

PDNA Northrup Shelter Oversight Committee **Board Meeting April 9, 2026**



- Shelter usage in March 2026 ranged between **117 to 133** persons.
- Its peak usage to date was **155** persons on Dec. 28, 2025.
- Many users are reported to be **nightly repeats** since the opening day in Sept. 2025. *Warehousing versus helping the vulnerable to next steps.*



If your daily walks don't uncover scenes like this, then great. But your neighbors are reporting these. All the photos in this presentation are from 4 days last week, sent to the PDNA inbox and forwarded to various agencies.



A business owner asked me last Monday, "Are Pearl residents becoming complacent or accepting of this cancer that's eating away at the neighborhood? Are they able to look past the issues of visible homelessness?"

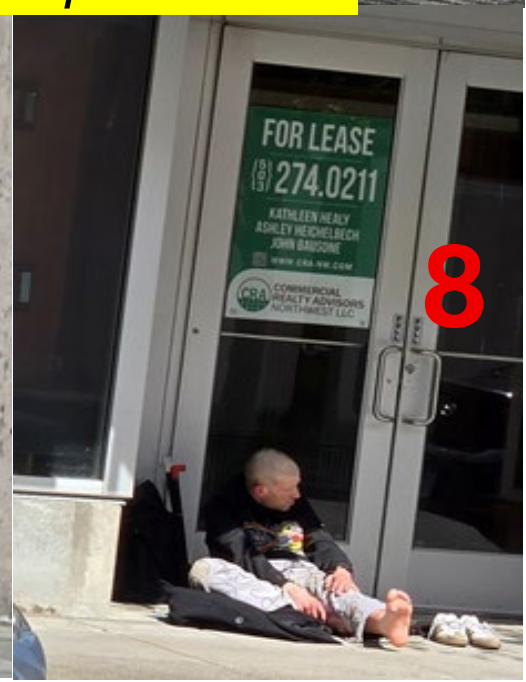
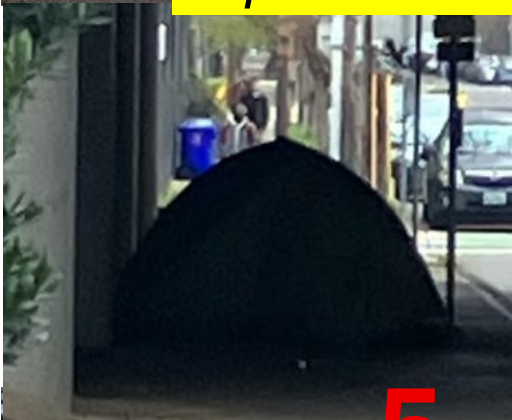
People are happy that the cleaning crews are staying ahead of the messes, for the most part, but 1) the PDNA Livability reporting inbox has grown to almost 2,200 emails, 2) the rate of reported crimes increased in 2025 and is increasing more in 2026.

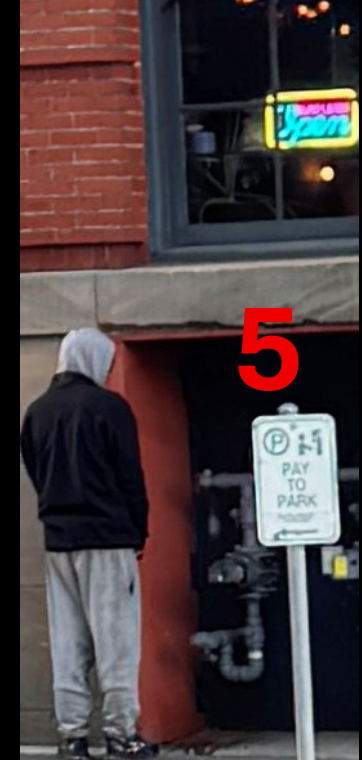


Another person commented last week, “There just doesn’t seem to be a collective willingness [Ed. on the part of authorities] to recognize the ongoing cancer that is eating our city.”



Reported daily by the public with indignation, anger, frustration and helplessness.





I asked another business owner last Monday if things are getting better, from their perspective. The answer:

“No, there are too many visible signs of humanitarian issues on the street. And, uh, the poop...”

