human Services, Dawn Stiles; Assistant City Manager, Mona Bector, General Assistance Program Manager, Aaron Geyer; Shelter Director, Robert Parritt; Director of Social Services, David MacLean; City Planning Director, Tuck O'Brian; HR Director, Gina Tapp

### **AGENDA ITEM 1 – Announcements**

Paid sick leave would only be discussed if the Homelessness Services Center agenda item concluded before 7:00 PM; due to time, paid sick leave was not discussed at this meeting.

### **AGENDA ITEM 2 – Approval of June 10, 2018 Meeting +Minutes:**

Chair Ray announced that Paid Sick Leave would  
Councilor Batson moved to accept the minutes and the minutes were approved unanimously.

### **AGENDA ITEM 2 – Homelessness Services Center.**

City Manager, Jon Jennings – After researching all viable areas throughout the City, the Baron Center Campus was chosen; this was considered after the rezoning process that occurred last year.

- Rezoning must happen for this parcel.
- It will be based on a best practices model for emergency shelter with wrap-around services.
- Community partners will deliver services directly at the center.

Director of the Oxford Street Shelter, Robert Parritt

- Rob gave an overview of the history of the shelter
  - Current Shelter
    - Dormitories over three floors
    - Exterior Bathrooms
    - Storage
  - New Model: consolidated Services
    - Dormitory on one floor
    - Community engagement
    - Wrap Around Services
    - Volunteer Opportunities

- Rezoning will allow the City to best serve the community while addressing community concerns
  - Transportation
  - Isolation
- Current Services
  - Housing
  - Paramedicine
- Expanded Services
  - Healthcare
    - Medical Care
    - Substance use
    - Dental
  - Assuage predatory behavior targeting shelter guests; large portion of the people who congregate in front of the shelter do not stay at the shelter or access services
  - Storage
  - Community partners will deliver services at the shelter
  - Campus has a modern design
    - First floor dormitory
      - Raised beds (no more mats on the floor)
      - Clear site lines for safety
    - Second floor office and services space
    - Transportation
  - Infrastructure investment to make the neighborhood more pedestrian friendly
    - Crosswalks
    - Bus stops
  - The Comprehensive Plan encourages the decentralization of services to help fight stigma and help integrate individuals experiencing homelessness with the surrounding communities

#### Tuck O'Brian – Zoning

- D5 to D4 Map change
  - Clearest solution
  - Buffers

#### Police Chief Sauschuck – Security Impact Analysis

- Bayside
  - Arrest and incident statistics viewed as a systems level issue
- Barron Center and Loring house
  - Building Infrastructure
  - PD would be heavily involved with planning for safety including a possible satellite police station.
  - The comprehensive model addresses the issues stemming from the concentration of services in Bayside
  - Community Policing
  - City owned property allows more agency and speed in security solutions.

## Committee Questions

Chair Ray outlined the expectations of the meeting and the following meeting:

- Committee Questions June 26, 2018
- Public Comment July 10
- First zoning votes possible on July 24<sup>th</sup>

Councilor Batson has concerns about transportation, that the Center would rely heavily on the Metro.

- The shelter already transports shelter guests with City Vehicles
- Accessibility: How accessible is the Metro and Huskie Line?
  - Logisticare
  - Shuttle Service
    - stops at each provider throughout the day
    - Reliable Schedule
    - Coordinated with the H.O.M.E. Team
  - When Milestone is full, how will intoxicated individuals access transportation? Staff will transport via City-owned SUV
  - How will transportation changes and systems be conveyed to the public? House meetings and outreach
- Which service providers were informed of this recommendation
  - Amistad
  - Shalom House
  - Healthcare provider to open clinic that serves guests and public
- There are elements that would exist no matter where the shelter is located
- No services would be cut off;
  - How many shelter guests were referred to the Barron Center and Loring House directly from the shelter without a healthcare provider making the referral
- What conversations have occurred with businesses in the area:
  - No official agreements at this early stage but informal conversations have occurred with the Home Depot.
- Councilor Batson asked for other descriptors of the Center plan and the Com Plan.
  - Integrated facility that weaves community into service delivery.
  - Exploring more efficient delivery of services
  - A scattered site model does not integrate like the integrated best practices model does
  - Connectivity
  - One Portland Concept: fair and equitably share resources across the City, not just the Peninsula
    - Is this specific to the Barron Center Campus
  - The Brighton Ave Infrastructure Improvement: \$500,000
    - Pedestrian and bicycle safety infrastructure improvement
    - Husky Line
    - Public and Private funding sources including a reserve of savings from other projects
    - These improvements would occur regardless of where the Center is located.

Councilor Ali asked for a comparison of scattered site model versus a comprehensive model.

- Scattered site is significantly more expensive and logistically complex
- Staff will share the analysis with the committee
- Costs? All programs are grant funded based on performance measures

- Start-up costs
  - less due to City owned land
  - Financing model will be a public private partnership
- Councilor Ali asked Chief Sauschuck: A constituent has reported to Councilor Ali that Children in Sagamore village have been breaking into cars.
  - Kids break into cars all over the City; they haven't specifically collected that information
- Potential Community Policing Satellite
  - 10% of shelter population lead to a majority of service calls (Police and Medical)
  - Nearest community policing center is in Sagamore village based on CDBG regulations
  - A satellite office makes sense for community policing and enforcement
  - Satellite is being used as a general term; There is a potential for a community policing officer or coordinator
  - Regardless of the land is owned by the City, community policing
- Chair Ray asked Rob to speak to the character of the shelter guest in light of the location allowing guests easier access to employment with surrounding businesses.
  - Most individuals stay for less than 30 days: circumstantially homeless
  - Many work full time
  - The remaining guests require more intervention as compounding vulnerabilities such as persistent mental health or substance use disorder led to them entering and remaining in homelessness.
  - Chair Ray asked Rob to explain how the new center won't share the issues experienced in Bayside
    - Lack of control of surrounding property – City will own the land
    - No privacy – space for people to relax and not be on display or accessible to drug dealers and human traffickers
      - Interior courtyard allows for outdoor relaxation without the above stressors
  - Have the changes made at the shelter had an observational impact on shelter guests (24 hour services, storage, bathroom)
    - Qualitative observation improved affect
    - 1 FTE Street Outreach bringing people in and connecting them to services
  - Community Health Clinic
    - Health clinic would be on the second floor and have a separate entrance for the public. (medical, dental, mental health)

Mayor Ethan Strimmling –

Best location for the community served, not the best location of the options available

