October 21, 2017

Dear Mayor Wheeler, Chairwoman Kafoury, and Mr. Jolin,

I am writing to ask that you not go forward with plans to open the new 200-bed homeless shelter in Old Town/Chinatown. It is unfair to the residents, businesses, workers, and patrons who care and are supportive of this historical district. I am a life-long resident of Portland. I am Chinese. My parents immigrated from China and decided to build their new lives in Portland. As a young girl, my parents, brother and I frequently went to Chinatown to shop, dine, and interact with the many others in the tight-knit Chinese community. My father, Cedric Lee, was a respected businessman and leader in the Chinese community. He served as president of Portland's chapter of the Lee's Association and the Suey Sing Association. He was always proud to represent the city of Portland in his travels as president of these organizations. He had a successful business, the Wishing Well Restaurant, located in the St. John's district of North Portland. He always had a dream to be part of the excitement in Chinatown, so in 1979, he opened a restaurant called Sun Chong Lung. It was located on the corner of NW 4th and Davis. As the years passed, it was hard for him to see the steady decline of the Old Town/Chinatown area. He's gone now, but he would be absolutely horrified to see the condition of his beloved Chinatown now.

My father and others of his generation worked hard and made many contributions to the city of Portland. We follow in their legacy and are active in today's Chinese community. We are passionate about keeping our culture and heritage alive for the future. We ask that you help us honor our past and preserve what little Chinatown we have left. You are our elected officials. You represent us too and need to keep our interests in mind. A new homeless shelter would be detrimental to this already battered community. We have shouldered a tremendous burden for the city for a long, long time. NO HOMELESS SHELTER!

Annie Lee Graves
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