



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Moving homeless shelter

1 message

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

Tue, Jul 3, 2018 at 10:30 AM

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

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

From: **Jon Jennings** <jjp@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Mon, Jul 2, 2018 at 8:34 AM
Subject: Fwd: Moving homeless shelter
To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>

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

From: **Janine Spindler** <beaney820@yahoo.com>
Date: Mon, Jul 2, 2018 at 2:42 AM
Subject: Moving homeless shelter
To: jjp@portlandmaine.gov

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!

Sent from my iPhone

--
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

7/8/2018

City of Portland Mail - Fwd: Moving homeless shelter

@portlandmanager



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: homeless

1 message

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

Tue, Jul 3, 2018 at 10:30 AM

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dcs@portlandmaine.gov

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

From: **Jon Jennings** <jjj@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Mon, Jul 2, 2018 at 8:00 AM
Subject: Fwd: homeless
To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>

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

From: **Nick Mavodones** <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Sun, Jul 1, 2018 at 5:11 PM
Subject: Fwd: homeless
To: Jon Jennings <jjj@portlandmaine.gov>

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

From: **Frank Coyne** <slanta4298@hotmail.com>
Date: Sunday, July 1, 2018
Subject: homeless
To: "nmm@portlandmaine.gov" <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>

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](#)

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

--

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

Sent from Gmail Mobile

--

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



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Proposed new 200 bed shelter in Nason's Corner

1 message

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

Tue, Jul 3, 2018 at 10:31 AM

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

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

From: **Jon Jennings** <jjp@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Sat, Jun 30, 2018 at 6:08 AM
Subject: Fwd: Proposed new 200 bed shelter in Nason's Corner
To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>

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

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jill Duson <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: June 29, 2018 at 7:56:26 PM EDT
To: Jessica Kane <jessicakane@gmail.com>
Cc: Belinda Ray <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, Jon Jennings <jjp@portlandmaine.gov>
Subject: Re: Proposed new 200 bed shelter in Nason's Corner

Hello Jessica

Thank you for your note. I have forwarded it the committee so it can become part of the public record.

City staff and councilors have invited to the Nason's Corner aNeighborhood Assn meeting on July 5th at Breakwater School. I plan to be there for that meeting.

On Fri, Jun 29, 2018, 3:11 PM Jessica Kane <jessicakane@gmail.com> wrote:

Good afternoon,

I sent the below message to my representative on Monday, but haven't received any response yet. I was able to stream the meeting on Tuesday, but didn't feel like the questions I have were answered (if anything, it raised more!). I am planning to attend upcoming meetings to gather more information, but I wanted to reach out to you all to share my thoughts, as a Portland resident living in the Nason's Corner

neighborhood. I really hope you are all open to hearing from your constituents, and are responsive to what is a very big issue for our neighborhood, and our city.

Jessica Kane

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

From: **Jessica Kane** <jessicakane@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jun 25, 2018 at 3:49 PM
Subject: Proposed new 200 bed shelter in Nason's Corner
To: bbatson@portlandmaine.gov

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.



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Hi Nick,

1 message

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

Tue, Jul 3, 2018 at 10:31 AM

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

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

From: **Jon Jennings** <jjp@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Sat, Jun 30, 2018 at 6:07 AM
Subject: Fwd: Hi Nick,
To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>

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

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nick Mavodones <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: June 29, 2018 at 1:03:23 PM EDT
To: Jon Jennings <jjp@portlandmaine.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Hi Nick,

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

From: **Kevin Costello** <mec259@yahoo.com>
Date: Friday, June 29, 2018
Subject: Hi Nick,
To: nmm@portlandmaine.gov

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.

7/8/2018

City of Portland Mail - Fwd: Hi Nick,

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

Sent from my iPad

--

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

Sent from Gmail Mobile



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Proposed homeless shelter relocation

1 message

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

Tue, Jul 3, 2018 at 10:31 AM

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

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

From: **Jon Jennings** <jj@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Sat, Jun 30, 2018 at 6:01 AM
Subject: Fwd: Proposed homeless shelter relocation
To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>

For the record

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

From: Nick Mavodones <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: June 29, 2018 at 10:58:36 AM EDT
To: Jon Jennings <jj@portlandmaine.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Proposed homeless shelter relocation

