

What We Heard:



Summary Report of feedback regarding
expansion plans for Multnomah Safe
Rest Village

(Report published Dec. 2023)



Outreach seeking input:

The decision to expand the site – given the continued humanitarian crisis and the fact that the Multnomah Safe Rest Village (MSRV) has the fewest sleeping units and room to expand of all Safe Rest Villages – was made by the City. Community input and insights on how to make this expansion a success was sought from the surrounding community in many ways.

- Postcards were sent to 1,000+ postal addresses surrounding MSRV, seeking input via phone, email, or at a public meeting at nearby Multnomah Arts Center (11/29/23). The postcard had QR codes which lead to translations in Spanish, Somali, Vietnamese, Simple Chinese and Russian.
- Emails were sent to neighbors who had expressed interest in the MSRV over the past year since operations began at the site.
- Staff attended the Multnomah Neighborhood Association Board (11/7/23) and general meeting (11/14/23) to share the plan for expansion and ask help promoting the opportunities for input on how to make expansion successful.

These efforts culminated on Wednesday November 29, 2023, at a facilitated public Listening Session hosted at the Multnomah Arts Center. Roughly 100 people attended this event.

Staff from the City of Portland’s shelter services team as well as leaders from All Good Northwest were present to hear from the community who came to share their insights, concerns, and recommendations on how to expand the Multnomah Safe Rest Village in a way that would be as successful as possible.

What’s included in this report:

This report summarizes what we heard from all the input received – through emails, phone calls, comment cards, and in person comments at the Listening Session. It also includes discussion with responses to common themes heard through community feedback and questions. Lastly, at the end, an appendix to this document shares the raw notes taken during the Listening Session, and all the questions / comments submitted in writing (email and comment cards).



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Input received:

Positive feedback, gratitude, and offers of help: (with responses in blue)

- Many people expressed appreciation for the city's efforts in addressing homelessness. Many support the expansion of MSR.V.
- Several people recognized and congratulated the city for the success of the MSR.V in their neighborhood, despite initial apprehension and concerns.
- Support was offered from local organizations and churches, such as St. Luke Lutheran Church and Southwest Outreach.
- More offers of assistance included donations, welcoming new SRV participants, and organizing support activities.
 - Both the shelter operators and the staff in the City's Shelter Services team are grateful for the support from the community.

Concerns and Questions (with responses in blue):

- **There were a couple questions about the guarantee that the expanded site won't become a Temporary Alternative Shelter Site (TASS).**
 - The Safe Rest Village team and All Good Northwest are both in agreement that expansion of the footprint and number of people being served at MSR.V would require an expansion of staff capacity to support the participants at the same level of staff/participant ratios to ensure their success. We are all committed to continuing to achieve high levels of service and positive outcomes.
 - Regarding this becoming a Temporary Alternative Shelter Site (TASS) – the differences between those and Safe Rest Villages are minimal, other than size, with TASS program sites accommodating 100 or more sleeping units. We are still looking at how many might fit, while also accommodating office needs, community gathering spaces and such. It's likely that MSR.V will be expanded to 60-100 sleeping units.