Mayor's Spin re: Placing the Northrup Shelter in the Pearl to Serve the Unsheltered **in the Area**



On July 28, 2025, at the Town Hall: “It's a great location. We have 600 people living unsheltered in the area. We removed 1100 tents last year in this community. We have people suffering in the Northwest area. And so, we wanted to put the resource **close to where the need was. And that's where it is.**”

However, as covered April 5-6, 2026, by KATU and others: The mayor is **now explicitly framing Northrup Shelter as a regional asset, serving the homeless from the entire region.** This is the first time in press coverage that Northrup is directly tied to a regional funding request, rather than just being part of the city's internal shelter system.

Efficacy Question:

Does the presence of an adequate number of shelter beds translate to a reduction in outside sleeping -- as promised at the July 2025 town hall meeting? (Point-in-Time-Count credit to Elena and Reid).

On Feb. 6, 2026, there were **62 people** living *outside* in the Pearl proper between 2 a.m. and 4 a.m. *There were plenty of beds at the shelter, but many chose not to use it.*



Mayor's Spin re: the Embarcadero Shelter in San Francisco



- The mayor held up the SFO shelter "near Fisherman's Wharf" as a success story at the Town Hall July 28.
- However, the Embarcadero Shelter is **1 mile away from Fisherman's Wharf. It was strategically placed in a more industrial area, on an under-utilized pier.**
- Also, it's a 24/7 high-service shelter with case management, showers, services, etc.
- And the police patrol in the blocks around it 7 days/week, 11 AM–9 PM. Even so, it has had its share of problems with safety, drug use and disorder near the shelter.
- In 2025, the press noted that **the block around the shelter saw more ODs than almost any other part of the city** (source: The Standard's analysis of Fire Department data).
- The shelter's operation was extended to 2027, after which it will be closed to allow redevelopment of the pier.

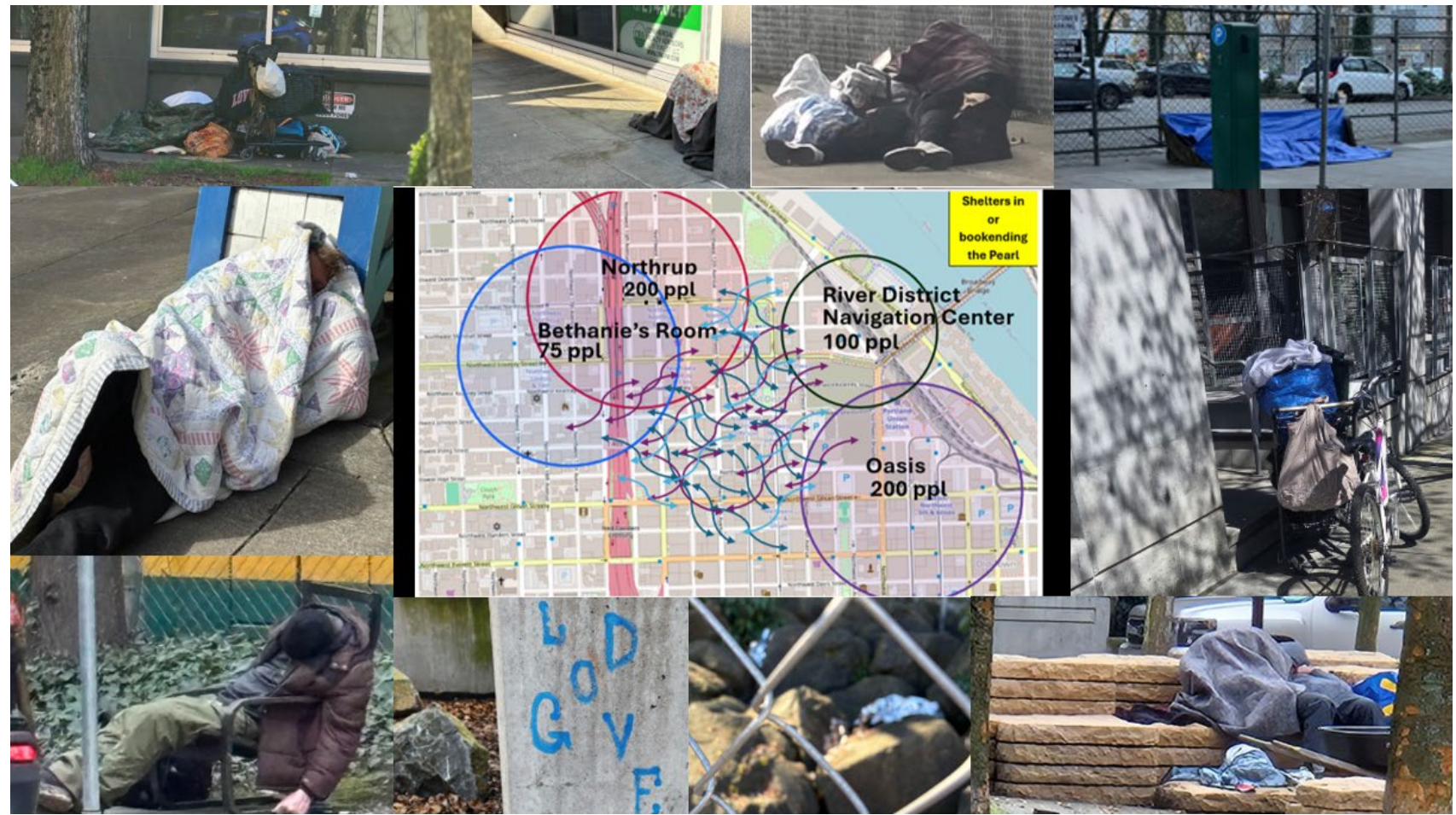
That SFO shelter is not a success story, and it is not comparable to the Northrup Shelter.