- Map on of Baron Center Campus
  - Corner of Home Avenue and Brighton Avenue
  - Utilized parking behind prosed location
  - No City owned emergency adult shelter other than the Family Shelter would remain on the peninsula.
    - Should there be an emergency shelter downtown?
      - Many people are housed and sleep downtown due to the concentration of services
      - Historically the concentration of all services can trap people downtown
      - Without being routed downtown for services, guests will have greater agency over their time

- Homelessness does not originate downtown:
  - 1/3 are from Portland
  - 1/3 are from other Maine Towns
  - 1/3 are from Out of State/Country
- Mayor Strimling asked staff to consider that some services would remain downtown and where would people go if stranded at night
- Services are walkable from Bayside
  - Mindful transportation logistics is identified as a crucial component.
  - What services are walkable from the Barron Center Campus?
  - Access to Day Labor on Brighton Ave?
  - Laundry and food services and case management currently available in Bayside would be replicated within the Center in a way that increases access for the most vulnerable
- Partner Agency story: An individual struggling with addiction was able to access detox and had to leave the neighborhood from the triggers
- Without buy-in from the community and community partners this initiative will fail
  - What deliverables can partnering agencies commit to?
  - What is the sustainability outlook on these services?
  - The facility resources will eliminate overhead for partners including dedicated office space.
  - Is this conversation premature and applicable to site selection?
    - The sustainability of services would determine the success of any location or model that leverages wrap around services
    - Buy-in commitment is essential but how practical is a long term contract (versus commitment pledge?)
- Shuttle Schedules should consider seasons and weather's influence on where and when people spend time throughout the city; staying up later for events and entertainment downtown in the summer
- Police – Impact Analysis
  - 10% of the shelter population prey on the remaining 90%
    - It will be observable who is and is not seeking services due to the by-name lists used to end homelessness
    - Mayor Strimling expressed concern on concentrating one socioeconomic group in a single area and if that was considered; Sagamore village is comprised of people who are housed versus the individuals in Bayside experience daily crisis in homelessness
      - low-income individuals who are housed in Public housing face different challenges than the vulnerability of people experiencing homelessness. Homelessness greatly increases subspecialty to criminal predation; this is marked by the issues in Bayside not spilling into the East bayside neighborhood.

- Rezoning
  - Ask the council to rezone and
  - Committee affirmation that this is the site of the new facility
  - Size of parcel
  - RFP process and other fiscal process details will be considered in the financial plan
    - A public-private partnership is expected as the costs are nearly guaranteed to be too much for the City to bear alone.
  - Homeless Voices For Justice is very interested and has continued dialogue with City staff
  - Healthcare providers will be invited to speak at the July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting and to provide some information
  - Councilor Batson requested information on other sites that were considered and why they are not as desirable as the Barron center campus
    - Were any of those sites cut because they were too small and would be appropriate for smaller scattered site shelters that focus on specific sub populations
    - Outreach to camps will continue
    - Costs are being determined and could range from leveraging office space for ad hoc, drop-in use or installing a permanent presence.
- Councilor Ali asked of the meeting requested by the neighborhood association is open to the public.

Chair Ray thanked the City staff who gathered data and presented to the committee

City Manager Jennings reiterated the goal is for the process to be as transparent as possible and additional meetings are welcome.

The Mayor requested that client feedback be included. Shelter staff will reach out to consumers.

Next meeting: July 10<sup>th</sup>



## Homelessness Resources Center

### Homelessness Resources and Services

\*Current component of shelter operations and programming that will continue in the new center.

- Specific services from outside entities
  - Peer Support \*
  - Generalist Case Management
  - Healthcare
    - Substance Use/Behavioral Health
    - Dental
    - Medical/Primary Care
    - STD Testing\*
    - Needle Exchange\*
    - Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine\*
    - Domestic Violence Services\*
    - Paramedicine\*
  - Legal Services
  - Service Learning \*
    - UNE Clinics\*
    - USM Nursing\*
  - Jesuit Volunteers\*
- City Provided Services
  - Emergency Shelter\*
  - Emergency Room Diversion\*
  - Meals
  - Food Pantry
  - Community Garden
  - Laundry
  - Storage\*
  - Mail
  - Housing Navigation\*
    - Housing Retention \*
  - HIRE
  - GA
  - Rep Payee
  - Security\*
    - Community Policing\*
  - Communication
    - Telephones\*
    - Internet Access\*
  - Public Library Satellite
  - Volunteer Opportunities



Shelter Client Feedback:

- Amistad Peer Survey (Will be posted when available)

**Responses to Committee Questions**

<p>Accessibility</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Logisticare</li> <li>• Handicapped Accessible Shuttle Service (40 min loop on the hour; Stops at each provider throughout the day)</li> <li>• Husky Line, handicapped accessible</li> <li>• Number 4 Metro, handicapped accessible</li> <li>• Pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements</li> <li>• Bus passes</li> </ul>
<p>When Milestone is full, how will intoxicated individuals access transportation?</p>	<p>Staff will transport via City-owned SUV</p>
<p>How will transportation changes and systems be conveyed to the public?</p>	<p>House meetings and outreach and clearly posted schedules..</p>
<p>How many shelter guests were referred to the Barron Center and Loring House directly from the shelter without a healthcare provider making the referral</p>	<p>4 referrals to the Barron Center representing Of which single referral represented 775 Bed Nights. 9 referrals to the Loring House since 2013, representing 3,655 Bed Nights.</p>
<p>Councilor Ali asked for a comparison of Single site vs scattered site</p>	<p>Per the Shelter Task Force's budget estimate, scattered sites are inefficient and cost prohibitive versus a single shelter model: leases, staffing, transportation, difficulty providing services to scattered locations due to staffing are challenges in addition to budgetary limitations.</p>
<p>Shelter Model Costs</p>	<p>Based on the 2015 Shelter Taskforce Estimates*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current Annual Cost:\$2,869,873</li> <li>• Proposed Site Shelter: \$2,925,935</li> <li>• Scatter Sites Model: \$4,571,11</li> </ul>
<p>What services are walkable from the Barron Center Campus?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Services: Mercy Express Care, Staffing Agencies, Cap Quality Care (MAT)</li> <li>• Amenities: Shaw's, restaurants, and</li> </ul>