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- **Requests for information on the operation rules/barriers of the expanded site.**
 - Each shelter operator creates their own community guidelines (rules, guidelines, whatever they may call them) to set behavioral expectations for program participants. They are posted on the page for each site – Multnomah Safe Rest Village’s are [here](#). Participants need to agree to community guidelines before being accepted into a village. Enforcement of these guidelines varies in each village, but generally an escalated approach is used from discussions, warnings, written behavioral plans, up to and including being asked to leave. There is a sensitivity that learning to live with community guidelines are part of the transition from the trauma of living unsheltered to being ready to move into housing, but community guidelines are in place to ensure the safety of everyone both in and around the villages.
- **Concerns about the lack of awareness among homeless individuals in Southwest Portland regarding access to SRVs.** Some pointed to a perception of service rationing in areas with a dense unhoused population, and that the homeless folks living in SW were not being met with services. Several asked if those individuals will get priority in the referral process as Multnomah SRV expands. Others said a NW neighborhood should take the burden/opportunity for another shelter, rather than expanding MSR.V.
 - Outreach workers from the County’s navigation teams, as well as many from other service providers, do work all over the city, including SW Portland. For the navigation teams, often they are deployed to areas where campsites reported rank higher in the prioritization system. Services are intentionally provided all around the city, to support people where they are already living, where they have community, family, jobs, houses of faith, medical support – whatever it is that defines community for them. With MSR.V being the smallest site (by capacity) in the entire city, and room to expand, and the demand for more capacity remaining steady, expanding at this site is necessary.
- **Suggestions for better communication and public relations work to dispel misconceptions about crime related to SRVs.**
 - There were several concerns raised about perceptions of crime and negative activity caused by those in the village. While that may be the case, shelter operators can only address behavior inside the village, though emphasis is given to how the village and its participants interact with the community outside the fence. It’s also important to recognize that those experiencing homelessness are victimized by crime when living unsheltered – or outside the village. We have not seen the establishment of a managed outdoor shelter result in an increase in the rate of crime in the surrounding neighborhood.
 - More importantly, calling the police (9-1-1) when a person or property is in immediate danger is the appropriate response for everyone. Specific issues can be addressed, but vague generalities cannot



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- Regarding the success rates – the data for outcomes for all of our shelters, including MSRVS – is posted on [our dashboard](#). We consider getting close to half of those who have left shelter into housing a positive outcome (data from the [SRV Annual Report](#) reflecting first year of five sites open during period from July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023.) We are always aiming to improve this outcome, as well as strengthen post-village support to ensure continued success.
- Regarding funding, the Safe Rest Village program has always been a temporary program funded for three years by American Rescue Plan Act – a federal grant. The City and County together are keenly aware that the funding is limited, that the program is both successful and serving a vulnerable community that needs continued support. The city recognized the importance of this work by hiring a Director level person to take on management of the humanitarian crisis. We don't have answers yet, but this is actively being worked on.
- **There were mentions of advocacy for a Housing First approach rather than spreading resources thin on job training and education.**
 - The City and County have numerous programs to serve neighbors in our community who are sleeping unsheltered. Some programs work to help folks navigate directly from sleeping unsheltered in our community to housing while others, like the Safe Rest Villages, provide lifesaving essential services to folks with the goal of helping them transition into housing. Providing these essential services to the most vulnerable in our community is not a replacement for housing but provides a safe temporary place for people to access while working towards housing.
- **There were calls for addressing specific issues such as unauthorized camping, graffiti, and safety concerns.**
 - Suggestions about how to address specific issues are always welcome.
 - You can report camps to the Impact Reduction Program in 3 ways. We recommend reporting a camp weekly, as this will send an outreach team out regularly to evaluate the impact of the camp:
 - Call 311 and report the camp
 - Go to pdxreporter.org and input the camp on the map. This is the fastest method.
 - Email pdxreporter@portlandoregon.gov
 - Program staff are always reachable at the following:
 - Email: shelterservices@portlandoregon.gov
 - Phone: (503) 823-1340



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Specific suggestions for improvement include (with responses in blue):

- **Input from immediate neighbors on the location of lights, bathrooms, and noise-related structures.**

All specific site improvements are being considered. Our team also has meetings with some immediate neighbors over the fence scheduled to discuss issues particular to their proximity and how to best address them. We welcome and encourage immediate neighbors who have not yet contacted us to reach out to shelterservices@portlandoregon.gov
- **A phased expansion with clear staff requirements.** Several mentions of the importance of a robust staffing model to match guest numbers, i.e. adequate # of case managers with low caseloads for effective support.
 - The team is in full agreement with the community and All Good Northwest, that staffing must increase proportionately to any site expansion so the staff to participant ratio remains high. Phasing the expansion may not be an option. The need continues to remain critical, and construction will be disruptive to those working and living in the village – we want to minimize that disruption. However, filling the units that are placed may be staged to ease the pace of expansion.
- **Emphasis on trauma-informed design and creating calming spaces.**
 - This is a given, for all our villages.
- **Suggestions for more garden space, engaging the community in mural creation, and street painting.**
 - Providing places for developing connections and community is part of the goal, as is ensuring better buffers for the adjacent neighbors. These are all being factored in as the new layout is being considered.