Startling Data

Pearl District represents less than 1% of the greater metropolitan area's population, but includes 32% of the mayor's published total of 630 emergency overnight shelter beds.

The Pearl/NW is currently absorbing a hugely disproportionate share of the city's overnight shelter infrastructure, relative to its population size —30x its fair share.

NOTE: Those calculations don't include the River District Navigation Center's beds, the Bethanie's Room beds, or the impact of Oasis.



Given the excessive concentration of shelter participants' comings and goings in the Pearl, and the "draw" of homeless elements to our area, it's no wonder we are struggling to mitigate the impacts.

PPB Reported Crime Data

in the Pearl: Pre- and Post-Shelter

Shared with the mayor March 20, 2026 and with the DA's office on April 1, 2026

When we compare the Pearl's reported crimes during the period of Sept2024-Feb2025 (no shelter) with the same 6-month period from Sept2025-Feb2026 (shelter operating):

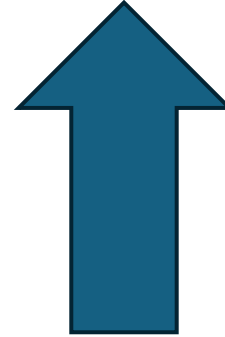
- Total Person crimes in the Pearl show an increase of 60%.
- Total Society crimes show an increase in the Pearl of 79%.
- Total Property crimes show an increase in the Pearl of 6%.



Up 60%

Person Crimes

- Assault: Aggravated
- Assault: Simple/Intimidation
- Homicide
- Human Trafficking Offenses
- Kidnapping/Abduction
- Sex Offenses
- Vehicular Manslaughter



Up 79%

Society Crimes

- Drug Offenses
- Prostitution Offenses
- Weapon Law Violations
- Other Society Offenses



Up 6%

Property Crimes

Arson, Burglary, Vandalism, Theft, Larceny, etc.

PPB Reported Crime Data:

Comparing % Change to the City in the Same Period

Person Crimes

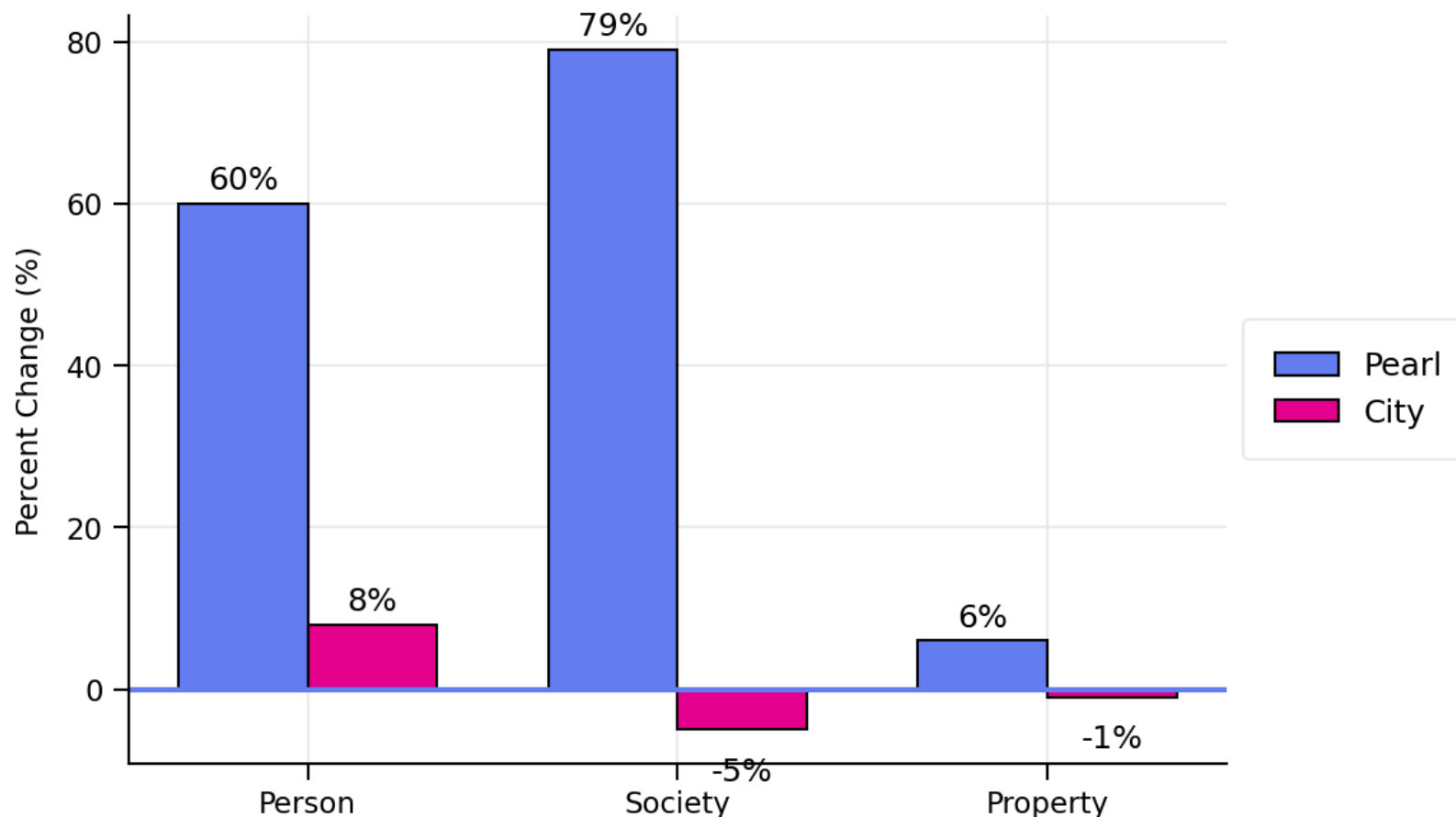
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Society Crimes

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Property Crimes

Arson, Burglary, Vandalism,
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How the Pearl's 911/311 Dispatched Calls Trend Compared to the Whole City

From 2024 to 2025, 911 and 311 dispatched call volume in the Pearl grew almost **four times faster** than the city overall, highlighting a disproportionately sharp increase in demand within the Pearl.

Area	2024	2025	% Change
Pearl	5,297	6,347	19.8%
Citywide	209,321	221,389	5.8%

Progress on a Couple Fronts



The permit to gate Asa's alcoves has been approved.



The City initially wanted to apply \$16K in fees for the loss of the never-used bike parking spaces. The architect redesigned the plan to eliminate all but \$7K of the fees.



