



March 30, 2023

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Editor:

Neighbors for Safe Smart Shelters, (N4S) appreciates your thorough coverage of the opposition of the proposed Safe Rest Village on NW Naito based on a letter from Attorney Ross Day to the city/county.

The article quoted below as well as the lifted section of the piece appeared in the Portland Tribune dated March 27, 2023 (updated March 30, 2023) and authored by Anna Del Savio

**“Neighbors threaten legal action in response to proposed Safe Rest Village site
PPB data shows that crime in Old Town, where many shelter opponents live, has dropped”**

- **“Crime throughout Portland has increased in recent years and Portland Police Bureau data shows the increase in crimes against people has been particularly drastic in the Pearl. But in Old Town, where many of the neighbors opposed to the SRV live, crimes against people and property went down significantly between 2018 and 2022, PPB data shows.”**

N4S requests a clarification/correction be made.

Here are the facts:

1. Crime stats in Old Town have ***not decreased***. See below for an important and holistic picture of crime stats in Old Town.
2. Many opponents (representing a significant portion of the almost 900 petition signers opposed to the proposed SRV on NW Naito) live in the Pearl which is where crime continues to escalate as you point out.
3. While the existing no/low barrier Harbor of Hope Navigation Center straddles Old Town, **it is squarely and technically in the Pearl District - affecting a large and diverse population of residents, businesses and condo buildings** — not just in Old Town but in and throughout the Pearl. This is critical because you specifically cited only two condo buildings which are in Old Town. In fact, two of the many condo buildings within 1000 feet of the Harbor of Hope are in The Pearl. Hundreds of crimes have been documented by McCormick Pier and The Yards (Old Town) as well as by Alber's Mill (Pearl) Oregon State Food Innovation Center (Pearl), and Waterfront Pearl buildings (Pearl) - all within 1000 feet of the existing Harbor of Hope.

As the article correctly points out, increases in crime in the Pearl District have been drastic, caused in part by spillover encampments up and down NW Naito, and a poorly managed Harbor of Hope Navigation Center negatively affecting the houseless and residents.

- **“Old Town-Chinatown crime rates are 202% higher than the national average Violent crimes in Old Town-Chinatown are 81% higher than the national average In Old Town-Chinatown you have a 1 in 15 chance of becoming a victim of crime Old Town-Chinatown is safer than 7% of the cities in Oregon. Year over year crime in Portland has decreased by 8%”**

Source: [Old Town-Chinatown, OR Crime Rates & Map - AreaVibes](http://www.areavibes.com/portland-or/old-town-chinatown/crime)
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4. Old Town crime may have shifted somewhat as a cause for additional crime in the Pearl. As has been reported, there has been a concerted city effort, starting with the closing of the Old Town SRV due to violence, public safety issues, chronic mismanagement, and sweeps. In fact, many condo residents in the Pearl on NW Naito have witnessed Central City Concern driving and relocating homeless from Old Town to NW Naito.

Thank you for publishing a clarification/correction.

Sincerely,

-The Volunteers at neighbors4safesmartshelters

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