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

From: **Pierre Morneault** <mornep@mmc.org>
Date: Friday, June 29, 2018
Subject: Proposed homeless shelter relocation
To: "estrimling@portlandmaine.gov" <estrimling@portlandmaine.gov>, "Belinda Ray (bsr@portlandmaine.gov)" <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, "nmm@portlandmaine.gov" <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, "kcook@portlandmaine.gov" <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>

Mayor Stimling and city council members,

7/8/2018

City of Portland Mail - Fwd: Proposed homeless shelter relocation

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 Morneau

[54 Hale St](#)

[Portland](#)

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--

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

Sent from Gmail Mobile



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Proposal for Oxford Shelter-Holm Avenue Portland

1 message

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

Tue, Jul 3, 2018 at 10:32 AM

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

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

From: **Jon Jennings** <jjp@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Fri, Jun 29, 2018 at 5:49 AM
Subject: Fwd: Proposal for Oxford Shelter-Holm Avenue Portland
To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>

For the record.

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

Begin forwarded message:

From: Andrea Cesario <AndreaCesario@msn.com>
Date: June 28, 2018 at 4:35:56 PM EDT
To: "jjp@portlandmaine.gov" <jjp@portlandmaine.gov>
Subject: Proposal for Oxford Shelter-Holm Avenue Portland

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



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: relocation of Homeless Shelter

1 message

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

Tue, Jul 3, 2018 at 10:32 AM

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

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

From: **Jon Jennings** <jjp@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Fri, Jun 29, 2018 at 5:39 AM
Subject: Fwd: relocation of Homeless Shelter
To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>

For the public record.

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

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nick Mavodones <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: June 28, 2018 at 7:15:00 PM EDT
To: Jon Jennings <jjp@portlandmaine.gov>
Subject: Fwd: relocation of Homeless Shelter

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

From: **Niles, Richard M** <niles@marshall.edu>
Date: Thursday, June 28, 2018
Subject: relocation of Homeless Shelter
To: "nmm@portlandmaine.gov" <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>

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 Real estate 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

--

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

Sent from Gmail Mobile



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Please vote NO on the rezoning/Barron Center proposal

1 message

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

Tue, Jul 3, 2018 at 2:05 PM

Director, Health & Human Services
[City of Portland](#)
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dcs@portlandmaine.gov

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

From: **Jon Jennings** <jj@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Tue, Jul 3, 2018 at 1:56 PM
Subject: Fwd: Please vote NO on the rezoning/Barron Center proposal
To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>

Jon P. Jennings
City Manager
[City of Portland](#)
[389 Congress Street](#)
Portland, ME 04101
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jj@portlandmaine.gov
www.portlandmaine.gov
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Begin forwarded message:

From: Nick Mavodones <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: July 3, 2018 at 12:52:06 PM EDT
To: Jon Jennings <jj@portlandmaine.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Please vote NO on the rezoning/Barron Center proposal

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

From: <gliddentrac@aol.com>
Date: Tuesday, July 3, 2018
Subject: Please vote NO on the rezoning/Barron Center proposal
To: nmm@portlandmaine.gov

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

--

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

Sent from Gmail Mobile



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Vote no on Proposed rezoning Barron Center Proposal

1 message

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

Tue, Jul 3, 2018 at 2:12 PM

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

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

From: **Jon Jennings** <jjp@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Tue, Jul 3, 2018 at 1:56 PM
Subject: Fwd: Vote no on Proposed rezoning Barron Center Proposal
To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>

Jon P. Jennings
City Manager
City of Portland
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Begin forwarded message:

From: Nick Mavodones <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: July 3, 2018 at 12:51:37 PM EDT
To: Jon Jennings <jjp@portlandmaine.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Vote no on Proposed rezoning Barron Center Proposal

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

From: **Howard O'Brien** <howard.obrieniv@yahoo.com>
Date: Tuesday, July 3, 2018
Subject: Vote no on Proposed rezoning Barron Center Proposal
To: "estrimling@portlandmaine.gov" <estrimling@portlandmaine.gov>, "sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov" <sthibodeau@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>, "nmm@portlandmaine.gov" <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, "jduson@portlandmaine.gov" <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>

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 meeting 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 site for the new shelter. As I was passing the Baron Center I saw the trees which currently occupy the location which the new building would occupy. Additionally I saw residents of the Baron 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.