	retail
Access to Day Labor on Brighton Ave?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maine Staffing Group</li> <li>• Space for group interviews and job fairs on-site using existing relationships and blueprint fostered through the HIRE program</li> <li>• MAS Staffing</li> </ul>
<p>Councilor Batson requested information on other sites that were considered and why they are not as desirable as the Barron center campus.</p> <p>Were any of those sites cut because they were too small and would be appropriate for smaller scattered site shelters that focus on specific subpopulations.</p>	<p>The other locations looked at that were not as desirable due to cost, availability and/or connectivity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presumpscot Street</li> <li>• Bishop Street</li> <li>• Washington Ave/Canco Road</li> <li>• County Way (Cumberland County Jail)</li> </ul> <p>Size was not a factor.</p>
Business Outreach	<p>The HIRE program, the Division's employment program that will be one of the services offered at the HRC, performs regular outreach to area employers. 57 guests gained employment with businesses within a 2 miles radius from the recommended site, assisted by HIRE. 125 total guests have gained employment through the HIRE program in the past two years.</p>
What deliverables can partnering agencies commit to?	Refer to agencies that deliver the services outlined above.
What is the sustainability outlook on these services?	Refer to agencies that deliver the services outlined above.
Land Cost	No cost; City-owned
Does owning the land increase our ability to deliver services	Yes- Allows the HRC to partner with the Barron Center to create efficiencies.
Shetler guest demographics including length of stay.	<p><b>OSS 2017</b></p> <p>Average Length of Stay: 77% of clients stayed less than 60 nights.</p> <p>Demographics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sex <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Men: 1,456</li> <li>○ Women: 464</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Race <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ White: 1,432</li> <li>○ Black: 406</li> <li>○ Other: 84</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Residency             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Portland: 453</li> <li>○ Other Maine Town: 580</li> <li>○ Out of State: 580</li> <li>○ Out of Country: 135</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>What will be different in a different location?</p>	<p>Consolidated services on a City owned campus will limit the possibility of the current neighborhood issues following the shelter; without reason to traverse the neighborhood for food and services combined with control over access to the campus will limit the victimization of our guests.</p>
<p>What has changed since Day Services started?</p>	<p>Improved neighborhood relations, alternative day location and increased access to case managers and housing services.</p>
<p>Will summer shuttle hours be expanded for concerts?</p>	<p>We are currently flexible for seasonal programming; that practice will continue.</p>
<p>Is there spill over into Kennedy Park from the shelter.</p>	<p>No.</p>



To: City Council

From: Tuck O'Brien, City Planning Director

Date: July 6, 2018

Re: Discussion of Comprehensive Plan as related to a New Homeless Services Center

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The City's new comprehensive plan, *Portland's Plan 2030* has a vision statement that calls for the City to be equitable, sustainable, dynamic, secure, authentic and connected. This vision was crafted with the input over 2500 individual stakeholders, as well as, close collaboration with many of the subject matter experts involved in the search for a new service center location. *Portland's Plan 2030* was formally adopted by the City Council and approved by the state in August 2017 after an 18-month process including dozens of different outreach events, meetings and opportunities for input. As related to the current search for a new integrated homeless services location, *Portland's Plan* provides the following direction:

- We will remain an open and inclusive City, celebrating diversity and providing a welcoming and safe place for residents and visitors alike.
- We will be a state and national leader in achieving a more equitable city.
- The benefits and costs of our City will be born fairly across the entire City.
- Our government will continue to be transparent and its policies fair and uniformly enforced.
- We will incorporate the needs of all of our residents in planning for our future.

The secure vision also states:

- We will use compassion in our decision making and in our approach to public safety.
- We will be committed to accessible housing and healthy food for all our residents.

Relevant local goals found under the Housing Policy Guide call the City to "Increase, preserve, and modify the overall supply of housing City-wide to meet the needs, preferences and financial capability of all households."

The Facilities and Services policy guide calls for the City to “Provide public safety, emergency response, and emergency management facilities and services that can effectively meet the needs of all residents.” Pertinent strategies within that section include:

- Explore efficient ways of delivering services to the homeless by investigating a wide variety of services models, evaluating the local potential of these models, and developing plans for implementation.
- Align the City’s land use code with City Council policy direction on shelter placement, shelter models, and facility requirements.
- Continue to embrace innovation and best practices towards eliminating homelessness.

Finally, the Future Land Use section of the document advances “One Portland” as a key concept for the future of our community. “One Portland” seeks to have the entire city share in providing the services and amenities necessary to the success of our community and shares in the benefits and challenges that come with that sharing.

It is important to keep in mind that *Portland’s Plan* is a high-level planning document and vision for our community. It is designed as tool for both policy makers and the community-at -large to aid in successful decision making but it is not determinative in and of itself. *Portland’s Plan* should be used in combination with more granular analysis, data and stakeholder input for any specific decision. In relation to a homeless service center location this work is ongoing and will occur both at the both the City Council and Planning Board level. Although additional analysis will be undertaken, initial assessment by staff indicates that the Barron Center location is very strongly aligned with the goals and direction provided in *Portland’s Plan*. Some of the key elements are:

- Ability to design and locate a facility that is to level of national best practices for homeless service centers.
- Increase our ability to house those in need of temporary emergency shelter.
- Provide an integrated service center to better provide necessary services to achieve positive outcomes.
- Ability to operate the facility in a manner that ensures the safety of the customers as well surrounding community.
- Construct a modern facility that is sustainable in the short, medium and long term.
- Location on a strong transit corridor, with excellent access for both automobiles and public transportation.
- Safe and efficient pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, both in terms of the existing infrastructure and upcoming upgrades to Brighton Avenue.

## Rules & Procedure for Public Testimony

Council committees use the City Council rules for public testimony. You can find the complete rules in the *Rules of Procedure for the City Council, Rule 31. Procedure for Addressing Council*. This document is available on the City Website:

<http://www.portlandmaine.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1184>

Below is a summary of the main points:

- If you wish to speak, please raise your hand or line up.
- When you are recognized by the Chair, you will have up to three (3) minutes to offer your comments. Please begin by stating your name and where you live.
- While someone is speaking, others in attendance will not interrupt.
- There should be no expressions approval or disapproval (applause, snapping, boos, hissing).
- Remarks shall be confined to the merits of the pending item.
- The Chair may limit or cut off any commentary that is not germane or that is scurrilous, abusive, or not in accord with good order and decorum.
- Any person who shall continue to violate these rules, after warning by the Chair, may be ejected for the remainder of the meeting then in progress.



## Health and Human Services & Public Safety Committee

Testimony Submitted to Public Comment

July 10, 2018, Council Chambers

Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

Thank-you for coming to the Nason's Corner Neighborhood Association meeting last night.

If you learned anything at our meeting last night, I hope that you came away with an awareness that a solution requiring a single neighborhood to host the city's homeless shelter is going to divide our city. Already my neighbors and I are being referred to as NIMBYs in comments on the article in the Press Herald. Yet, the fact is that no neighborhood in this city would welcome such a change.

