
Fwd: Bayside

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, May 20, 2019 at 7:33 AM

To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>, Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>

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

From: **Jennifer Kole** <JKole@live.com>

Date: Sun, May 19, 2019 at 4:27 PM

Subject: Bayside

To: bsr@portlandmaine.gov <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, jpj@portlandmaine.gov <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>, gmitchell@portlandmaine.gov <gmitchell@portlandmaine.gov>, cityclerk@portlandmaine.gov <cityclerk@portlandmaine.gov>

Hello:

I am a resident of Bayside and love where I live. I am happy my neighborhood has an active role in providing shelter and services to those in need, but the volume of people needing services cannot be well provided by one area alone.

I support offering additional resources outside of the Bayside neighborhood (Angelo's Acre or [654 Riverside Street](#)).

--

Jon P. Jennings

City Manager

City of Portland

389 Congress Street

Portland, ME 04101

(207) 874-8689 Office

jpj@portlandmaine.gov

www.portlandmaine.gov

Fwd: From Isa - Balance for Bayside

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, May 13, 2019 at 2:48 PM

To: Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>, Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

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

From: **Bayside Neighborhood** <bnaportland@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, May 13, 2019 at 2:42 PM

Subject: Re: From Isa - Balance for Bayside

To: suzie st. pierre <suzie@isaportlandme.com>

Cc: bbatson <bbatson@portlandmaine.gov>, bsr <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, estrimling <estrimling@portlandmaine.gov>, gmitchell <gmitchell@portlandmaine.gov>, jcosta <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>, jduson <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, jpj <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>, kcook <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>, nmm <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, pali <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, sthibodeau <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>

Well said! Thank you, Suzie!

Let me know if anyone responds. Usually a couple do, even it's just a couple of brief lines.

There is a council workshop meeting tonight where they will discuss the sites, but without public comment. I will send everyone an update.

Best,
Sarah

On Mon, May 13, 2019 at 1:33 PM suzie st. pierre <suzie@isaportlandme.com> wrote:
Good Afternoon City Council Members.

My name is Suzie St. Pierre and my husband and I own Isa Bistro here in the heart of Bayside. We have many customers that also live in the neighborhood and they often stop in to chat with me about the latest news and proposals. I am hopeful that we all have a voice, especially being in the middle of it all, so I felt compelled to share a day in the life.

When we decided to set up shop in Bayside 5 years ago we had hoped the direction of the neighborhood would continue to move in the right direction. It certainly has to some extent, but we face our own challenges being a stone's throw from the resource center. Over the years we have received many reviews online and often the "sketchy neighborhood" is mentioned, which is rather disheartening. It is difficult to run a reputable business while there are people passed out in my parking lot, doing drug deals in front of the windows, using my parking lot as a bathroom, following customers inside and trying to sit with them or accosting my customers for money while walking in or out. I'm also sure that many of our customers wouldn't express these issues to me, but instead, just never return. What I also find interesting is the same people on the streets every day. How long do the shelters/resource centers continue to help people before they are no longer given aid? I understand that we all need some help sometimes, but my sympathy and compassion is being to harden from what I see out my window on a daily basis.

I understand that these type of services are beneficial and necessary for some, and I do agree the centralization of many services in one neighborhood is unfair. The Bayside neighborhood has huge potential and there is room for more economic development, unlike other neighborhoods on the peninsula. I can't tell you how many times customers from out of town ask me if it is safe to walk around this neighborhood or if they should call a cab. How do you answer that question and feel good about it?

My husband and I have spent the last four years of business building a restaurant we are proud of and we are happy to live above the space. We decided to grow our business here and now have a family. We would love to put our toddler in the daycare down the street, but the idea of walking that way twice a day makes me think I should put her in the car and drive elsewhere.

I do understand that everyone has an opinion and I am sure your inboxes are inundated with emails on the subject. While I tried to keep this short and to the point, I can only hope that you may see things from a different perspective.

Cheers and thank you kindly.
Suzie St. Pierre
Owner - Isa

--
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
Twitter: @portlandmanager

Fwd: FW: Replacement of Oxford Street Shelter Needed Now

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, May 20, 2019 at 7:57 AM

To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>, Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>

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

From: **Laura S. Underkuffler** <lu27@cornell.edu>

Date: Sun, May 19, 2019 at 11:23 AM

Subject: FW: Replacement of Oxford Street Shelter Needed Now

To: jpj@portlandmaine.gov <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Hi Jon, I thought you might want to see what I sent to the city council and mayor. [Thank you](#) for all of your efforts to address this situation. With best regards, Laura

On Wed, May 15, 2019 at 5:22 PM Laura S. Underkuffler <lu27@cornell.edu> wrote:

To: The Mayor and Members of the City Council

We have lived across the street from the Oxford Street Shelter for twelve years. During that time the situation has gone from tolerable to completely intolerable for neighbors and shelter residents. We are writing to say that a conclusion of "no action" is no longer a feasible or legal alternative.

Several years ago, the City Council committed the problem to the Health and Human Services subcommittee. After hundreds of hours of staff time and public participation over the past three years, that subcommittee has endorsed the only conclusion possible: that this shelter must be eliminated, and a new shelter created that can handle the demands of this kind of shelter, in an area of the city that is not a residential neighborhood.

The current Oxford Street Shelter arrangement — the operation of a no-barrier shelter, which takes all comers regardless of active arrest warrants and predatory behavior, and which crams hundreds of people into a building which affords residents no dedicated personal space (no fixed bed, no storage for personal belongings, no place during the day "to be"), no food, no safe place outside "to be" (leaving people to sit on the curbs in front of houses and on metal barriers around parking lots), and which is located in a place that has gained a reputation for drug dealing, weed and spice smoking, fights, and the yelling of obscenities day and night — can only be described as a festering "public nuisance" that should not be foisted on shelter residents who are trying to get their lives together or on neighbors. It should be noted that no one, through all of the staff reports or hours of public hearings and written submissions — not shelter residents, social service providers, law enforcement, or City residents — attempted to defend the current situation.