--

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

Sent from Gmail Mobile



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Oxford /Baron

1 message

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

Wed, Jul 4, 2018 at 8:36 PM

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

From: Ann Eagan <fosterapet104@yahoo.com>

Date: Wed, Jul 4, 2018 at 3:57 PM

Subject: Oxford /Baron

To: Brian Batson <bbatson@portlandmaine.gov>, pali@portlandmaine.gov <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>, estrimling@portlandmaine.gov <estrimling@portlandmaine.gov>

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](#)

--

Director, Health & Human Services

[City of Portland](#)[389 Congress Street](#)[Portland, Maine 04101](#)

o 207.874.8775

c 207.956.3262

dcs@portlandmaine.gov



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: New homeless shelter

1 message

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

Thu, Jul 5, 2018 at 12:28 PM

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

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

From: **City Clerk** <cityclerk@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Thu, Jul 5, 2018 at 11:30 AM
Subject: Fwd: New homeless shelter
To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>

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

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

From: **Karen Middleton** <karen.middleton310@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jun 25, 2018 at 2:36 PM
Subject: New homeless shelter
To: cityclerk@portlandmaine.gov

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.



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Homeless shelter

1 message

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

Fri, Jul 6, 2018 at 9:50 AM

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

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

From: **Jon Jennings** <jj@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Fri, Jul 6, 2018 at 8:16 AM
Subject: Fwd: Homeless shelter
To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>, Michael Sauschuck <mjs@portlandmaine.gov>

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

From: **Nick Mavodones** <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Fri, Jul 6, 2018 at 8:13 AM
Subject: Fwd: Homeless shelter
To: Jon Jennings <jj@portlandmaine.gov>

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

From: **Thomas Bradley** <thomas.1884@yahoo.com>
Date: Friday, July 6, 2018
Subject: Homeless shelter
To: "bsr@portlandmaine.gov" <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, "pali@portlandmaine.gov" <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, "nmm@portlandmaine.gov" <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, "jduson@portlandmaine.gov" <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>

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

7/8/2018

City of Portland Mail - Fwd: Homeless shelter

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

--

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

Sent from Gmail Mobile

--

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



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Support for Homeless Services Center

2 messages

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

Thu, Jul 5, 2018 at 8:20 AM

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

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

From: **Jon Jennings** <jj@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Thu, Jul 5, 2018 at 7:14 AM
Subject: Fwd: Support for Homeless Services Center
To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>

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

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jim Hall <mtjimhall@gmail.com>
Date: July 4, 2018 at 11:30:10 PM EDT
To: Belinda Ray <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, bbatson@portlandmaine.gov, pali@portlandmaine.gov
Cc: sthobodeau@portlandmaine.gov, jcosta@portlandmaine.gov, kcook@portlandmaine.gov,
nmm@portlandmaine.gov, jduson@portlandmaine.gov, estrimling@portlandmaine.gov,
jj@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Support for Homeless Services Center

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

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

Fri, Jul 6, 2018 at 10:00 AM

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

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

From: **Jon Jennings** <jjj@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Fri, Jul 6, 2018 at 8:15 AM
Subject: Fwd: Support for Homeless Services Center
To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>, Michael Sauschuck <mjs@portlandmaine.gov>

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

From: **Jim Hall** <mtjimhall@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Jul 6, 2018 at 8:08 AM
Subject: Re: Support for Homeless Services Center
To: Belinda Ray <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, bbatson@portlandmaine.gov, pali@portlandmaine.gov
Cc: sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov, jcosta@portlandmaine.gov, kcook@portlandmaine.gov, nmm@portlandmaine.gov, jduson@portlandmaine.gov, estrimling@portlandmaine.gov, jjj@portlandmaine.gov

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.

<https://www.pressherald.com/2018/07/05/hostile-crowd-criticizes-city-proposal-to-build-emergency-shelter-at-barron-center/>

On Wed, Jul 4, 2018 at 11:30 PM, Jim Hall <mtjimhall@gmail.com> wrote:

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.