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What we Learned:

The community feedback reflects a range of perspectives, from strong support for the MSRVS expansion to concerns about safety, the experience of shelter participants, communication, and the decision-making process. Suggestions for improvement focus on the need for clear communication, addressing misconceptions, involving the community in decision-making, and enhancing infrastructure and design to create a more supportive environment for both participants and neighbors.

Balancing community concerns with the need for expanded homeless services will continue to be a focus for our team.

Links:

Links that were embedded in the text above are listed here. Embedded links can be clicked through to in the digital PDF version of this document, but for those that may print it, we list the links here:

Community Guidelines for Multnomah Safe Rest Village:

<https://www.portland.gov/safe-rest-villages/documents/bipoc-village-code-conduct/download>

The Safe Rest Village Dashboard:

<https://arpa-data-reporting-pdx.hub.arcgis.com/pages/safe-rest-villages>

The Temporary Alternative Shelter Site at Clinton Triangle Dashboard:

<https://arpa-data-reporting-pdx.hub.arcgis.com/pages/temporary-alternative-shelter-sites>

The Safe Rest Village 2022-23 Annual Report:

<https://www.portland.gov/safe-rest-villages/documents/safe-rest-village-2022-23-annual-report-online-version/download>

<https://arpa-data-reporting-pdx.hub.arcgis.com/pages/temporary-alternative-shelter-sites>



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Appendices:

Notes from Listening Session:

Notes from Listening Session (11/29/23) Multnomah Arts Center

- Funding questions – money runs out in December (2024). What is the overall cost, how will they be funded in the future. Is the Armory building going to be use. Overall cost? Annual maintenance / operations costs for the program.
- Lived in the neighborhood for a decade, support the presence of the village. One thing to call out – each time we’ve had this site being used. It tends to be after the decision is made. It would be good to be included in the decision. Reference was made to the Clinton Triangle – Temporary Alternative Shelter Site. Will this be continued to operate by the team currently operating or will that change.
- Info request about the current SRV – what has worked, what has been challenging, what can we bring from that into operation of larger sized site. Most success is when people transition to the next stage in their journey – to housing or whatever that looks like. When All Good Northwest (AGNW) wrap around team helps people get to next step, that’s success. Having a space for people who are asked to leave their unsheltered site, to the village, having a space for them to be is critical. The goal is to help them acclimate, live up to the expectations of shared living, getting past flight/fight mode is part of the transition. People are not always ready, but they (AGNW) are responsive to the needs of everyone. Meeting people where they are. Staff are trauma informed.
- What has been learned from the journey to date to use in site expansion. What’s been learned – if there is a robust staffing model that matches the pace of the number of guests, they can meet the need. Case managers have low caseloads, intentionally. There are case managers, housing navigation specialists, etc. the staff who together support each person in the village. The villages need robust staffing.
- Southwest Outreach – a group of volunteers in the area – started after supporting the SRV. They are now providing direct outreach to people living outside, have a list of those they support, and they also provide showers. They have learned that this is an underserved population – that is the array of services are not dense to meet the need in this neighborhood. They feel folks in SW are severely underserved. Small group of volunteers visiting people in their camps – they are it. One thing the volunteer promised was to ask that the people who move into the village be from here. There is a hope that those in need here will get into the expanded MSRVS site.
- Another SW Outreach person spoke up – they referenced referral process using prioritization based on someone’s vulnerability. We know that there are people who rank high on this scoring process.
- Question about the armory. The site was originally discussed as being a staging area for emergency services on the west side. They wanted to make the point that this site has that history and need.