For anyone to argue that the situation is really "not that bad" reflects two facts: that person has never stayed in the shelter, and that person does not live in the neighborhood that endures the situation that it (as an "attractive nuisance" that fails its residents) creates. The building is completely inappropriate and a recipe for failure. The reputation of the location as one for free-wheeling drug use and other illegality is intractable. People who seek a shelter as part of trying to get their lives together do not need an environment rife with drug dealing, drug use, syringes on sidewalks and driveways, trash, the yelling of obscenities, stress, and public urination (despite the City's having provided public toilets half a block away). Neither do those of us who are trying to live next to this situation. It is impossible for neighborhood residents, and it is impossible and dangerous for shelter residents.

This situation does not have to be what the Portland Homeless Shelter is. Other shelters in the City do not have this reality or this reputation. The teen shelter is not seen as a dangerous place that people avoid. Nor is it a festering sore in the neighborhood in which it exists.

Bayside is a low-income community. We have modest homes and a high minority population. Bayside has the same

right to be free of festering public nuisances that every other neighborhood in Portland enjoys. No one would suggest that this situation could exist unaddressed — for a month, let alone years — in the West End, or East End, or Deering Center, or Libbytown, or anywhere else in the City. Workers at the shelter, police, neighbors — we have all tried. It is time for the City to take the action that all agree needs to be taken, now.

Sincerely,
Laura Underkuffler - [215 Oxford Street](#)

Sent from my iPhone

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.

--

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

Fwd: Homeless Service Center --Riverside Street SUBURBAN PROPANE LETTER

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, May 20, 2019 at 1:38 PM

To: Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>, Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

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

From: **Mike Murray** <msm@portlandmaine.gov>

Date: Mon, May 20, 2019 at 1:12 PM

Subject: Fwd: Homeless Service Center --Riverside Street SUBURBAN PROPANE LETTER

To: Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>, Danielle West West-Chuhta <dwchuhta@portlandmaine.gov>, Katherine Jones <klj@portlandmaine.gov>

Cc: Bean, Sonia <stb@portlandmaine.gov>

The following was sent; the distribution list did not include all of the city council nor the City Manager, Corporation Counsel, or City Clerk.

Mike Murray
Assistant to the City Manager
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101
207.756.8288

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

From: **Leslie E. Lowry** <LLowry@jbgh.com>

Date: Mon, May 20, 2019 at 12:57 PM

Subject: Homeless Service Center --Riverside Street SUBURBAN PROPANE LETTER

To: msm@portlandmaine.gov <msm@portlandmaine.gov>, kcook@portlandmaine.gov <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>, estrimiling@portlandmaine.gov <estrimiling@portlandmaine.gov>, pali@portlandmaine.gov <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, jduson@portlandmaine.gov <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>

Cc: Norin, Andy <Andy.Norin@dbr.com>, Delia, Sue <SDelia@suburbanpropane.com>

Leslie E. Lowry, Esq.
Jensen Baird Gardner & Henry
Ten Free Street
P.O. Box 4510
Portland, Maine 04112-4510
Phone: (207) 775-7271
Direct: (207) 518-5917
Fax: (207) 775-7935

information. If you are not that person, any use of this message is prohibited. We request that you notify us by reply to this message, and then delete all copies of this message, attachments and/or files, including any contained in your reply.

--

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



Riverside Street Homeless Shelter --Suburban Propane 5-20-2019.pdf

90K

Fwd: Homeless shelter and Portland 2019-20 budget

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, May 20, 2019 at 2:25 PM

To: Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>, Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

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

From: Eric Billings <ptldmaine@yahoo.com>

Date: Mon, May 20, 2019 at 2:23 PM

Subject: Homeless shelter and Portland 2019-20 budget

To: estrimling@portlandmaine.gov <estrimling@portlandmaine.gov>

Cc: jpj@portlandmaine.gov <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Hello Ethan,

My name is Eric Billings and I live at [25 High Street](#) in Portland.

Proposed homeless shelter

In general, I do not support one large homeless shelter, and for many reasons, I think the proposal for a large homeless shelter on Commercial street, (Anglo's acre) would be a huge mistake. One of the biggest reasons being that, as its name suggests, it is a very busy commercial street with lots of traffic, large trucks loading and unloading and so close to dangerous industrial activities. I don't think that it would be responsible for the city to put homeless folks in that area.

Please Push for sharing the cost of the homeless folks in need, with the State and other cities before any decisions are made on a shelter and its size

Portland has put itself in the position of being known as the place for other cities to send those in need. Portland is a small city and the city council needs to force a conversation about social services policy in the city. Portland has become very expensive for the average income citizen to live in. To continue to say Portland will help anyone and everyone in need is not reasonable or responsible. Portland can be generous but must not be fiscally irresponsible.

Please be supportive of City Manager Jon Jennings 2019-20 budget proposal—it is responsible.

Jon Jennings budget proposal is fair, considerate and should be supported and closely followed.

Thank you for your time,

Eric Billings

[25 High Street](#)

407

Portland Maine 04101

--

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
Twitter: @portlandmanager

Fwd: Homeless shelter in Riverton. Not a good idea.

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Tue, May 7, 2019 at 9:26 AM

To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>, Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>

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

From: **Gina MacVane** <wingmac0929@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, May 7, 2019 at 9:11 AM

Subject: Re: Homeless shelter in Riverton. Not a good idea.

To: <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>, Kimberly M. Cook <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>, <estrimling@portlandmaine.gov>, <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, <bbatson@portlandmaine.gov>, <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>, <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>

And you all know there are no resources out our way. No resources!!

On Tue, May 7, 2019, 8:56 AM Gina MacVane <wingmac0929@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello council members,

This is another email from me, a Riverton community member. I need to let you all know the stress of a possible homeless shelter in our area has put on us as taxpayers. I can't stress enough that we have 7 low income housing projects and Riverton Park. I love that school as well, but you all know it's disadvantaged due to the demographics. You cannot add a homeless shelter to that as well. We the Riverton community, bought our homes in this area, knowing there is a stigma associated with Riverton. You cannot add a homeless shelter in that mix. You need to think about our property values and what that would do to our area. We have come so far in the Riverton Community, do not ruin it for us. You need to think of the trickle effect that this will have on our community and the city. I can think of 10 families already that mentioned moving and raising their families elsewhere.

Please think of the hard working citizens in this city, not just the well off. The hard working ones who stuck around, utilize the public schools, and pay a lot of taxes.

If I hear "we have to put it somewhere" again, I'm going to vomit. The thought of you all having the power to destroy our livelihood makes me ill, really. Please think about this decision and what you'll be doing to the taxpayers.