I have tried to think of at least one benefit that our neighborhood could derive from allowing this city to move the shelter to the Baron Center, but I cannot come up with a single one. The fact is, the city is asking us to be okay with turning our neighborhood one of the highest crime areas in the State of Maine and having Nason's Corner become synonymous with crime and homelessness just as Bayside is today. The suggestion is offensive to all who live in the area.

I am writing to ask you to please call an end to this divisive process before it goes any further. Yes, there must be changes made to help the citizens in Bayside, but a single location is not the answer. The only way that citizens in this city are going to feel okay about hosting a shelter is to know that we are sharing the burden, not bearing it. It doesn't matter if it costs more to administer a system of multiple shelters. It doesn't matter if it's less convenient for the shelter staff. What matters is that our city must work together as a team to protect our less fortunate and solve this problem rather than pushing it off on one neighborhood alone.

Please. Admit that a single shelter was a bad idea for our city and start the work to create a solution that all of us can live with. A solution that will unite us rather than divide us.

Admitting you were wrong is a courageous thing to do. Please show that courage.

Tom Gangewer  
11 Sandy Terrace  
Portland, ME 04102

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

Dear Councilors Batson, Ali, and Ray:

My husband and I are writing in regard to the proposed new Homeless Services Center, which is before the Health and Human Services Committee next week.

There are probably few people in the city who have experienced the homeless crisis, as neighbors, as we have. Our house, which we have owned for 11 years, is located at 215 Oxford Street, across the street from the Oxford Street Shelter and between the shelter and the Preble Street meals two blocks away. As long as we have lived here, we have experienced the homeless crisis more immediately than anything else in our environment. Conditions have gradually deteriorated to the point that despite the best efforts of everyone, the conditions are terrible for the homeless people and for shelter staff and neighbors who have tried their best to make this location work.

The most fundamental problem is that the current shelter is located in one of the most if not the most dense residential areas of the city. The front of our house is 11 feet from the sidewalk, and the sidewalk runs to the street curb. There are ugly, crumbling parking lots (baking hot in the summer and open and freezing cold in the winter) that are the "open space" that is afforded to homeless people who are forced to come here. People are relegated to sitting on metal parking lot bumpers, and leaning on our cars as a place to "be".

In the summer and the winter, people will be sleeping on blankets in the parking lot next our fence (about 7 feet from our front door) and on the sidewalk in front of our house. We will have to step over them to get to our cars or out of the driveway. Last winter, at about midnight, a man was coughing so badly wrapped up in a blanket in front of our house that I finally could not take it and called the shelter to see if something could be done. The temperature outside was 21 degrees and there was snow on the ground. The staff member tried to be helpful but I was told that the only thing that could be done was to call the police and they would come and tell him to "move along." The problem was -- move along to where?

The people who exist here have no physical place to be, no place to store their possessions, no

place for private conversations or accessing help. We see people standing out in the rain and snow and trying to navigate wheelchairs up Oxford Street in the snow to Preble Street for meals. People store their possessions under our porch for lack of a safe place to do so. There is no place of safety or security.

This situation is inhumane and unworkable for everyone involved. It is unworkable for shelter staff, who make every effort within the existing and severe physical limitations to serve people who arrive, but who cannot create the space and resources necessary to make it happen. It is unworkable for neighbors who are unable to do anything to make the situation better. It is most unworkable for the homeless people themselves, the vast majority of whom just want a place to be and some help to overcome the problems that face them.

Over the years, we have become acquainted with some of the people who have been here. There was a sea captain, now in his seventies. There was a former member of the Special Ops who was involved in the battle in Somalia that was portrayed in the movie "Black Hawk Down." There was a man from northern Maine who told us what it was like to grow up in East Millinocket. There was the mother of one of my daughter's Portland High friends, who was kicked out of the trailer where she had been living about 20 miles from here and dropped off at the Oxford Street Shelter.

The proposed new Homeless Services Center will be a giant step forward. Please vote to make it happen.

Sincerely, Laura Underkuffler (and David Nowlin)  
215 Oxford Street, Portland

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing as a resident of District 3, as a service provider in the Bayside Community, as an involved citizen in the City of Portland and as a physician lead of the Maine Medical Center-Preble Street Learning Collaborative. My views are my own, however, and do not necessarily represent Maine Medical Center.

I understand the complexity of the problem that the City is addressing by proposing to relocate and re-imagine the services provided at the currently outdated and unsafe Oxford Street Shelter. I understand the neighborhood concerns and fears expressed by the residents of Nason's Corner, fears that have been stoked by the recent stories of crime in the Bayside neighborhood.

I cannot express strongly enough how important it is to separate the issue of homelessness and violence. The people who stay on the cots and overflow mats at the Oxford Street Shelter deserve better. They are victims of the crime in Bayside as much as the rest of the neighborhood and need a safer place to stay, to begin to access the services that can help them take the steps needed to turn their lives around. As a City, we need to reframe this issue as one that impacts all of us, is grounded in wider systems that do not address needs of the poor adequately and will not go away no matter what neighborhood the shelter ends up in.

As a resident of Nason's Corner, I think we need to embrace the opportunity to be part of the solution to de-clustering the homeless and coordinating the multiple services involved in addressing this issue. I commend the City for being committed to providing a new, safe, state-of-the-art homeless shelter as well as transportation from that shelter to the service providers who remain in Bayside. I strongly urge the Council to take steps to help our neighbors in Nason's Corner understand the complexity of this issue as well as the plans the City is making to safeguard both the shelter residents and the neighborhood.

In sum, I am in full support of the difficult and yet thoughtful decision that the City of Portland is making in proposing to relocate the unsafe Oxford Street Shelter to the Barron Center campus.

I will continue to make efforts to participate in this process by both talking to my neighbors in District 3 and working with fellow service providers in my role at the Learning Collaborative as we strive to integrate the new shelter with existing services.

We need to work together to make our City a better place for all.

Thank you for all you do as part of that effort.

Sincerely,

Debra Rothenberg, MD, PhD  
home address: 93 Winding Way, Portland ME 04102

Dear Mr Jennings

I have some serious concerns about the new homeless shelter's probable impact on Portland's limited public green space, as described below. I originally sent this email to Portland Trails, who responded by saying that they are not involved in City planning, and that I should write to someone at the City instead. Since you seem to be one of the relevant people at the heart of planning, I'm forwarding it to you. Thanks so much for your attention, and for your hard work helping our City move forward.

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Dear Portland Trails,

I am writing as a Portland resident, concerned about the likely location of the new 24-hour expanded homeless shelter at the Barron Center, in Nason's Corner (for clarity: I live in Deering Center, not Nason's Corner itself, so I'm not involved with that neighborhood association etc. But I do make frequent use of Nason's Corner's trail systems).