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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

--

7/8/2018

City of Portland Mail - Fwd: Support for Homeless Services Center

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



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Concerning the Proposed Shelter at the Barron Center

1 message

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

Fri, Jul 6, 2018 at 10:01 AM

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

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

From: **Jon Jennings** <jj@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Fri, Jul 6, 2018 at 8:04 AM
Subject: Fwd: Concerning the Proposed Shelter at the Barron Center
To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>, Michael Sauschuck <mjs@portlandmaine.gov>

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

From: **Daisy Olden** <daisyolden79@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Jul 3, 2018 at 4:03 PM
Subject: Concerning the Proposed Shelter at the Barron Center
To: jj@portlandmaine.gov

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.

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.







--

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



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: In support of the shelter re-location

1 message

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

Fri, Jul 6, 2018 at 10:03 AM

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

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

From: **Jon Jennings** <jjp@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Fri, Jul 6, 2018 at 6:46 AM
Subject: Fwd: In support of the shelter re-location
To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>

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

Begin forwarded message:

From: Debra Rothenberg <drdar58@icloud.com>
Date: July 5, 2018 at 11:01:30 PM EDT
To: bbatson@portlandmaine.gov, pali@portlandmaine.gov, nmm@portlandmaine.gov,
judson@portlandmaine.gov, bsr@portlandmaine.gov, sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov,
jcosta@portlandmaine.gov, kcook@portlandmaine.gov
Cc: jjp@portlandmaine.gov, estrimling@portlandmaine.gov, mjs@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: In support of the shelter re-location

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](#)



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Comment on New Homeless Services Center

1 message

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

Fri, Jul 6, 2018 at 10:05 AM

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

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

From: **Jon Jennings** <jjp@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Fri, Jul 6, 2018 at 6:45 AM
Subject: Fwd: Comment on New Homeless Services Center
To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>

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

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nick Mavodones <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: July 5, 2018 at 10:42:46 PM EDT
To: Jon Jennings <jjp@portlandmaine.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Comment on New Homeless Services Center

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

From: **Laura S. Underkuffler** <lu27@cornell.edu>
Date: Thursday, July 5, 2018
Subject: Comment on New Homeless Services Center
To: Brian Batson <bbatson@portlandmaine.gov>, "bsr@portlandmaine.gov" <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, Pious Ali <pali@portlandmaine.gov>
Cc: Spencer Thibodeau <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, jduson <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, "jcosta@portlandmaine.gov" <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>, "kcook@portlandmaine.gov" <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>, "kcook@portlandmaine.gov", Nicholas Mavodones <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, "estrimling@portlandmaine.gov" <estrimling@portlandmaine.gov>

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](#)

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

Sent from Gmail Mobile



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Emergency Shelter Placement in District 3

1 message

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

Fri, Jul 6, 2018 at 1:09 PM

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

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

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

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

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

Dear Mr. Batson-

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

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

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

Kindly,
Andy

Mobile 207.650.5535
agraham43@mac.com

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

Fwd: Shelter Relocation

1 message

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

Fri, Jul 6, 2018 at 1:12 PM

Director, Health & Human Services
[City of Portland](#)
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c 207.956.3262
dcs@portlandmaine.gov

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

From: **Jon Jennings** <jjj@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Fri, Jul 6, 2018 at 12:45 PM
Subject: Fwd: Shelter Relocation
To: Michael Sauschuck <mjs@portlandmaine.gov>, Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>

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

From: **Tom Gangewer** <tom@accountingsolutions4me.com>
Date: Fri, Jul 6, 2018 at 11:24 AM
Subject: Shelter Relocation
To: bbatson@portlandmaine.gov, bsr@portlandmaine.gov, pali@portlandmaine.gov
Cc: Ethan Strimling <estrimling@portlandmaine.gov>, jjj@portlandmaine.gov

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](#)

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Tom Gangewer

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Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Holm Ave and Brighton.

1 message

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

Fri, Jul 6, 2018 at 3:50 PM

----- Forwarded message -----
From: jmy <jmy@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Fri, Jul 6, 2018 at 3:36 PM
Subject: Fwd: Holm Ave and Brighton.
To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>

Dawn,

We received this public comment today regarding the homeless shelter and was asked to forward it to you.

Thanks.

Jennifer Munson, Office Manager

Department of Planning and Urban Development

City Hall, 4th Floor, 389 Congress Street, Portland ME 04101

(207) 874-8719

planning@portlandmaine.govwww.portlandmaine.gov

Office Hours are Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

On Friday, July 6, 2018 at 12:41:32 PM UTC-4, daniel lentz wrote:

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.](#)

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