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- Footprint of current SRV – in relation to the newly proposed expansion. Note that the current footprint is near to the adjacent homes. Please consider this and give some space when the new layout is decided upon.
- Question about the numbers of people who have moved out of the village.
- Have there been negative results of the village? Has there been crime or other things that have negatively impacted the community?
- Please do not expand. High cost, low impact intervention that has been created by the county. Our numbers are not considered good. 70 over a year is considered bad. Low barrier model – not appreciated. Sobriety is a suggestion, not a requirement. Preferred model is the one from Bybee Lakes Hope Center – with high barrier model. Offers opportunities for employment and other life affirming opportunities. Third concern – housing first is an unproven model promulgated by people who benefit from federal funding for low-cost housing, channeled through the feds to local communities. Housing without sobriety is not successful. Low-cost housing story about fentanyl poisoning in a housing program.
- Thanks for your responses. This person wanted to be a voice support for the expansion. Simple – there are people that need help, and we have the capacity to help, so we should do this. It saves lives. People need help, we can help them, we should.
- 50 % is an amazing success rate – the quote about Urban Alchemy from a village in CA was 2%. Key to success is robust wrap-around services. Not just having 1 person with a case load of 50.
- The way to succeed is to ask for what folks in service need and help them get it – validate that people deserve to be helped, they have value. People worry about what they may lose. Teach people how to ask and what they need. Holding people to expectations and helping them get a chance both are important.
- What is the protocol when we find out that someone is using drugs on the premises – what do we do?
- The crime rate has gone up substantially since the SRV moved in. This person said they do not feel comfortable going to supermarkets nearby. They believe that some of the folks who are making them feel unsafe in supermarkets are from the village.
- One way to determine how this can succeed is to apply lessons from the Downtown Shelter.
- Support friends of MSRV – can help be a welcoming committee to the people who are part of the expansion. People can join the Facebook group. Just hoisted a thanksgiving potluck for the village. They do cookie drives and other activities to help people feel welcome.
- Not crazy about the expansion, says the founder of the Friends of MSRV. There are many good people in the village: staff and the guests. It's going to be hard to expand and keep the sense of community. What is essential is that All Good Northwest will need all the resources from the city and the Friends to support them.
- Return on Investment – this person heard the 50% # thrown out. 25% in placement to housing (for MSRV). Not great tracking of people who are not in villages.
- Isn't Multnomah Safe Rest Village a low barrier village? Does that mean that people can have drugs in the shelters? (NO. They are not allowed to have drugs or alcohol on the premises. Participants sign up to this when they move in – code of conduct.) Suggestion that people read the comments on recent Nick Kristof NYT article – one person said that having a place to detox is



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helpful. Having that bed and not being around constant use is what did it. Concern is that having people unsupported may not be able to quit. They are not tested.