Gina MacVane

207-807-0188

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

Fwd: Homeless Shelter Location

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Thu, May 9, 2019 at 11:23 AM

To: Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>, Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

For the backup.

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

From: Val B <valnmt@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Apr 19, 2019 at 1:55 PM

Subject: Homeless Shelter Location

To: John Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Mr. Jennings,

If I understood the article in the Portland paper correctly, the decision about the shelter location will come to the Council soon. I don't know whether you have any influence there, but I wanted to give you my opinion.

I find the apparent conclusion that Riverside is the "best" location especially objectionable, because it seems to be our city's attempt to make homeless people invisible.

I believe that the presence of homeless people should keep the failure of mental health care in the forefront of our awareness, and hiding them is a way to postpone our civic responsibility to address this problem. The "not in my backyard" privilege of those fortunate enough to have housing, although understandable, is not a way to come to a solution.

I wanted to express my dismay that the County Way site seems to have been eliminated. I work across the tracks from the County Jail and am aware of the many people who have some support at places like Florence House. I also see the folks coming out of the "woods" behind the jail. The concentration of services in this area could be a benefit to those who need the services.

Valerie Blais
77 Vannah Avenue
Portland, ME 04103
207-318-2027

--

Valerie Blais,

"All shall be well and all manner of things shall be well." Julian of Norwich

--

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

Fwd: homeless shelter site

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, May 20, 2019 at 10:53 AM

To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>, Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>

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

From: **steve graef** <stevegraef@hotmail.com>

Date: Mon, May 20, 2019 at 10:50 AM

Subject: homeless shelter site

To: sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>

CC: Ethan Strimling <estrimling@portlandmaine.gov>, Belinda Ray <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, bbatson@portlandmaine.gov <bbatson@portlandmaine.gov>, jcosta@portlandmaine.gov <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>, kcook@portlandmaine.gov <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>, pali@portlandmaine.gov <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, Nicholas Mavodones <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, Jill Duson <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Dear Spencer,

I am concerned that you and other elected officials are failing to provide appropriate guidance and direction to the City Manager. The search for a new homeless shelter site has succeeded in considering only locations that are inappropriate or parcels that have value far exceeding what is needed for this project. If you were to rank every property in Portland by its suitability for this project, the potential sites offered so far would not make it above the bottom quartile. This shows we are on the wrong track.

I urge you to put a stop to the current process and provide a fresh start with a systematic rational site selection process. Limiting the site selection to city owned property shows a lack of vision and a lack of diligence for a building that will last for decades. I urge you to end this faulty approach and widen the search even if it means purchase or trade for the necessary site.

Sincerely,
Steve Graef

Steve Graef
<30A Salem Street>
<Portland>
(207) 879-6024

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

Fwd: new shelter

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Sun, May 12, 2019 at 7:09 AM

To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>, Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>

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

From: **Robert Sylvain** <acadianmaineiac@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, May 12, 2019 at 12:32 AM

Subject: Re: new shelter

To: Brian Batson <bbatson@portlandmaine.gov>

CC: <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>, <estrimling@portlandmaine.gov>, <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>, Nicholas Mavodones <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>, <gmitchell@portlandmaine.gov>, <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, Jill Duson <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, Councilor Belinda Ray <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, Sarah Michniewicz <sarahmichniewicz@me.com>

Dear Councillor Batson,

Thanks for your response last fall. Half a year later we're getting closer to a solution, but we in your district need you to recognize the years of work on siting that has come before you and realize that a further scattering of shelters is just not feasible. We need action on a new shelter now, and frankly I don't favor one site over the other, but kicking the can further down the road would be irresponsible. Please don't delay the shelter siting process further. Thanks again for listening.

Regards,
Rob

Robert Sylvain
167 Falmouth Street
Portland, ME 04102
207.650.5634 cell
207.761.3931 home
email@robertsylvain.com
http://www.robertsylvain.com

On Sep 15, 2018, at 4:16 AM, Brian Batson <bbatson@portlandmaine.gov> wrote:

Robert,

I really appreciate your email and thoughts on this. This is something we respectfully disagree on. I certainly hear where you're coming from, but for me all of the research I have done we just don't see good results with the marger warehouse models. One size fit all models are transitioning out of the mix as communities realize more personal independence promoting facilities produce better results. I also do not support the fact that this land is residential and abuts many homes and within close proximity of hundred of homes as well as the brand new Rowe school. I do appreciate your opinion and it's okay to respectfully disagree on things, what matters is the discussion!

Respectfully,

Brian Batson

On Sun, Sep 9, 2018, 11:08 PM Robert Sylvain <acadianmaineiac@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Councillor Batson,

I just wanted to add my voice to the din regarding the new shelter plan. I'm in your district, between the existing and proposed sites, and like many Portlanders, our center of gravity points toward the peninsula. With this in mind I encourage you to support the new proposal. The city center will always be a daytime destination for tourists, residents, and itinerants alike. But at the end of the day, homeless folks deserve a safe place that they can go away from the hustle and bustle, and I believe the new shelter can provide that. Thanks for listening and let me know if there's anything I can do to help with your decision on this important topic.

Warm regards,
Rob

Robert Sylvain
[167 Falmouth Street](mailto:email@robertsylvain.com)
[Portland, ME 04102](mailto:email@robertsylvain.com)
207.650.5634 cell
207.761.3931 home
email@robertsylvain.com
<http://www.robertsylvain.com>

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.

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

Fwd: New site for Oxford St shelter

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Sun, May 12, 2019 at 10:26 AM

To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>, Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>

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

From: **Kate Pendleton** <katependleton@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, May 12, 2019 at 9:03 AM

Subject: New site for Oxford St shelter

To: Councilor Belinda Ray <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>

CC: <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>, <gmitchell@portlandmaine.gov>

Dear Councilor Ray,

I am writing to you concerning the new site of the Oxford Street shelter. Please do not put off voting in favor of a new location. This is so needed and overdue and the time for action is now. My family and I live in Bayside on Mechanic St in the heart of the neighborhood that sees the folks from the shelter on a daily basis. My husband and I have lived on this street for eleven years and have seen how much help these people need. We now have an eight year old daughter and it pains us to see the hurt of these people in need through her eyes.

The Bayside Neighborhood Association has clearly done the needed work around this issue and it has been years in the making. Please don't put this move off any longer.

