



NEIGHBORS4SAFESMARTSHELTERS INFO@N4SAFE.COM

Portland, OR - Monday - September 23, 2024

- Local community, business and resident coalition finds dozens of permit and GNA violations at Mayor's homeless facility on NW Naito Parkway that legally expired on 12/31/23 and is still in a serious state of failure as problems worsen.

After years and years of letters, emails, calls from N4safe coalition members (over 1000 members) citing the **failure to comply with the good neighbor agreement (GNA), the lease and public safety and public health rules**, n4safe volunteers called on Mayor Wheeler to close and relocate the facility upon expiration (as required in the original lease).

N4S volunteers, the community and **Pearl District Neighborhood Association** were all opposed to the renewal of the promised "temporary" Navigation Center (no-barrier, 120 bed, homeless tent). The group calls the facility a failed homeless shelter in a high-density and mature neighborhood of families, seniors, disabled, and diverse population. Despite a required 1000 foot buffer zone, the **facility continues to be a main attractor of encampments, drugs, loitering, prostitution, and human waste.**

The coalition is supportive and endorses the Bybee Lakes concept of compassion and accountability —**helping homeless with fully integrated and required services responding to the needs of the short and long term residents.** Many of the coalition members have also volunteered over the years to clean up and support community efforts around the Harbor of Hope Navigation Center founded by local developer Homer Williams.

n4safe volunteer and facility neighbor, Michael Galizio said:

*-“Since the renewal of the “lease” by Prosper Portland creating a “permit” for the city to get around the lease documents, not even one week passes without dozens of violations of the GNA, complete and open flouting of Health and Safety rules and city requirements, **and no efforts by the facility operator and the city to be a good neighbors.**”*

There is no security, no cleanup efforts for the trash and filth, needles at the site, and no effort to comply with the law. Equally negligent, is the fact that the facility continues to be nothing more than a depository for the most challenged homeless persons with no oversight or improvements or on-site services.

Originally, the renewal of the NW Naito facility was initiated by a private letter, uncovered by an n4safe volunteer Oregon Public Records request to Oregon’s Department of Environmental Quality. Since that time, the city, facing scrutiny and strong opposition from the community, **has done nothing to ensure any security, follow the dictates of the existing signed good neighbor agreement, and has allowed constant and consistent violations of the permit requirements and the provisions of the agreement with the community.** The city’s commitments were confirmed in three separate public meetings by the mayor’s legal and community representatives, in a DEQ meeting, and in a formal Prosper Portland board meeting.

The (existing) GNA is useless and the President of PDNA (Pearl District Neighborhood Association), which represents the interest and concerns of those who live and work in the entire Pearl District) has weighed in on the issue by saying:

“To that end, I regret to inform you that in a near unanimous vote, the PDNA Board has voted to oppose the extension of the Navigation Center lease and in good conscience could not support the renewal in the absence of such a contract.”

-Stan Penkin, President PDNA - email 1/23/24 to Mayor Wheeler.

Jim Neice, a N4safe coalition volunteer said:

“The Mayor’s homeless facility has continued to operate against the law - it is a breach of public trust, a bait-and-switch by the City. Years of promises with no follow through and new promises from the city staff and Mayor’s Of-

face are broken daily. I know first-hand as I've been harassed and assaulted while cleaning up after the city's ongoing and worsening failures."

-end-

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n4safe: A coalition including people from McCormick Piers, The Yards and Alber's Mill, Encore, WFP, and other residents, homeowners, renters, and small and local businesses in NW Portland/Pearl/River area.