



美國俄勒岡中華會館

OREGON CHINESE CONSOLIDATED
BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

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Portland Oregon, 97209
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October 5, 2017

Mayor Ted Wheeler
City of Portland
1221 SW 4th Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

Chair Deborah Kafoury
Multnomah County

Director Marc Jolin
Joint Office of Homeless Services

On behalf of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA) located in Old Town/ Chinatown, we must voice our opposition over the City's proposal to place a 200 bed homeless shelter at NW Hoyt and NW 3rd Avenue regardless that its plan to be a low barrier shelter. We are members of the Old Town /Chinatown community since 1911.

We recognize the City's crisis on homelessness. But to add beds for the homeless in Old Town increases the risks to **public safety** because it upsets the balance of sustainable businesses to social services. Currently, the crime rates are extremely out of proportion in Old Town as compared to elsewhere in the city. The statistics indicate that over 48% of the public avoids going to any place that would be subject to safety concerns (ie, aggressive and/or violent behavior from the homeless, exposure to drug paraphaenalia, public urination and unsightly garbage).

The **economic impact** of locating the shelter in Old Town will be detrimental to the businesses that are trying to survive to thrive and prosper. The neighborhood is trying to revitalize and develop from the last setback of housing the Right to Dream camp for over six years. Placing a 200 bed shelter in the proposed location would be a negative impact causing a reduction of foot traffic from tourists and shoppers in the Old Town. Many retailers have gone out of business or relocated outside of Old Town.

We have worked with the City and shared the neighborhood with homeless shelters and social service providers throughout the years. An agreemens sein place in 1987, Clark-Shiels agreement. Even back then, the City realized and agreed that Old Town/ Chinatown was saturated with homeless shelters and social services in comparison with the rest of the city. The "**no net gain**" agreement meant no further homeless shelters would be concentrated in the area.

The Old Town/Chinatown community wants to preserve the historic and unique value to the City. The addition of the homeless shelter would take steps backwards instead of moving forward. We oppose the proposal of the 200 bed homeless shelter in Old Town and hope that the City will honor its previous commitment.

Sincerely,

Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association


Raymond Wong, President