



NEIGHBORS4SAFESMARTSHELTERS INFO@N4SAFE.COM

Portland, OR Wednesday, January 24, 2024 -

Pearl District Neighborhood Association joins local community, business and resident coalition opposing City run homeless Center on NW Naito.

Neighbors4SafeSmartShelters (N4S) is joined today by the Pearl District Residents Association in opposing the continued operation of the ***failed homeless facility on NW Naito Parkway.***

After two years of letters, emails, photos, documented crimes, and calls from N4safe coalition members citing the outright and ongoing failure to comply with the Good Neighbor Agreement (GNA), repeated violations of the lease covenants including public safety and health rules, n4safe volunteers are **opposing the continued operation of the promised temporary homeless facility.** Today PDNA officially joined the cause (see attached note from PDNA President Stan Penkin)

“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

N4S volunteers are unalterably opposed to the renewal of the officially documented “temporary” Navigation Center (no-barrier, 120 bed, temporary homeless tent).

The coalition and now PDNA joining in opposing the proposed continued operation of failed homeless shelter in a high-density, mature neighborhood of families, seniors, disabled, and diverse population.

The n4safe coalition is supportive and endorses the Bybee Lakes concept of compassion, responsibility and accountability — helping homeless with clear barriers to entry, intake assessments and customized rehabilitation plans along with fully integrated and required services responding to the needs of short and long term residents. Many of the coalition members have volunteered over the years to clean-up and support community efforts around the Harbor of Hope Navigation Center founded by local developer Homer Williams.

- ✓ **The NW Naito center was promised and legally committed to be a *“temporary facility with an outside expiration date of December 31, 2023 with NO exceptions.”***
- ✓ **The renewal for another 5 years on the NW Naito site was initiated by a private letter **uncovered by an Oregon Public Records request** to the state Department of Environmental Quality.**

Legal requirements, are clearly stipulated in the lease, and completely ignored by the city, and HOH — even after formal requests were made by the coalition via a Public Records Request to the city. N4Safe volunteers are still awaiting a response to the public records request.

The center’s ongoing violations and ***serious public safety issues surrounding the operation of the facility by HOH and Transition Projects have been the subject of myriad neighborhood problems, and increased crime and drugs almost since the inception of HOH.*** Now the city is trying to take over the operation without a legally binding GNA - the President of PDNA (Pearl District Neighborhood Association, representing the interests and concerns of those who live and work in the entire Pearl District) has further weighed in on the issue:

“Unfortunately, there have been negative impacts imposed on the neighborhood - especially on those in the proximity of the facility - as a result of the failure of the City and County’s lack of enforcement of the stipulations of the “good faith” Good Neighbor Agreement...As you and your staff further know, some 1000 people represented by Neighbors4Safe SmartShel-

ters have vociferously opposed the extension of the lease due to the issues mentioned above and has repeatedly asked PDNA to join them in that opposition. I and my PDNA board colleagues are deeply conflicted by the great need for such facilities, but also by the needs of neighborhood residents and businesses to feel safe and secure on our streets.” **-Stan Penkin, President PDNA - email 1/23/24 to Mayor Wheeler and others**

GNA's have been ignored, completely and continue to be worthless with no accountability or enforceability.

The process has been corrupted - The City and Harbor of Hope and even Prosper Portland guaranteed this would be a temporary facility. Now, they are trying to continue the temporary tent's operation in violation of their own commitments, signed documents and public pronouncements.”

The state Department of Environmental Quality is the only agency willing to be transparent and open about their portion of this review process.

N4S calls for the city to be held to the same standards, laws, and signed documents that it holds any developer and private citizen.

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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.