I am very concerned that the City of Portland is overlooking some important facts about this site,

in relation to several vulnerable natural resources. The City's description of the neighborhood is as follows:

"Nason's Corner Neighborhood includes the areas on both sides of outer Brighton Avenue starting at Wayside Road out to Westbrook, including the Capisic Street area, the Hall School area, and Sagamore Village. The area is sandwiched by the two largest green spaces in the city, Evergreen Cemetery and the Fore River Sanctuary, and also contains Capisic Brook and the Capisic Pond trail."

To me, this paragraph describes the issue quite well. I am worried about the continued integrity of the City's "two largest green spaces", Evergreen Woods & Cemetery and the Fore River Sanctuary, as well as Jewell Falls and the Capisic Brook & Pond area. As a former resident of an apartment on East Oxford St, I know that the population accessing the shelter will also look for less-official shelter elsewhere. I have lived in Portland for many years, and remember the East End tent villages that used to spring up in the smallest possible open spots (along the Eastern Prom trail, the late Jack Path, in the Eastern Cemetery, etc). Of course, many of these have been displaced by new development and rapid gentrification and the construction boom that goes along with it.

With a new, larger shelter located at the Barron Center, I have no doubt that the Evergreen Woods/Cemetery and the Fore River Sanctuary would be massively impacted by the transient population. The shelter residents are resourceful, flexible, and in search of freedom from systematic oppression and violence, as well as from personal and interpersonal troubles within their own social group. I hope you understand that I am sympathetic to the people involved. But I as a long-time Portland resident, I am also aware of how this resourcefulness can impact natural areas. The Evergreen Woods/Cemetery and Jewell Falls are obvious locations for tent settlements, being quiet, remote, peaceful, and secluded, but within easy walking distance of the Barron Center. The Fore River Preserve is the most direct path from the Barron Center to outer Congress Street, where the DHHS is located...one would walk down the train tracks from Rowe Ave. Robin Rage's fantastic 2014 article "Sherwood Forest" (published in The Bollard) provides great insight into the details of Portland's homeless encampments, and the motivations of their inhabitants:

<http://thebollard.com/2014/11/02/sherwood-forest/>

In conclusion, I'm attaching some images from a forest in France that until recently had a well-known tent village where many people lived. The photos remind me of the setups I've seen around Portland in the past (they also look like the photos in Robin Rage's Bollard article, as well as the recent encampment behind Lowes on Brighton). If one imagines what a secluded forest within a ten-minute walk of the current Oxford Street/Preble Street zone would look like, this is what comes to mind. And this is what might be reasonable to anticipate in the Evergreen Woods, Evergreen Cemetery, Jewell Falls, Capisic Brook, and Fore River Preserve...all very close to the Barron Center, which would provide a hub of resources for improvised satellite locations.

The desire for freedom, on the part of homeless people who have been through a lot, is very understandable. Still, the fact remains that, if the new shelter is built at the proposed Barron Center site, the City of Portland may quickly lose whatever degree of safety, peace, and sanctuary is

currently to be found in the beautiful public forests of the Fore River Preserve, Jewell Falls, the Capisic Brook & Pond area, and the Evergreen Woods & Cemetery.

Thanks for your attention.



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I just wanted to take a moment to let you know that as an individual who was born and raised in Portland, I have never been more disgusted and angry with our city officials than I was last night. What an absolute joke that meeting was! One would think that you would take some time to prepare for what was clearly going to be a difficult and contentious meeting, but not you guys! You guys rolled in spouting the most patronizing garbage. The failure of anyone sitting on the panel to be prepared to answer even the most basic of questions was appalling. Our own councilor scurried out of the meeting early like a rat fleeing a sinking ship. It's clear that you've already made up your minds and think that this is a done deal. You get to push the problem to the outskirts of the city, pretend you have some amazing new model and the sweetheart Bayside redevelopment deals with friends of the city can start in earnest. Don't you dare sit up there and pretend you give a damn about us or the homeless population because no one is buying it and last night's meeting was just more proof of that. Time to scrap this poorly thought out plan and start over with some actual input from the community. The city has completely abandoned those of us who work hard and contribute our hard earned tax dollars. We'll see you Tuesday when we are voicing our disgust with you once again.

Sincerely,  
Eric Kane

Dear Councilors Batson, Ali and Ray,

I am strongly in favor of the proposed new services center.

As a resident of Bayside for over 20 years, I remember a time when the Oxford Street Shelter and its temporary residents were fine neighbors. Things have grown out of control in various ways I don't need to detail, but I know you can make things right again. I've seen it first hand.

I appreciate that various city representatives have been working hard to patch an untenable situation as best they can. New shelter security with better training and more active patrolling of the surrounding area (positions which I understand have recently been made permanent); meetings with abutters of OSS resulting in a single point of contact when we need to reach out; the expansion to round-the-clock open doors at OSS; the installation of bathrooms and lockers; general attention to infrastructure such as lighting, street cleaning and crosswalks; professed attempts to increase citation of core offenders (which I understand we can't always know about in detail for the police to do their job) – all these and more are proof that things are headed in the right direction, both in terms of helping those most in need, and regarding community relations.

The proposed new site at the Barron Center is a next logical step. Building toward best practices such as architectural line-of-sight allows fewer paid staff to manage more adequate facilities for larger numbers. Being on city-owned property and situated near existing services (such as laundry which I understand is already in use by OSS) will save taxpayer funds in the long run. Planning for transportation and various wrap-around services – not to mention just providing the simple dignity of having one's meals in the same building as one's bed. These are just a few of the reasons to build a new center.

Some may say that placing a shelter outside the peninsula "hides" homelessness. I would just point out that anyone who currently drives up Preble Street sees a mix of vulnerable and predatory people "on display" – and the resentment this creates on both sides is palpable. People deserve a place out of the fray, away from these drug-soaked streets, a respite where they can focus on improving their situation. My hope is that a new campus will start fresh, and begin with improved policies and structures already in place.

I do want to point out that although this is a good step – it cannot be a final step – nor does it solve some more immediate problems that are still escalating (such as increased incidence of gun violence). Bayside in particular will continue to host many service-providers, and stands to lose recent security improvements when the OSS moves operations. In addition, neighbors of the new service center deserve new efforts so as not to disrupt their current lifestyles.

I hope you make the right decision and fully recommend this proposal to the council. I hope the city also has more immediate responses in mind in the interim while this goes through necessary processes. I hope you continue to advocate for those most in need, while also protecting neighbors like myself, and like those who happen to live near the new site. We are a compassionate city and we can do better than we have been, and I'm counting on you to be part of the solution.