Best,

Kate Pendleton and Clint Fulkerson
(Residents of West Bayside)

--

Jon P. Jennings

City Manager

City of Portland

389 Congress Street

Portland, ME 04101

(207) 874-8689 Office

jpj@portlandmaine.gov

www.portlandmaine.gov

Fwd: Please Select a Location to Replace Oxford Street

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, May 20, 2019 at 7:26 AM

To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>, Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>

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

From: Heidi Souerwine <heidi.souerwine@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, May 19, 2019 at 4:41 PM

Subject: Please Select a Location to Replace Oxford Street

To: Ethan Strimling <estrimling@portlandmaine.gov>, Belinda Ray <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, Spencer Thibodeau <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, Pious Ali <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, Brian Batson <bbatson@portlandmaine.gov>, <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>, jduson <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>, Nick Mavodones <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

CC: <cityclerk@portlandmaine.gov>

Dear Mayor Strimling and City Councilors,

My name is Heidi and I am a current homeowner and resident of Bayside, and a former resident of the West End. I want to thank you for the work you've done so far to commit to a modern, improved Homeless Services Center, and I am pleased to have voted for many of you over the years and to see you so engaged. I've been following the homelessness issues in Portland for many years, and more closely, the shelter relocation process over the last two years and I'm so pleased to see us taking bold action.

I urge you to select a site **from one of the two remaining locations** for the new center to replace Oxford Street Shelter. Further delay is **unacceptable**. Decisions can be hard but you were elected to make hard decisions.

The new center would be diametrically different to Oxford Street Shelter, and the overall environment in Bayside right now. A well planned, modern, 150-bed shelter with integrated meals and services cannot be compared to what people currently see in Bayside. It is not a "mega-shelter" - it would shelter and service the number of people *already* being (inhumanely) housed at Oxford St. This restores humanity to these people who need us. It is not too much - it's just a fraction of the 500 beds Bayside already houses. 150 beds is not too much - 150 beds is a well-thought solution for our most needy citizens. *I encourage you all to be strong, and explain these points as this issue comes up with your citizens, so misinformation and fear do not guide us.*

The city expanded zoning specifically to allow for shelters to be located in other areas of Portland, and it is time for other neighborhoods be part of the solution for our whole city - so we can all hopefully stay here for a long time as part of our vibrant city. It would be reckless to ignore the fact that a majority of area service providers have been clear and resolute in their preference for one facility to replace Oxford St. We don't need multiple, scattered facilities to replace one facility. We need a better way to serve them holistically. We already have scattered shelters, and further expanding them is just not financially prudent, which makes it unsustainable for the city to serve its citizens in the future. We don't need a "palatable" fix - we need the best solution.

My preference between the remaining two sites is for the Riverside location, but both, with the new plan for the center, are viable. Both would allow the new facility to provide a myriad of services onsite, providing a more humane, thoughtful re-entry and recovery plan for our city's most needy.

We do not need another task force, or to go back to the drawing board. The situation in Bayside is urgent, and our city's most vulnerable desperately need immediate relief and support. The search was thorough, with what's doable from the city's perspective and long-term re-entry success in mind. We need to disrupt the entrenched patterns which keep so many residents and shelter guests from moving forward & getting back on their feet in the ways they desperately wish to.

We cannot give people experiencing homelessness and shelter staff their best chance at success if we do not give them a humane and more easily accessible way to move through, and overcome, their struggles.

There have been 250+ Portland Press Herald articles since 2010 on homelessness and how Portland has gotten to this place. But when you go back and look at the articles it almost seems like the headlines could be written today - because up to this point, the city has failed to make substantial updates to Portland's shelter system, or to take any bold, new action on homelessness.

Until you do, problems will continue to grow for people experiencing homelessness, residents, and businesses.

It's time to have the courage to select a site and keep moving forward.

Thank you,
Heidi Souerwine
Mechanic St.

--

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

Fwd: Replacement of the Oxford Street Shelter

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, May 20, 2019 at 11:54 AM

To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>, Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>

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

From: **Deborah Van Hoewyk** <dvhoewyk@umich.edu>

Date: Mon, May 20, 2019 at 11:52 AM

Subject: Replacement of the Oxford Street Shelter

To: Pious Ali <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>, Justin Costa <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>, Belinda Ray <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, Spencer Thibodeau <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, Nick Mavodones <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

To: Portland City Council
Cc: Portland Mayor, Portland City Manager
From: Deborah Van Hoewyk
[21 Chestnut Street, Portland, ME](#)

As a resident of Bayside, I am dismayed and disheartened by the Council's performance on resolving issues related to replacement of the outdated Oxford Street Shelter. While a couple of you are working hard to bring this process to a conclusion, most of you are not.

1. You have apparently made no attempt to bring some reasonableness to the process by tamping down the hysteria shown by people who live near potential sites.

The planned replacement shelter will NOT relocate the problems of Bayside, which are primarily caused by unsheltered people who gather in Bayside for services, primarily those provided by Preble Street, and to buy drugs and inexpensive liquor. Those people, and their behavioral needs and issues, will be left in Bayside.

By failing to promote the improvements the new shelter could bring about, you have allowed the objections from Nason's Corner to eliminate the City's best location, the Barron Center site – the one that would be most effective in terms of capacity to help shelter guests and most economically feasible for the City. Your handling of the situation to date has encouraged the NIMBY-ism that has eliminated most sites, until we are down to two that are anything but the best.

2. You have apparently made no attempt to consider what is best for the homeless who have been concentrated in Bayside because of the co-location of social services.

According to academic research, co-location improves efficiency of service delivery but fails to produce better outcomes for clients. Concentration of the homeless has been demonstrated to worsen individual outcomes; as the neighborhood absorbs more homeless, particularly the approximately 80 – 85% who suffer from mental health and/or substance use difficulties, it becomes Skid Row, with fewer opportunities for people to recover in any meaningful way.

Those of you who favor leaving everything in Bayside are depending on the powerlessness of the neighborhood's small population to avoid doing anything to genuinely help the situation.

3. So now, there is talk of a new Task Force to consider the problem.

Had the Task Force of 2012, whose report no doubt sits gathering dust on some shelf in City Hall, considered carefully the addendum provided by one of its members, Thomas E. Blackburn, a Bayside homeowner, it could have predicted the current Skid Row situation in Bayside, as well as the ever burgeoning numbers of people with behavioral issues who spread their problems up and down Congress Street and across the Old Port. Read THAT report, don't waste your time and our money putting the problem off once again.