- Job program training program is important. Use the marijuana tax revenue to pay for these things.
- There was encouragement to look into alternative types of work – someone with a disability, or other challenge that prevents them to doing a 40-hour / week office job. More than just trash clean up (which is good work and there are programs that do that.)
- One of the biggest barriers to employment are lack of opportunities – reach out to all shelter operators.
- Comment about use of us/them language in the meeting. Request that there be some social gatherings, to learn from people, one another.
- Concern about (perception that) people from the village not being at the meeting.
- People who are currently homeless were invited. They shared they are not comfortable, they are harassed, and afraid. Until we can create a safe place for them, it's hard for them.
- Neighbor from Hillsdale spoke up – grateful to Friends of MSRV for taking on support of the village and villagers. The Hillsdale Assistance Team has been focused on homeless kids in schools who go home to a car. Thank you to MSRV and Friends of MSRV – you are in people's hearts.
- Overwhelmed by acronyms. Support the presence of the village in Multnomah. Disabled person, who was introduced to those who lived unsheltered, seeing the village in place is appreciated.
- Houselessness is a national problem – SRV is a work in progress. Drug and alcohol addiction is a national problem, people need a lot of help. There are a lot of services. To shun people and say it's someone else's problem is not helpful. Supporting the village and the villagers is important to help get out of this.
- Someone said that folks need jobs. Not just picking up garbage. Can we get folks in the villages to audit classes at PSU or Benson HS. Need to get folks educated. That's at the base of this unless its medical problems. Most need an education, a bit of help and self-discipline.
- Can we speak to how and when these decisions will be made – and will the neighbors have any input? There are no real answers. How will decisions be made?
- Reach out with suggestions, questions, concerns – please reach out.
- Takeaway – we have a good thing with the 28 / 30 pods. We are going to expand no matter what – don't mess things up with getting too big. Might be too much to go to 100 sleeping units. Go to 50 first. Too big too fast, can be a problem.
- There are some of the people in the villages who have jobs, real jobs.
- Observation / comment. Love this community. Proud of this community. Trying hard at the Neighborhood Association to not succumb to the fear of the blue tarp. Perceptions of homeless issue are different from reality. There are many valid concerns, but also feels that we have the solutions in the community. We can complement these efforts. Graffiti abatement. Trash under the underpass. Community helped do something about it. Work together to deal with these types of issues.
- Please sign the Good Neighbor Agreement – that will engender the trust.



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Wrap up by Brandy Westerman

- Many important points made tonight. Will take us some time to digest we've heard. Suggestions and great work happening in the community already. We appreciate the honest dialogue – challenge us so we think harder and smarter on how we proceed.
- What we are taking away –
 - Hearing a desire for more frequent communication, the timelines, the opportunity to have dialogue about this.
 - Strongly motivated community that wants to support this humanitarian crisis we are in.
 - Lifelong Oregonian – thanks for the commitment that was brought.
 - I hear the concerns about the size, the desire to preserve what's working and continuing to work on that. And how the neighbors are impacted.
 - There's an interest in the dialogue both during the expansion as well as the ongoing program.
 - We want to continue working together. Share gratitude with this community – sharing what was in people's heart.
 - It takes courage to speak one's mind and go against the grain. We also appreciate the suggestions.

Comments received by email and phone:

Notes:

Those who asked to have a direct response have already received those from the team. Their questions/comments are shared here for transparency.

Names and private information were removed from people's input below.

- I appreciate that the city of PDX recognizes the complexity of this problem and is moving forward with expanding this safe village community. The city is dealing with this problem and despite opposition is moving forward -- hopefully faster and bigger in the future. Thank you for all you do.
- Thank you for expanding the SRV! In the year plus that the SRV has been in operation, Multnomah has not experienced any negative consequences as some feared. We are proud our neighborhood supports the SRV
- Will the expanded site be guaranteed to not become a TASS? Will it operate under the same rules/barriers as the current site? Will this site be 100+ (people/pods) with lower barriers? Or can we guarantee it won't become that?
- Please put me on the email list. Thank you!
- When I speak to homeless people in Southwest they are unaware of how to get on a list for SRVs. Calling 211 is a joke. Getting some information out to those on the street in this area of



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Portland is a serious need. They need more support! If it wasn't for volunteers from the neighborhood there seems like no one is trying to help these people.