Sincerely,

Jim Hall  
47 Cedar Street  
(207) 939 – 3741

PS – I was not able to attend the Nason’s Corner neighborhood meeting last night, but have just read (below) that this committee vote is being postponed. I'm extremely disappointed to learn we won't collectively be responding to this situation as the EMERGENCY that it is. I'm also ashamed of my fellow citizens who apparently booed and yelled and aren't prepared to discuss this in a civil way. I will be out of town for public comment on the 10th, so I ask you to please remember reasonable voices amongst nimby panic that's on display. And if you cannot recommend this particular location, you need to recommend a better one. The status quo is not an option.

Dear Councilors:

I live on Starbird Road, off Capisic Street, which is a fair distance from the Barron Center, but I shop in the commercial area near there. I did not attend the meeting regarding it last evening (July 5). I think that the proposal is a good one but does pose some risks. However, it appears that the city is trying to address those risks, and I appreciate that there is a difference in population between the homeless people and the people who cause a good deal of the problems in Bayside.

One concern I have is if there is an outdoor area that would be developed to be attractive to people. I understand that there is a screened-in area planned, but I would advocate for an additional area to be minimally developed if possible, even if the area consists of only park benches. I think people will naturally want to distance themselves from the regulation of the facility, and it would be helpful if there is an acceptable area for them to do that.

I do suspect that there is going to be some impact on the area if nothing else from foot traffic. The homeless are identifiable to a large degree. But I do not think the issues are serious enough that they should derail the city's effort to construct a building that can serve this population.

People are fearful, and their imagination entertains their worst fears. So the city has a significant task to calm people down. Is there another city that has a model that resembles what Portland is trying to do? Perhaps the newspaper would be interested in accompanying several city councilors on a visit to that city and facility.

Thank you.

Tom Bradley  
122 Starbird Road  
Portland  
807 5315

So I live right behind the dementia wards on Holm Ave. I hear the Barron center is considering being a homeless shelter. I already have a problem with the homeless doing drugs in my backyard behind my garage and you want to funnel more into the area. I work in this neighborhood and the homeless never seem to have valid ID and want to fight over

alcohol sales.

You are driving good taxpayers out of our neighborhood with this proposal and making me consider looking for new employment if this deal goes through.

I realize the need for homeless shelters but feel they should not be where the elderly and mentally disabled are going to end up being victims to these people. I work with the public and know the homeless around here. None of which are trying to better their lives. Most just fly a sign and then come into the store for alcohol afterwards. I've heard how much they make and they make more than I do as an Assistant Manager and it's tax free.

Hello All,

I hope to see you at Breakwater School tomorrow.

I am writing as I don't believe we will all have time to speak tomorrow.

After the presentation at City Hall, I am more opposed to the Bayside problems being relocated to our neighborhood.

The Barron Center is already overwhelmed trying to care for our he elderly population. The staff is amazing but they are not able to get hot meals to them before getting cold. The beds are old and they desperately need an update of paint as well as services. When residents come down for activities they have to wait for long periods of time for two small elevators to take them both up and down. If they ever have a fire they will be in trouble. They could use some of that 10 million for updates. They also deserve a quiet place to live out their lives and so do the neighbors. If there are lines of people for 157 mats there will be many more waiting for 200 beds. The number of troublemakers will also increase as well as folks from other areas when they hear about the free services.

The director stated in his presentation that breaking up services and adding services to neighborhoods like India Street has worked by not totally changing the area and forcing the nature of the area to change.

He also stated as a matter of fact or a good thing would be transporting intoxicated individuals in the city car when they are too inebriated for public transportation.

Why not consider the Western Prom? Is it even closer to services and hospitals? Even better break it up.

Please do not turn our neighborhood into a hell. Work with the city for the homeless who deserve better than being grouped with the addicts and bums and the neighbors who have worked hard to buy our homes and deserve a safe place to live as well.

Respectfully,

Ann Eagan

104 Holm Avenue

Portland, Maine

Hello Mr. Mayor and city council members,

I'm writing today regarding the proposed movement of the Oxford Street Shelter to the Baron Center on Brighton Ave. After attending the town meeeting on June 26th I still have concerns regarding the proposed rezoning that were not addressed and frankly are unsettling. Last Saturday I took the opportunity to take a walk to Westbrook and passed the proposed sight for

the new shelter. As I was passing the Barron Center I saw the trees which currently occupy the location which the new building would occupy. Additionally I saw residents of the Barron Center enjoying the summer day in their wheelchairs and the assistance of their walkers. I worry that, should the rezoning be approved this move would negatively impact those most vulnerable in our district. Recently the newspapers affirmed that a disproportionately large portion of the police resources go towards policing the shelters. While I understand that the homeless population has been victimized by these predators I worry that should the shelter be moved, when these predators inevitably follow their victims they will have new and much more vulnerable victims, simply in a different neighborhood. It is for this reason I respectfully request you vote in opposition of rezoning our neighborhood.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Howard O'Brien of Brighton Ave.

Dear Mr. Mavodones,

Please take the time to read my concerns about the proposal for rezoning and for constructing a new homeless shelter on the Barron Center campus. My husband and I purchased our home at 927 Brighton Avenue just a year ago, in June 2017. Our address is about a half mile from the proposed site. We do not have a lot of money and we were happy to find a small house in what we believe is currently a safe, friendly neighborhood. But now we fear for the safety of our neighborhood. In a June 22 article in the Portland Press Herald, one of the main reasons cited for the increase in usage of the homeless shelter was the opioid crisis. More and more people are abusing drugs and are bringing them into the shelter. Moving the homeless shelter to the Barron Center would without a doubt greatly increase the presence of drugs in the surrounding neighborhoods, and we fear that this would come without the increased police presence to help keep it under control. With all due respect, we believe that the police chief's assertion that most of the "bad elements" would stay downtown or be more easily hunted out in our neighborhood is a bit short-sighted and simplistic.

We are also concerned about the safety of our greater community. Constructing the homeless shelter on the site of the Barron Center would endanger the center's current residents, many of whom are physically frail and vulnerable, and proximity to two elementary schools (the future Rowe School and Breakwater School) is also a huge concern.

If the rezoning/Barron Center proposal is approved, my husband and I are not confident that we would feel safe enough to remain in our home. We would likely sell our property and move to a different community. Please consider the long-term effects that this would cause in the Nasson's Corner neighborhoods and vote no on the rezoning/Barron Center proposal.