We do not need a new task force. We need a new shelter to help those who can be effectively and efficiently helped, so we can get on to the task of supporting the "hard to help" and decreasing the number of people whose behavior has become criminal.

4. You have ignored the parallel issue of Bayside's deterioration, thus destroying a major portion of on-peninsula real estate that could alleviate Portland's critical shortage of housing for incoming younger people, which has been a goal of the City for nearly a decade. A functional Bayside would achieve the "gateway" to the City goals of the much ballyhooed, and utterly ignored, "New Vision for Bayside."

For all of this, shame on you. You were elected to do right by the City of Portland and all its residents, all its problems, all its possibilities. Do so.

--

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

Fwd: Shelter Site Selection

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, May 13, 2019 at 4:53 AM

To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>, Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>

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

From: **Sean Kerwin** <cairdhubain@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, May 12, 2019 at 8:59 PM

Subject: Shelter Site Selection

To: Belinda Ray <BSR@portlandmaine.gov>, Brian Batson <bbatson@portlandmaine.gov>, Pious Ali <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, Ethan Strimling <estrimling@portlandmaine.gov>, Justin Costa <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>, <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, Kim Cook <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>, Nicholas Mavodones <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, Spencer Thibodeau <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>
CC: John Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Councilors:

As the full council prepares to take up a vote regarding siting of the new emergency shelter, I am aware that you are under pressure from some to put the brakes on the process, to reconsider decisions already made, even to appoint a new task force. I strongly encourage you not to do so.

There have been 2 task forces dedicated to this issue, commencing their work seven-and-a-half years ago! Countless hours have been spent by the city, social service providers, homeless advocates, and neighborhood advocates in meetings to answer the question of how to best move us forward. You have that information, and the answers to questions now being asked. The process has been open to any who have been paying attention and chose to show up. No task force will ever create a product that will cause the neighborhood the shelter is proposed for to accept it with open arms.

To one specific point commonly called out: we already have a scattered site model for need specific shelters: the teen shelter, the women's shelter, the family shelter, etc. There is consensus from those operating the Oxford Street Shelter (OSS), and the social service providers providing ancillary services, that a single emergency or intake shelter is the best practice. It allows more money to be allocated to good design and operations, rather than maintaining and staffing multiple sites. Further, most service providers agree - they can provide services at a one location, but do not have the resources to do so at multiple sites at once. When appropriate, clients will be referred to the need specific shelters.

Our current system is in crisis. The OSS is overwhelmed: its layout makes the work of its dedicated employees difficult, and it is detrimentally sited in a neighborhood saturated with services and shelters far beyond the OSS. One thing that it seems everyone can agree on is that we are in crisis, and the current situation is untenable. The appropriate response to a crisis is not to delay and further research, not another task force. Not when years of hard work have brought us to where we are today and answers to all of the questions being asked have been answered - even if some don't like what those answers are. You cannot keep sending this issue back for reconsideration until you find someone that will tell you what you want to hear.

Each of you were elected to make difficult decisions when necessary. To delay moving forward is to not have the courage to do what is right - right for our homeless population, right for the city employees trying to do their jobs in a safe and dignified manner, right for the social service providers struggling to get help to a vulnerable population, and right in a neighborhood overwhelmed by bearing the lion share of services for the rest of the greater Portland and beyond. I implore you to find the courage, the backbone, to do what is right. Do not use another task force, or other delaying tactic, as political cover for not taking action when a crisis demands. Do what you were elected to do - stand for what is right, not who is loudest.

Thank you for hearing me.

Sean Kerwin
[18 Parris St.](#)

--

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

Fwd: Shelter- Vote NOW, no more task forces

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, May 13, 2019 at 3:12 PM

To: Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>, Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

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

From: **stephanie scherer** <stephanie.f.scherer@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, May 13, 2019 at 12:47 PM

Subject: Shelter- Vote NOW, no more task forces

To: Belinda Ray <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, Pious Ali <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, Brian Batson <bbatson@portlandmaine.gov>, jduson <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, Spencer Thibodeau <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>, Nick Mavodones <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, Justin Costa <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>, Ethan Strimling <estrimling@portlandmaine.gov>, Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>, <gmitchell@portlandmaine.gov>

Hello Councilors,

I am writing to urge you to **vote on the site of the new homeless services center next Monday**, as scheduled and without delay.

You have two solid site locations in front of you that represent **8 years worth of very hard work**. They represent 8 years worth of public discussion, official task forces, community forums, site evaluations, neighborhood tours and outreach sessions, not to mention extensive feedback from members of the general public, service providers and experts in the field, as well as from the actual homeless themselves.

You have done the work. And these last 8 years worth of public process have armed you with an extensive amount of information related to building a new shelter.

You already know that the current shelter facility on Oxford Street is unsafe and not sustainable.

You already know that the concentration of services in Bayside makes it impossible for shelter staff to effectively serve those who are actually seeing help.

You already know that a scattered site model, beyond the scattered 5+ shelters that we currently have in Portland today, is cost prohibitive.

You already know that a coordinated, central intake system and single site model is what is required for our partners to be able to provide the highest quality of care.

You already know our homeless community wants to be treated with dignity and respect.

And, you already know that many neighborhoods feel scared.

We do not need another task force to tell us any of this.

What we need is a decision on location, so that we can build a new shelter. A new shelter in a safe, built to suit facility with integrated meals and services that would be NOTHING like the incredibly scary situation that we have in Bayside.

The current Oxford Street Shelter has been repeatedly called ineffective and inhumane. You have a difficult decision ahead of you, but delaying on making that decision means that you are choosing to keep the status quo.

Please do tell not the people of Portland, including our homeless community, that you are OK with an inhumane shelter.

Respectfully,
Stephanie Scherer
Hanover Street

--

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

Fwd: Shelter

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Thu, May 16, 2019 at 3:33 PM

To: Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>, Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

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

From: **Katherine Jones** <klj@portlandmaine.gov>

Date: Thu, May 16, 2019 at 3:30 PM

Subject: Fwd: Shelter

To: Belinda Ray <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, Brian Batson <bbatson@portlandmaine.gov>, Ethan Strimling <estrimling@portlandmaine.gov>, Jill Duson <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>, Nicholas Mavodones <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, Pious Ali <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, Spencer Thibodeau <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, Danielle West-Chuhta <dwchuhta@portlandmaine.gov>

Good afternoon,

I have forwarded another testimony regarding the Shelter. The Agenda is being posted and it is too late to include in the back up materials.