- I'm glad to hear the Multnomah Safe Rest Village has been a success! If it needs to expand, I would expect to see other SRVs around Portland, and in particular, in the west side. Rather than continue to expand one site, I would want to see other sites in the area. It is an important service, but that burden/opportunity should be shared, instead of continuing in just one area. Thank you! P.s. Jake did an excellent job at this listening session! Thanks, Jake.
- I am a member of the St. Luke Lutheran Church here in SW Portland. We have and will continue to support our neighbors of the MSR. I am very happy to have the MSR in our neighborhood and have brought lunches & other donations. With the addition of more neighbors joining the SRV I and the congregation of St. Luke are ready to help welcome them with welcome bags.
- Thank you to the City for addressing our homelessness problem. I don't live close to the proposed expansion of Safe Rest Village. So, I am especially thankful to the understanding neighbors who do.
- Allow immediate neighbors to have input on location of lights, bathrooms and other day to day noise and disturbances. 2. I believe long term commitment and monetary support is needed. 3. Make growth limited to clear staff requirements. Each person added should mean additional staff is actually available. 4. We need more public relations work. Lots of people immediately think that crime in this area is related to the SRV. I suspect very little of our crime has anything to do with SRV. How can we get the word out?
- I am part of Southwest Outreach. We regularly meet people in urgent need but there are no ways to refer them to be able to begin accessing any services. I know not everyone will end up getting help, but we need some channel to alert the people who can get them into the system.
- I like it
- Thank you for your work to create more warm beds for people who need them. As a social worker in a hospital psych unit, I see many of the same people come in time and time again. It's very difficult for people who are unhoused to achieve stable mental health if they have no safe place to recover. We need more safe rest villages so people can maintain their well-being after discharging the unit and finally exit the revolving door. Keep up the good work & keep creating space for people.
- Dear team, wishing you the best & look forward to the supporting the success of the expansion. Thank you for all your hard work. p.s. Thanks for your patience listening tonight.
- Thank you so much for the work you're doing. I support the expansion 100%. I do agree with one of the commenters that the expansion should be phased, for smoother success.
- A daytime weekend session would be more accessible to folks who can't drive or otherwise get around in the dark and also could be a bit longer session. Sorry for the haters! I do have fears about maintaining a good level of staffing and believe resources need to be focused on staff sustainability. Many of my clients are homeless, some are SRV participants, I believe they are not dangerous and am supportive of no background checks.
- Requests: move pods and common structures away from adjacent homes. 15' - 20' setback? Swap pallet shelters for Mod pods, Stanley Tiny Homes or equal. Bigger units for offices (8'x16') Parking on site for guests and staff. Indoor gathering space. Fence -- better construction quality,



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engage MAC and neighbors/MNS for murals on fence. More garden space. Cluster pods in "neighborhood" not lining them up in rows. Create a trauma informed design in clusters of 16 max. Retreat/quiet/calming areas. Cooking facilities -- more than microwaves. Environmental graphics -- involve shelter guests and neighborhood community for street painting, signage, wayfinding & placemaking. Post occupancy survey for guests/shelter participants to inform planning, lessons learned and what guests need.

- Housing First. Don't spread too thin trying to provide job training, education, etc. None of that is possible without housing first. Expand, fund, support the village. Thank you :)
- Ensure that the SRV operator has resources it needs to expand/build on its current service delivery model on pace with any expansion. Maybe this means phasing in the expansion? Please make it work! Take the opportunity to look at ways to reconfigure the site to address noise concerns of neighbors. Don't view expansion of temporary shelter as an opportunity to increase sweeps or decrease funding for permanent housing.
- Because of the severe lack of services for unhoused people in PDX, agencies are forced to ration their services, using them in areas where the unhoused population is densest. AS a result, the neighbors who are unhoused in this area are underserved. Currently, SW Outreach, a group of volunteers, is serving this group with supplies, showers, referrals where we can -- housing is the biggest request. Will some of the spots in the expanded SRV be reserved for those living in this neighborhood? Agencies who refer to SRVs don't operate here. How can we create a communication path to ensure vulnerable unhoused folks in this area have access?
- Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! I love the little buildings and the lights. Thank you. I know people who would want to have one.
- This country has stopped giving its people the education they need to take care of themselves successfully. Starting at age 3 to 4, instead they "learn" that if they do what's pleasant and easy for them and mess up "someone" will somehow probably make things OK somehow. Not great, maybe not even good, but at least OK. This needs to stop, NOW! People who need help should get it. But not at no "cost" to themselves. We discipline children to help them learn, not to make them suffer. Discipline childish adults similarly. Firmly & consistently, and promptly. And don't let them go from agency to agency but never really have to change. Our society created this problem people & we need to take care of them until we get them educated enough to take care of themselves. Whether they like it or not.
- After the listening session in Multnomah, you chatted with me a bit. It sounds as though what you are doing, you are doing very well and should be congratulated for it. It is what you are not doing that is the problem. There are, as I see it, some major parts of the WHOLE problem that are not being included, or even considered, in the proposed solution. The first is that there are several major groups of homeless people. You acknowledge that each person is unique. Good start! But still there are groups of people that are similar to each other and need different kinds of help from other groups. I see 1) those with mental problems, including vets with PTSD; 2) those with physical problems; 3) those who are in economic distress because of the economy (lost jobs, financially over-extended, unexpected bills); 4) those who never had, or for some reason (age, changing technology, etc.) find their skills no longer get them work. And since the worst of them at least, are probably not competent to act in their own best interest, give proper



