

October 14, 2017

Portland City Mayor Ted Wheeler
Multnomah chair Deborah Kaforury
Marc Jolin, director, Joint Office of Homeless Services

My Name is Neil Lee. I am a Portland Born resident. I currently own and operate an Architectural firm in town. I am very involved in various community service organizations and activities supporting the city's neighborhood communities. Of the various organizations, I hold leadership positions with the CCBA and Bing Kong Tong Associations. Both organizations own Buildings in Portland's Old Town Chinatown.

I am speaking out for myself and as one of the representatives of the Chinese community that we oppose the proposed siting of a 200 bed shelter in Old Town Chinatown.

That said, the Chinese community has historically supported services and affordable housing in Chinatown and will continue to do so. The issue is the over concentration of Homeless shelters and services in this neighborhood which has severely and negatively affected the livability, safety and prosperity of this neighborhood. What you propose is not equitable nor sustainable for the neighborhoods well-being. The Neighborhood will be suffocated by the over concentration of the homeless population in the neighborhood.

The recent relocation of the R2D2 camp has provided a breath of fresh opportunity to the neighborhood. If you visit the area you can see and feel that the area is not as oppressed as it was previously the last 4 years. That shelter housed about 30 occupants on a daily basis but the location attracted hundreds of homeless to the area. To bring in a 200 bed shelter will attract even more of homeless to the area, and with it, more crime and oppression of the neighborhood. The proposal if implemented will kill or severely curtail the resurgence of Old Town Chinatown.

As a citizen of Portland and representative of the Chinese community, I ask that you re visit your strategy and find another scenario that will not bring more grief to the Old Town Chinatown neighborhood, but instead create an equitable solution that maintains the no net gain agreement and create an opportunity for the neighborhood to heal and grow.

Regards,



Neil Lee
Principal, LEEKA Architecture and Planning
President, Portland Lee's Association
Vice President, Oregon Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association
Vice President, Bing Kong Tong Association