Kathy

Katherine Jones, City Clerk, CCM, CMC, Registrar

[City of Portland](#)

[389 Congress Street](#)

Portland, ME 04101

(207) 874-8614

(207) 874-8612 Fax

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

From: **City Clerk** <cityclerk@portlandmaine.gov>

Date: Thu, May 16, 2019 at 3:26 PM

Subject: Fwd: Shelter

To: Katherine Jones <klj@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: **pamela murton** <pbmurton@hotmail.com>

Date: Thu, May 16, 2019 at 11:03 AM

Subject: Shelter

To: nickm@cascobaylines.com <nickm@cascobaylines.com>, Brian Batson <bbatson@portlandmaine.gov>, Pious Ali <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, Belinda Ray <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, nmm@portlandmaine.gov <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, cityclerk@portlandmaine.gov <cityclerk@portlandmaine.gov>

Cc: Libbytown Neighborhood Association <libbytown@googlegroups.com>

Dear Councilors,

It has come to my attention that the County Way site has come up again as a possible place for a shelter. As a long time resident of the Libbytown neighborhood, my husband and I have been involved in many efforts to bring improvements to the area - from John's involvement in the early years of PAYSA (youth soccer) and the original Dougherty Field

improvement committee, to my more recent involvement with the newly energized Libbytown Neighborhood Association. Many members were active in securing a grant for the construction of a long awaited (30 plus years for our family!) playground. There is excitement and enthusiasm in the neighborhood!

I recently informed the police of a very large homeless camp along the Fore River, across from the Mercy Hospital campus. The camp was not visible from the Parkway, but was very visible from the sidewalk along the parkway, one that I walk frequently. There are an endless number of homeless camps near Thompson's Point, behind the Waynflete athletic fields and the Westgate Shaw's. Although Portland Trails has built a beautiful trail system in that area, I would never, ever walk there alone. It's not uncommon to find abandoned bikes and shopping carts on Sewell Street, and to see intoxicated men near Logan Place and near the Portland Transportation Center.

Libbytown already hosts several facilities for formerly homeless people. My 40 year career as a licensed clinical social worker has enabled me to work with a variety of clients of all ages, incomes and issues. I assure you that I am not a NIMBY citizen, but I urge you to NOT place a large shelter at the County Way site. You would be encouraging more homeless camps in what already feels like a dangerous area, and you would burden Libbytown with additional challenges.

To bring a large Shelter into this neighborhood would be a disaster for Libbytown, a neighborhood that is working hard to continue to be a great place to live and work in Portland.

Sincerely,
Pam Murton, LCSW
[139 Whitney Avenue](#)
[Portland, ME](#)

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

--

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
Twitter: [@portlandmanager](#)

Fwd: Site for future Homeless Shelter

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, May 20, 2019 at 11:18 AM

To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>, Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>

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

From: <fsreilly@aol.com>

Date: Mon, May 20, 2019 at 11:08 AM

Subject: Site for future Homeless Shelter

To: <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, <bbatson@portlandmaine.gov>, <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>, <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>

CC: <JPJ@portlandmaine.gov>, <estrimling@portlandmaine.gov>, <hello@wenamaine.org>, <jocoyne@gwi.net>

Dear Councilors,

We are unable to attend this evening's public comment session, but wish for our voice to be heard as well:

Regarding the proposal to build a Homeless Service Center on Angelo's Acre, we believe the homeless as well as the neighbors would benefit more by seeking a more appropriate area, e.g. less commercial, more space.

Angelo's Acre is currently accessible by two very busy streets, Commercial and Park, or by Harbor View Park. Both streets are not particularly pedestrian friendly, with very few crosswalks to navigate the heavy traffic. In other words, not necessarily safe, and already way too congested with heavy traffic. Also, there is not a great deal of public transportation available, certainly not on Commercial. Furthermore, Hobson's Landing will add tremendous activity when it's completed next year and is only a block away from Angelo's Acre.

Harbor View Park, the adjacent neighborhood park, has continuously had problems with people illegally camping out overnight, leaving litter - sometimes used needles - and personal waste behind them.....not a desirable situation for anyone to face and this, in itself, needs to be addressed and remedied eventually. We personally have encountered people sleeping on the downside of the park as we walk our dogs around the park, and let me tell you from that experience, it feels unsafe and appears filthy.

As far as a proposed building is concerned, we believe the height limit is 40-45 feet, which we, as neighbors, assume will be adhered to, and not "exempted" or compromised for any reason. After reading the plans for the shelter, it is difficult to understand how all the elements can fit into this relatively small space.

This is a lovely neighborhood, with a lot of new residential growth, either built or in the process (Hobson's Landing). We encourage the thoughtful development of Angelo's Acre as part of the residential area and important entrance to our great *seaport* city.

The homeless *do* need shelter, but the facility needs to be thought out carefully for an appropriate location else the situation will be compounded many times over!

Thank each of you for your thoughtful consideration in this very important matter.

Frank & Sharon Reilly
168 York Street
Portland

--

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

Fwd: TIME FOR A CHANGE IN BAYSIDE!

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, May 20, 2019 at 12:59 PM

To: Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>, Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

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

From: **David Hembre** <dhembre@aol.com>

Date: Mon, May 20, 2019 at 12:56 PM

Subject: Fwd: TIME FOR A CHANGE IN BAYSIDE!

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

Dear Portland City Councilors, City Manager and Director of Economic Development -

I am unable to attend tonight's meeting, so I want to share my thoughts through this email.

I want to express my strong support of the plans that the City of Portland will move some of the homeless shelters out of the Bayside neighborhood. I have been a commercial property owner of a building on the corner of Cumberland Ave. and Casco Street for fifteen years. The City has ignored the property owners in this area for far too long. You have let this high density of homelessness issue fester for far too long. I believe that it has been decades of turning a blind eye towards Bayside that has led to this untenable situation. The numbers of street people in our area has become unacceptable in the past few years. Our neighborhood is unfairly burdened with this homeless population. It is not healthy to create such a large population of non-working unemployed people in one area of city.

I had lived in Boston for 15 years before moving to Portland and I don't ever recall seeing such a density of street people anywhere in the Boston environs. Friends of mine who have visited Portland are visually uncomfortable when they experience the streets in our business area. It is time to show more respect to the businesses and hard working people of downtown Portland, particularly Bayside, and manage the population of Portland's homeless in a new and different way.