Sincerely,  
Tracy O'Brien

Dear Councilor Mavodones Jr.: I am writing to you in your capacity as Councilor At Large for the City of Portland concerning the plan to build a new Homeless Shelter on the campus of the Barron Center. My name is Richard Niles and I live at 33 Celebration Court in the Holm Place

Condo Development (District 3). I have owned the property since 2004 and after my retirement from Marshall University School of Medicine in Huntington WV, in 2014 my wife and I permanently moved to Portland Maine and settled into our condo in which I have invested close to \$50,000 in renovation improvements over the years. I was dismayed to learn through the Portland Press Herald that the Health and Human Services committee of the Portland City Council has recommended that the Adult Homeless Shelter be moved to the Barron Center campus on the corner of Brighton Ave and Holm Ave. I was very upset to learn that this committee did not seek any input from district 3 constituents regarding the impact of the recommendation on our Nason's Corner neighborhood.

>>

>> I have read the report generated by the committee and consultants to the committee. I have also read the report in the Maine Sunday Telegram of May 6 of the devastating effect that the Oxford Street Homeless Shelter has had on that neighborhood. Therefore I do not understand how this committee could think that moving the Shelter to the Barron Center in our neighborhood is a good idea. Below I have listed my concerns.

>>

>> - I understand that the report suggests a new model for Sheltering the homeless with decent beds and available services located in a new building. However, this is an experiment and no one can predict if it will work. Further "guests" are not required to participate in drug treatment or city work programs in order to remain in the Shelter.

>>

>> - The idea that local businesses such as Lowe's (Pine Tree Plaza) and Shaws (in the Westbrook Plaza) will readily employ these "guests" is wishful thinking. These firms require drug testing and background checks, conditions not likely to be passed by most of the guests. The committee report states that these companies can waive these requirements. Since this would place them in legal jeopardy if this employee does something to a customer, I think it is unlikely they would waive these requirements

>>

>> - Back in the late 60s early 70s, the subsidized housing development, Sagamore Village in the Nason's Corner neighborhood was rampant with crime and even the police were afraid to go into the area. This has been turned around with better policing, structural improvements, shift of the population to Oriental and African immigrants, scenic improvements and a gradual expansion of mostly retail businesses. This progress can all be lost with the experiment of the Homeless Shelter at the Barron Center. The Sagamore Village area contains many teenage youth, a likely target of the drug dealers that will be drawn into the area as happened to the Bayside area around the current Homeless Shelter.

>>

>> - The report on Bayside in the May 6th edition of the Maine Sunday Telegram suggested that the influx of drug addicts and drug dealers into the Homeless Shelter was the major factor for the sad condition of the Bayside neighborhood. What makes the committee think this is going to change with the move to the Barron Center? Also our neighborhood has the new Hall Elementary School and the private Breakwater school within 1/2 mile of the Barron Center. Given the drug problem associated with the Shelter, how can the committee possibly condone this move? How would it affect the children if on their way to or from school they encounter an overdosed guest lying in the many semi-wooded areas between the Barron Center and the schools I mentioned.

>>

>> - I have a realtor friend and she told me just the announcement about the plan to move the Shelter to the Barron Center likely caused a 10% decrease in the value of my condo. If the planned building actually gets built, she estimates a 20% drop in the condo value and if the area around the Shelter deteriorates to the current level of Bayside near their Shelter, my property would almost be unsellable. Is the City of Portland going to reduce my Realestate taxes accordingly? I think not!

>>

>> - The businesses in the Nason's Corner neighborhood are mostly retail. My intuition is that if this moving of a 200 bed Shelter comes to fruition, people will do their shopping elsewhere, putting the entire Pine Tree Shopping Center in jeopardy. It's potential closure would decrease property tax revenue and result in loss of jobs. Also within short walking distance are established shopping plazas or planned major developments in Westbrook. I am sure you will shortly hear the significant concerns about the relocation move of the Shelter from our close by Westbrook officials.

>>

>>

>> By now you are probably think that I have no empathy for homeless people and don't want anything like this in my back yard. However, I do have sympathy for some (but not all) homeless people, ie those that are destructive to property and other persons. Also I don't think that Homeless Shelters should be located in ANY residential area. The City of Portland owns a significant amount of property off of Rand Road not far from the I-95 interchange. The Shelter and its associated services could be built there in this industrial area. Guests could then be transported by van when additional services on the Barron Center campus are required. The City bus route could be adjusted to offer a stop at this Rand Road location. This location would be far enough away from the schools and retail establishments so that the impact of 200 + city guests on all of the issues I raised above could be lessened. The committee's report states that industrial sites were examined but concerns were raised. The report did not list these concerns.

Lastly a few other points. The current population of Nason's Corner neighborhood is ~ 3,500. Thus 200 Portland guests will equal 5.5% of the total population!! Second, 80% of residences in the neighborhood are owner occupied, the highest percentage for the City of Portland. Approximately 1/3 of our neighborhood households have children under the age of 18, again the highest percentage in the City of Portland. Thus the potential negative effects of the homeless shelter on our neighborhood will be magnified relative to any other areas of the City.

>>

>> I look forward to attending the public session on July 10 and hope to meet you in person.

>>

>> Sincerely,

>>

>> Dick Niles

Richard M Niles, PhD  
Emeritus Professor/ Chair of Biochemistry & Microbiology  
Joan C Edwards School of Medicine  
Marshall University, WV

email: [niles@marshall.edu](mailto:niles@marshall.edu)

Good afternoon, City Manager Jennings:

As a past landlord of two owner occupied duplexes and for the past 19 years a single family homeowner in Portland, Maine (Mechanic St, Kenilworth St, and Holm Ave) a total of more than 42+ years, I would like to let you know that I 100% OPPOSE the City's proposal to build a new shelter on my street.

I consider this a severe and destructive safety issue for myself, my family, my home, and my neighbors.

Under no circumstances will this proposition be a good choice for those of us who are diligently working to maintain a safe, law abiding, crime free neighborhood.

ANDREA CESARIO, RC  
Registered Counselor, Certified Mediator, Notary  
Open Door Counseling Services  
69 Holm Avenue Portland, Maine 04102  
(207) 772-3522  
Email: [andreacesario@msn.com](mailto:andreacesario@msn.com)

Mayor Stimling and city council members,

Has the city considered the close proximity of the proposed homeless shelter to the Sagamore Village playground and to Hall School?

Please advise.

Thank you.

Pierre Morneault

54 Hale St

Portland

I'm contacting you with regards to the City's considering of establishing a housing unit for the homeless and services on the Barron Center site. As a home owner at Celebration Court, I'm concerned about the effect it will have on our neighborhood. Please understand that I'm not against this type of facility, but to have it placed in a residential neighborhood is not a good idea and I'm sure there are other areas in the city that such a facility could be located.