attention to choosing who decided what their own best interest is, and insist that complying with treatment be a requirement for getting financial aid. Expensive. But if we are the caring society we claim to be, we will pay for it. The solution to the second is too self-evident to need space here. The solution to the third group is economic counseling and probably also monitoring growth and help/encouragement to stick to an economic plan that a counselor helps them to make. Again, expensive. But cheaper in the long run than the economic cost of having them deteriorate to a more expensive-to-society state. Eventually there is a good probability that they will become able to contribute rather than need help from society. One solution that I would like to see tried for the fourth group is to GIVE (free) them the ability to start contributing to society -- with no need for additional financial assistance, with a meaningful job that potential for advancement, on which they would pay income tax, and whose salary they would spend to help the economy. Help them get marketable skills. EDUCATE THEM. FOR FREE to them. Most of us with college educations who are over 55-60 graduated with a bachelors degree and no debt. WE worked part time during the school year and full time during the summer, and it wasn't easy. But we had no debt. Get responsible, motivated homeless people enrolled in classes, paid for by the city or donated by schools in exchange for other favors (tax write-off, permit waivers, land-use waivers, etc.). We are short entry level workers in many professions with potential for advancement: truck/bus drivers, health/dental workers, teaching assistants, clerks, gardeners/pruners, etc. etc. Train some. And help hook them up with jobs. That cuts down on waste, feeds hungry people, saves landfill space. Win-win. Encourage high schools, colleges and specialty schools such as barber colleges, woodworking classes, welding classes, typing/office work schools who have empty class spaces to give seats to qualified homeless people, and create more workers, get jobs done, and boost the economy by producing tax payers. Win-win. Benson High School has woodworking and auto repair classes, don't know about high schools. Don't know about what the colleges and private schools offer. We don't want Portland to get the reputation of giving a free college education to anyone who shows up and lives on our streets for a few weeks in the summer. Make reasonable requirements, demand strict social responsibility and self responsibility, maybe require from pay-back such as working at a job for one or two years after qualified in an under-served part of Portland. But get people to become independent themselves and then able to contribute to the independence of others. Oregon has been the leader in such things as the bottle bill and marijuana legal. Let us be a leader in homelessness eradication.

- I'm concerned this expansion will bring even more unauthorized camping and graffiti to the area. Since the first Safe Rest Village came in there has been a massive expansion of defunct camper RVs, trash, and rent cities being constructed in the surrounding area. 150ft of no camping does not protect the neighbors
- If the Safe Rest Village is being expanded without neighbors support, which I expect the government will do, then increase protection for the neighbors and enforced of non-camping should also be put in place. This should include 1 square mile of enforced Zero Camping around the site. The current 150ft is a joke.
- I have personally had to deal with buckets of human feces being left on my property since the Safe Rest Village was installed.