Doing nothing is not acceptable.

Respectfully,

David Hembre
Owner / Manager
Forty-Five Casco Street, LLC
45 Casco St.
Portland, ME. 04101

FORTY-FIVE CASCO STREET, LLC

45 CASCO STREET
PORTLAND, MAINE
office #207-699-2688
cell #207-332-4564

--
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



Attorneys at Law

DAVID J. JONES
RICHARD H. SPENCER, JR.
F. BRUCE SLEEPER
LESLIE E. LOWRY III
PATRICIA M. DUNN
MICHAEL J. QUINLAN
NATALIE L. BURNS
SALLY J. DAGGETT
ROY T. PIERCE
BRENDAN P. RIELLY

NICHOLAS J. MORRILL
MARK A. BOWER
CHARLES M. KATZ-LEAVY
ALYSSA C. TIBBETTS
JEFFREY B. HERBERT
ERICA M. JOHANSON
J. CASEY MCCORMACK
TUDOR N. GOLDSMITH
BENJAMIN T. MCCALL
SHARRA L. INGLIS

TEN FREE STREET
P.O. BOX 4510
PORTLAND, MAINE 04112-4510
(207) 775-7271 (Phone)
(207) 775-7935 (Fax)

www.jbgh.com

Of Counsel

JOSEPH G. CARLETON, JR.
LAWRENCE C. CLOUGH
KENNETH M. COLE III
WILLIAM H. DALE
FRANK H. FRYE
R. LEE IVY
DEBORAH M. MANN
NICHOLAS S. NADZO
MICHAEL A. NELSON

RAYMOND E. JENSEN
(1908-2002)
KENNETH BAIRD
(1914-1987)
M. DONALD GARDNER
(1918-2003)
SHERMONG HENRY
(1926-2018)

YORK COUNTY
OFFICE
11 MAIN STREET, SUITE 4
KENNEBUNK, MAINE 04043
(207) 985-4676 (Phone)
(207) 985-4932 (Fax)

May 20, 2019

VIA HAND DELIVERY

City of Portland City Council
389 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04101
Attention: Katherine L. Jones

Re: *Proposed Homeless Services Center at 654 Riverside Street, City of Portland, Maine (“Proposed Center”)*

Dear Mayor Strimling and Council Members:

This firm acts as local counsel to Suburban Propane, L.P. (“Suburban”), the owner of 636 Riverside Street (the “636 Riverside Property”), which is adjacent to the above-referenced Proposed Center at 654 Riverside Street. We are providing this letter to make known our client’s concerns regarding the Council’s discussions for siting of the Proposed Center, and ask that it be provided to the full Council at this evening’s meeting.

Suburban is currently in the process of developing its 636 Riverside Property with a propane storage and distribution facility. As many of you know, the relocation of Suburban’s facility from its long-time location at Thompson’s Point to the 636 Riverside Property is the result of a lengthy and involved process between the Thompson’s Point owners, the City and Suburban. The 636 Riverside Property is considered a more suitable location for Suburban’s business activities by all parties to the relocation effort, removes its industrial activities from an area containing more residential and consumer oriented businesses, and helps to allow for a fuller development of Thompson’s Point. The City has been a valued partner in Suburban’s project at the 636 Riverside Property. However, we believe that the proposed location of the City’s new Proposed Center adjacent to Suburban’s facility at the 636 Riverside Property is problematic for several reasons.

In general, a residential use such as the Proposed Center should not be located in an industrial area such as Riverside Street. The City’s zoning for Riverside Street reflects that same policy view under the current I-H zoning (high-impact industrial). Logically enough, residential uses are not permitted in the I-H zones in Portland. (No one should consider the permitted, “small-scale correctional release facility” as comparable, in any manner, to the Proposed Center.) The heavy industrial traffic generated by the predominance of industrial use sites on Riverside Street is inconsistent with, and could pose a danger to, the increased pedestrian traffic (including, potentially, minors) that would accompany the Proposed Center.

~ Over 60 Years of Service ~

Jensen Baird
Gardner Henry

May 20, 2019

Page 2

In addition, Suburban's operations will include lawfully storing hazardous substances at its facility, and locating the Proposed Center on Riverside Street would increase the risk of harm to an already vulnerable population. Moreover, increasing the human population in this location would significantly increase the likelihood for unauthorized access to the neighboring industrial facilities, including Suburban's facility. Suburban is very concerned about these risks even knowing that it complies with industry and regulatory standards in its operations, which it recognizes is paramount to being a good neighbor.

Suburban is aware that the Proposed Center's distance from existing services and resources has been identified as a concern for many in the community. While that is not Suburban's primary concern, we do believe the location presents a significant barrier and deterrent to gaining access to needed resources for many of the Proposed Center's residents. In addition, locating the Proposed Center on Riverside Street could be viewed as "hiding the homeless" and could further exacerbate the condition of the City's homeless population by deterring use of the important services provided.

In summary, Riverside Street is a wholly inappropriate location for the Proposed Center and will have negative consequences for both the future and existing neighboring industrial users and for the prospective residents and clients of the Proposed Center.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Very truly yours,



Leslie E. Lowry

Copy to:
Councilor Kim Cook
Councilors Pious Ali; Nicholas Mavadones and Jill Duson
Mike Murray, Assistant to City Manager
Ms. Susan G. Delia, Suburban Propane
Andy S. Norin Esq.

Fwd: Homeless Shelter

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, May 20, 2019 at 2:48 PM

To: Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>, Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

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

From: **Jo Coyne** <jcoyne@gwi.net>

Date: Mon, May 20, 2019 at 2:47 PM

Subject: Homeless Shelter

To: Nick Mavodones <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, Justin Costa <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>, Jill Duson <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, Kim Cook <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>, Spencer Thibodeau <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, Pious Ali <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, Belinda Ray <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, Brian Batson <bbatson@portlandmaine.gov>

Cc: Ethan Strimling <estrimling@portlandmaine.gov>, Jon Jennings <JPJ@portlandmaine.gov>

Dear Councilors,

At a recent neighborhood gathering convened at Reiche School by District 2 Councilor Spencer Thibodeau, it was clear that a majority of the 30+ residents in attendance felt it was premature to be deciding where a new homeless shelter should be built. Residents expressed much more concern about how the needs of the homeless might be met than they did about site selection. The consensus was that residents across the city should be further engaged in exploring the topic before decisions are made.