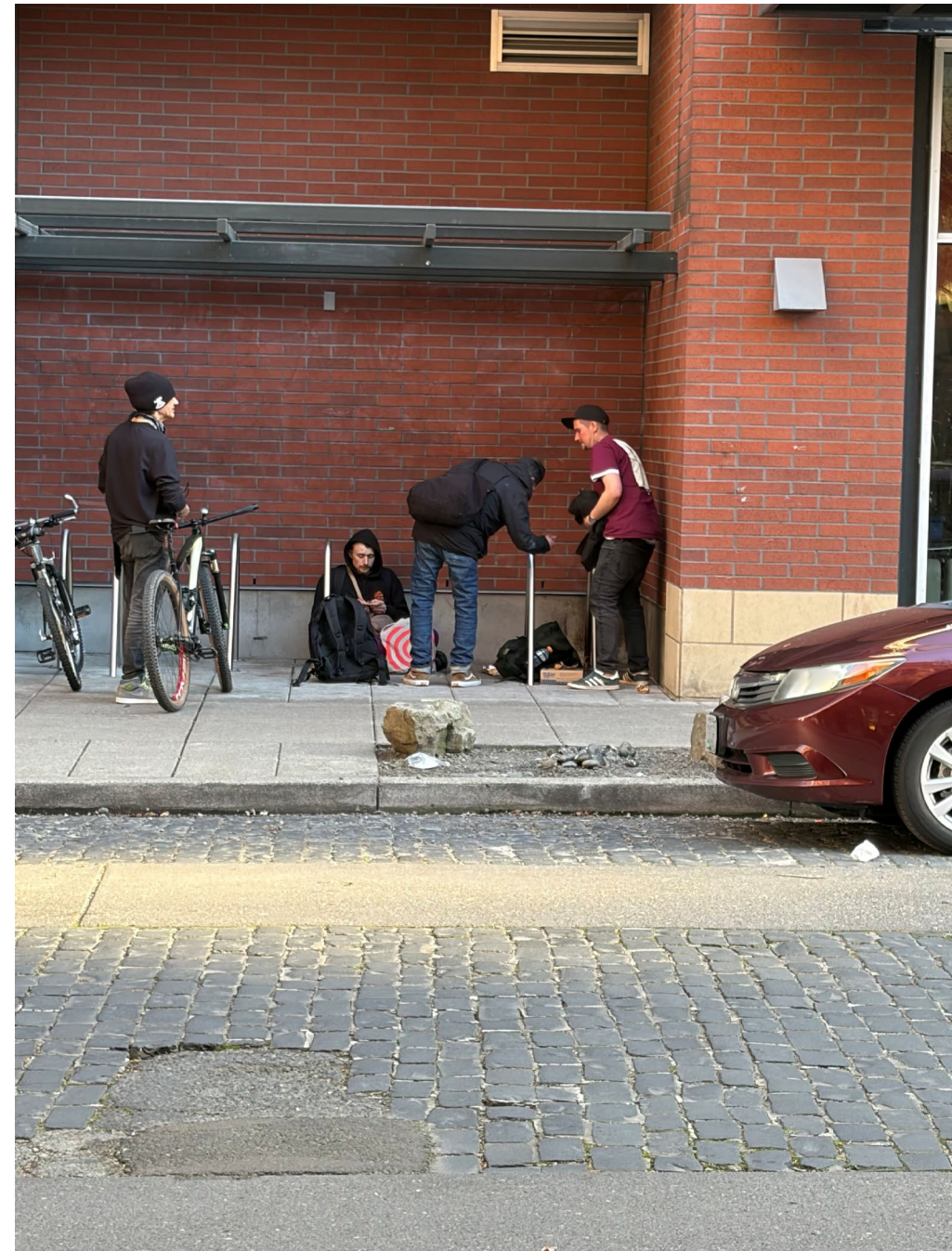
We lobbied for a waiver of the remaining \$7K in bike-parking fees, and that waiver was granted on Monday – in recognition of the persistent drug abuse and homeless camping issues at those locations. Thanks to Clark and Zimmerman for their support.