There are apparently two scheduled meetings, one at the Breakwater School on July 5th and one at City Hall on July 11th which I plan on attending both.

I would appreciate it if we could talk about this, as I'm truly concerned about the potential outcome if this facility is built on this site. My phone number is 232-3019.

Thank you,

Kevin Costello

Hi Brian,

I'm a constituent in your district. I've been a homeowner in Nason's Corner for 9 years now. I have two children who just finished their year at Hall. I was born and raised in Portland, as was my husband, my parents, my grandparents. I was the third generation in my family to graduate from Portland High. I know and love this city. I did leave for a while, but came back to raise my children. I want them to grow up here. But man, the city is sure making it hard to stay here these days.

One of the things I really love about my neighborhood is the diversity. We have it all - market rate housing - both single family and apartment homes. Condos, low income housing in Sagamore Village, elderly in the Barron Center and a newly proposed Avesta housing complex on its way.

But this most recent proposal, for a 200 bed shelter? I can't get behind this. Not because I don't think we should have homeless in our midst, but because the model of having that many homeless citizens in one place has proven to be anything but successful in this city. What I see right now is a bunch of developers buying up land around Preble Street in the hopes that it would gentrify... and now here we go - shift all the homeless out to the edge of town! Make it our "problem", not theirs. What we *should* have is a series of smaller shelters spread throughout the city, integrated into their neighborhoods, giving the guests and their neighbors the opportunity to become successful neighbors, and preventing the clustering of those who prey on the poor and bring in nasty stuff.

I have a number of concerns. 1. How are the actual issues going to be addressed? Moving the shelter to our neighborhood without addressing the root causes of homelessness will do nothing but spread the issues we've seen downtown to our corner of Portland. There are a lot of woods near there - are we looking for more encampments? 2. Hall is about to be the largest elementary in Portland. Perfect place to plunk down a new shelter and all those who prey on the homeless! 3. How is this serving the shelter guests? Having to take the bus all the way intown, then back out to the DHHS office by the Jetport? Taking them away from many of the support services centered downtown?

Another HUGE issue that needs to be addressed is the fact that the surrounding towns and cities need to be chipping in more for funding. These people are not all from Portland. The cost of social services is a regional issue and I am TIRED of hearing that we don't have money for our schools because we are shouldering so much of the burden. So aside from my opposition to the shelter, I need to see some real movement on the city council to make everyone pitch in, lest we become a city of the very wealthy and the very poor - because everyone else will be taxed out.

I know I'm not alone in my opposition to the shelter. I suspect you'll be hearing from A LOT of us. I would encourage you to listen and fight for us, as our representative.

Sincerely,

Jessica Kane  
Raymond Rd.

Nick I write to express my objection on the Homeless plan for Brighton Ave.

I think the City should let a sleeping dog lie and keep the Homeless center where it is in the center of Portland.

This allows the Homeless to be close to facility needed.

The city could build bedding in attached buildings or just build a new building in its current spot.

Already the Insurance building on Brightonn and Holmens has gone up for Sale as will others and this will destroy a solid

Home owners and commercial area to continue to flourish.

Please ,Please consider this. It will be better for all.

Francis Coyne 320 Capisic St Portland, Maine 04102

Nick I write to express my objection on the Homeless plan for Brighton Ave.

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Francis Coyne 320 Capisic St Portland, Maine 04102

I have no idea who decided that it might be a good idea to relocate a city homeless shelter to the Barron center area, which abutts a heavily residential area.. near a newly constructed elementary school in a largely quiet ,safe area of Portland. As a lifetime resident of Portland in the very piece of the city in which this absurd plan has been proposed, I would seriously question the reasoning behind this idea. The Nason's Corner area of the city has always been a safe, quiet area to live., Portland Trails runs through it, there are regular runs organized by Hall School, it is a desirable residential location, that will be unfavorably affected if homeless populations swarm the area and bring with it, drug issues, violence and an increased instability to the safety of the locals...the services provided to homeless are far better served in the inner city, where transportation and emergency services are more readily available.... and in view of the most recent shootings in Portland in the area of one of its homeless shelters., the last thing residents of this suggested relocation area need is a fear of gun violence on the street... and all the unsavory behavior that so often occurs in a homeless population..You and your cronies need to think on this whole situation a bit more seriously and work to stabilize the areas in which the shelters already exit... bringing this problem to the outlying suburbs gets it out of your backyard maybe... but it won't work to bring it to the backyards of your suburbs! Think this through again.... the solution is not what you propose!

I live on Holm Ave. I have some suggestions about the plan to build homeless shelter on the corner of Holm and Brighton Aves.

So I read that there will be a security office in the building. Is this occupied by the Portland police?- I suggest that it be. The clients you are bringing to this area will need police and not some security rent a guard. We want to see armed police securing such a violent crowd.

How about a local janitor also- to go up and down the roads in the neighborhoods. so when this crowd throws their garbage , trash, needles and also pukes on on my front lawn there can be a janitor to pick up the filth.

How about not just a medical health office but a med cue base. A medcue van on the site would be an asset to the area. That would be a very good and caring thing to do for the community.

How about educating the families of this area about what to do if we find someone has moved into the garden shed. My first response would be to show anger and aggression. No one will get a welcome wagon if they try that at my place. I may arm myself also. I am sincerely thinking of training and gun ownership. I protect myself and my family...and the family next door too if it comes to that. As a man of the household it is one of my tasks. This big shelter project is making a lot of normally peaceful folks very nervous. First reaction is to fiercely protect what is ours. This I think is a new door you all are opening for district three....the proverbial "can of worms". It will be an issue.

How about we scale the bed numbers back a bit. How about a max count of 35 beds. This

will calm a lot of families in the area. We have worked very hard on our clean streets and it shows when you visit here. This area is not a homeless drug infested prostitute rat hole. Lets keep it that way.

How sad that I have to write you with all these concerns. I know it isn't all of your clients that are like this. Somewhere I heard that 20 percent of the clients are the real problem. 20 percent of what #? Just how many homeless are there in Portland? I bet you a donut that if we just stop giving freely to these types that they will just leave. They want to be pampered and it seems like the Portland maine gov is really trying to pamper and protect these 20 % of odd ducks. Did you ever think about totally shutting off the help for this 20% with that type of behavior? I wonder if they would move on and leave town.??

Does it seem that I am overthinking the issues? I don't think so. The people of this area will be heard. This is your job to listen and respond. Do not just sweep it under the carpet because it will fester there.

Daniel Lentz 202 Holm Ave.