I hope you will find a way to do that before moving ahead. My personal preference would be to renovate one of our half-empty middle or high schools (as identified by the School Department's recent enrollment study) to provide shelter, services and affordable housing for the homeless. There will always be individuals who like living on the streets but I believe most homeless folks really want to have a home that provides a certain level of safety and privacy. Even a small, single room would allow many to transition over time out of institutional care to independent living.

In this time of rising taxes and declining services, it's imperative that we use existing resources wisely. I hope you will consider my suggestions and that you will seek additional input from other residents, too, before moving forward with shelter plans.

Thank you.

Jo Coyne
36 Salem St
Portland ME 04102
207.775.3902
jcoyne@gwi.net

--

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
Twitter: @portlandmanager

Fwd: Homeless shelter

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, May 20, 2019 at 8:42 PM

To: Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>, Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

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

From: **Johannah Hart** <hartjohannah1@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, May 20, 2019 at 8:19 PM

Subject: Fwd: Homeless shelter

To: Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

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

From: Johannah Hart <hartjohannah1@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, May 20, 2019 at 8:18 PM

Subject: Homeless shelter

To: Belinda Ray <bsr@portlandmaine.gov> ,

<sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov> , <bbatson@portlandmaine.gov> , Justin

Costa <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov> , <kcook@portlandmaine.gov> , Jill

Duson <jduson@portlandmaine.gov> , <pali@portlandmaine.gov> ,

<nmm@portlandmaine.gov>

Dear hard working Councilors,

Sorry I was unable to attend this evenings meeting but hope you will include my opinion in your deliberations.

I urge councilors to be decisive, prudent & prompt in bringing the new. very much needed, homeless shelter into existence. No more kicking this can any further down the road. The Riverside St. site is clearly the best selection. It is not too close to any neighborhood & well- supervised & landscaped with van service, it will be a humane, budget conscious, realistic solution to this serious city problem. In America there is always at least one who oppose everything. I hope you will use your position of leadership to promptly solve this serious problem.

Please vote for the Riverside site . It will work for the greatest good for the greatest number.. Best personal regards, Johannah Hart

149 Concord St.

--

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

Twitter: @portlandmanager

Fwd: Proposed Homeless Service Center

1 message

Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, May 20, 2019 at 7:08 PM

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

From: **Heather Goldberg** <hgoldberg1217@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, May 20, 2019 at 5:30 PM

Subject: RE: Proposed Homeless Service Center

To: <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, <bbatson@portlandmaine.gov>, <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>, <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, <estriming@portlandmaine.gov>, <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>, <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>, <skf@portlandmaine.gov>, <aeg@portlandmaine.gov>

My name is Heather Goldberg, and I recently returned to Maine after living in Connecticut for seven years. Previous to that, I lived and worked in Southern Maine for twenty years. It has been a joy to return to this state, particularly the eclectic and vibrant city of Portland, but, in making this move, I made myself aware of the challenges facing the city, specifically how to best address the needs of a growing homeless population. It is on this matter that I address you and hope for your consideration.

My perspective on this is colored by two key factors. The first is that I recently completed graduate studies at Fairfield University, a Jesuit institution that stresses the ideals of social justice, equity, and service to others, ideals that I hold dear to my heart. Second is my experience as a property manager in Norwalk, CT. Responsible for 245 rental units, my company's mission was to provide clean, safe, and affordable housing in a market characterized by soaring rents, luxury construction, and higher hurdles to tenancy. I have worked with many who have struggled to keep a roof over their heads: voucher program recipients, veterans looking to regain their footing, immigrant families, individuals with physical and/or mental challenges. Of all the jobs I've had, this work taught me how the most about being a supportive and considerate member of a community.

With the purchase last April of my condominium at 33 Park Street, I became a member of the Portland community and began to see the day-to-day realities of those in crisis here. The need for a new shelter cannot be disputed, however, in the search for an appropriate location, it appears that there has been a slow attrition of the essentials for the facility. The current plan for an 150-bed shelter is woefully inadequate, as evident in the numbers for 2017 and 2018 provided by Oxford Street, which demonstrate nearly two solid years of an average of 200+ residents per night. It also ignores the urgency underlying the Homeless Voices for Justice call "to afford for space and capacity such that the new Homeless Services Center does not need overflow in the first place." Given the historic trend of overflow, especially during the colder months, a location that provides ample shelter should be a prime directive. That the true need is not being taken into account in the creation of a new facility deserves to be re-examined, and I urge the Council to reconsider this, first and foremost.

Further erosion of the recommendations and requisites for the new facility is a strong possibility, given the two remaining sites that are still being considered "viable": Angelo's Acre and Riverside. In reading

the comments from those serving on the frontlines, it is evident that both locations are, at best, insufficient. At the risk of sounding like a NIMBY (not-in-my-backyarder), Angelo's Acre simply does not have the real estate to easily house the essentials of a new shelter, which, along with sleeping quarters, needs a meal prep and dining space, secure storage areas, laundry facilities, a private outdoor community space, office space for on-site providers, and parking for employees and support personnel. There are also the safety concerns mentioned by many, including waterfront access, vehicle traffic, and the potential dangers of construction and industrial work in the surrounding area. Despite having the space for a large and encompassing shelter and support center, the Riverside location has its own serious flaws, including not being easily accessible to support agencies, services, and potential work opportunities, access to transportation, its overall industrial character, and the question of being able to accommodate the infrastructural needs of a larger facility. While I understand the urgency of selecting a site and getting the project underway, the selection process seems to be rushed, and, in the end, we will likely short-change the original goals and plans by settling for the merely adequate, as evidenced by the current choices.

Our neighbors who are struggling deserve more careful consideration from us, and I, as their neighbor, urge you to reasonably and responsibly consider the true numbers of those needing help, re-open the exploration for sites that appropriately meet the greatest number of requirements, and spearhead a collective effort to build a thoughtful, inclusive, and supportive springboard to self-sufficiency and success.

I thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Best regards,
Heather M. Goldberg
33 Park St., Apt. 2, Portland, ME

--
Kristen Dow
Interim Director
Health & Human Services Department
[389 Congress Street](#)
[Portland, ME 04101](#)
207-874-8633