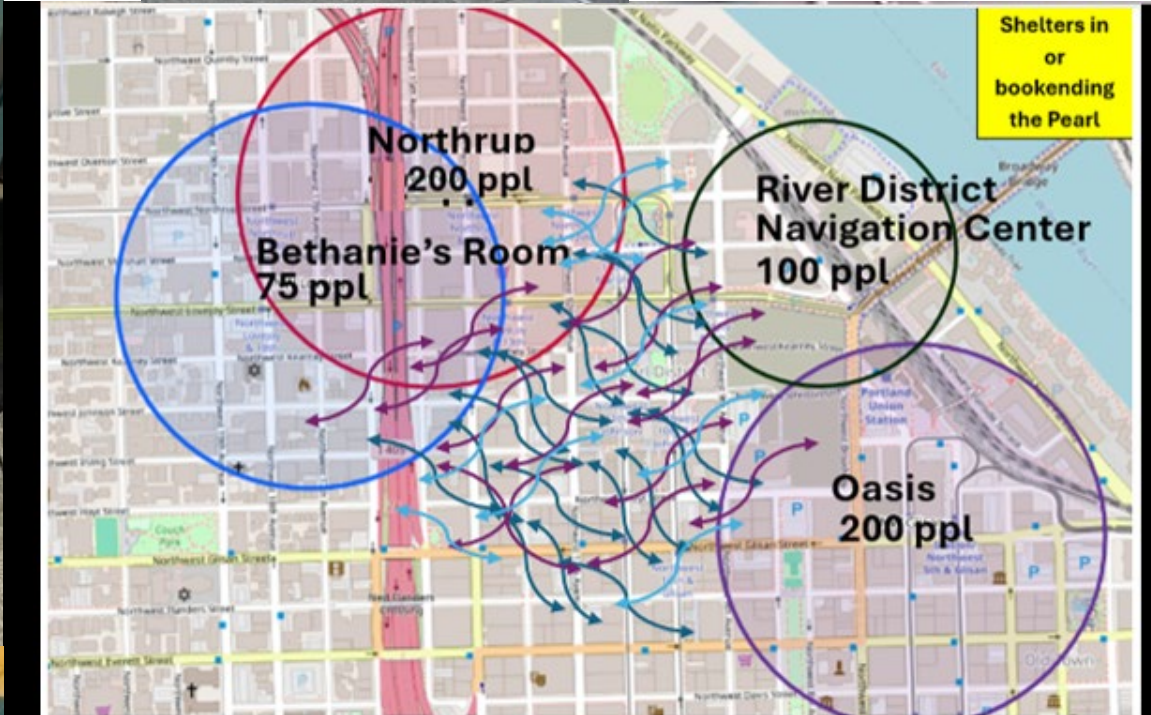


It's possible that another building in the problem cluster near Safeway is becoming an NWCC member.



Finally, a couple weeks ago a group of us had a sit-down meeting with the Mayor to share concerns and data. No breakthroughs.





The introduction of a high-capacity, low-barrier overnight shelter—without adequate mitigation of its foreseeable neighborhood impacts—has resulted in a significant and measurable increase in livability and public safety issues. This trend is clearly reflected in reported crime data and 911/311 call volumes across all three crime categories: person, property, and society crimes. The clustering of homeless services, anchored by the large-capacity shelter, is the catalyst for these developments. In just six months of operation, the situation has also generated an unprecedented level of community concern, evidenced by 2,050 resident emails submitted to the PDNA.

The Critical Failure

The low-barrier overnight shelter does not provide or facilitate essential triage, case management, or the coordinated continuum of services that vulnerable individuals urgently need. This structural failure undermines its stated mission to help people experiencing homelessness and instead shifts the consequences onto the surrounding neighborhood—eroding basic public safety and jeopardizing the Pearl District's viability for residents and businesses alike.

How the Residents Feel, as a Result:

“We need to have a stronger overall sense of **safety and security**.

This can only happen if it's supported by a **visible security presence**, along with continued city-led livability improvements.”

“We need to get foot traffic up if we want to spark a revival. But nobody's going to start visiting if they have to **fear for their lives**.”

“We must eliminate the **FEAR FACTOR** among prospective pedestrians, shoppers and business/employment prospects. That will not happen until **public safety** and **responsive, effective outreach resources** are applied to address the mental illness,

substance abuse problems, and **remove afflicted individuals from the public streets & sidewalks**, throughout the Pearl District. Until then, our streets and sidewalks will continue to be populated by individuals and groups who appear dangerous, unpredictable, unhealthy, intimidating and threatening.”