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- More protection is needed for the neighbors due to extra campers that have now moved in along with the Safe Rest Village. Clean up the neighborhood. Folks don't even feel safe to Trick or Treat along the street anymore.
- I would also like to see a significant Tax reduction for neighbors within 1 mile of the site to compensate us. The site has reduced our perceived property value, and perception of neighborhood safety. We should be compensated by the city for allowing the Safe Rest Village, by significantly reducing our city taxes.
- I hope you take action on my input. I'm very disappointed in our city.
- It amazes me, when Portland has so much empty land, so many empty shopping centers, so many locations near stores / bus lines / health facilities, that you insist on dumping people into established neighborhoods next to schools.
- Since the Safe Rest Village has opened, our car was broken into, our license plates were stolen off our vehicle, the streets are littered with abandoned vehicles (a new smashed Volvo just this Monday, still at SW Hume St and SW 30th Ave today), and "friends of some guy at the Safe Rest Village" sporadically live on SW 26th Way under Barbur and 15 bridges. Over the past summer, they stripped a vehicle, exchanged the engine into another car, and left it on the street. Change the oil and dump it in the street gutter. Leave tons of trash.
- It is obvious to me, after living in this city for seven years, that the Portland government makes up their mind first, then "Solicits input from the neighborhood" after plans are made.
- So disappointing that when I met JoAnne Hardesty while she was campaigning at various street fairs, she promised that she was 'different', she would stand up for the people and give them a voice. So disappointing that what she meant was 'Give certain people I like a voice". Lied right to my face.
- Hello, we just returned from the community meeting about the Multnomah Village Safe Rest Village. Many people there were upset both about the state of things now and the proposed expansion.
- *One person's list:*
 - Barrier of entry for addiction -- low barrier is not enough. This is not safe for the people who live there, the staff, or the neighborhood.
 - Low success rate. An inaccurate success rate was repeatedly quoted, while the math pointed to a much lower rate.
 - Funding running out without a plan past 2024.
 - Rise in crime in this area. Issues at Safeway, Fred Meyer, under the freeway, and elsewhere.
 - Noise levels and impact on nearby neighbors.
 - Only coming to the community for "discussion" after decisions have been made.
 - Expansion should be scaled up in increments -- if at all. It is not safe for participants, staff, or the community to drop many more units in at once and bring more participants to live there if things aren't well run or successful.
 - Emergency preparation -- what that land was intended for. Currently, emergency preparation is on the east side of the river, far from us and downtown. It is irresponsible for the city to ignore this lack of response.



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- Basic questions were asked at the meeting about cost, funding, crime and drug statistics, etc., that could not be or were not answered. We would appreciate more preparation for these meetings so we have the actual information, or an acknowledgment that the program can't continue or expand until there is more data.
- I hope you hold true neighborhood discussions soon, where community voices make a difference, so people can get the help they need and the community can get the support it needs.
- I'm a member of Friends of the Multnomah Safe Rest Village. I admit that I am also apprehensive about the expansion of the village. But the fact is we are in a desperate crisis and it is important for the City to get more people off the streets. What I am concerned about is the potential consequences for the staff and participants inside the village. Since it clearly is going to happen, we want to see it go well. There are good people in there, and many who are fragile. It is essential that those people be heard, and that the operator be provided the resources and support to manage this growth effectively. It will be a huge challenge, but Friends of Multnomah Safe Rest Village will continue to work towards our initial mission: "To help make the Multnomah SRV a success..." As the Village grows, it will be more difficult to provide that support. I invite other neighbors to join us in that effort. To learn more, go to fmsrv.org.
- Thank you for coming to the Multnomah Arts Center last week to engage in a listening session with our community. I have lived in this community for 19 years, several blocks from the MSR.V. I volunteer at the Multnomah Arts Center and at the community orchard in Gabriel Park, so the safety and vitality of this neighborhood is central to my life. With my wife, we bring lunches on occasion to the Multnomah Safe Rest Village; we also help pay for the veterinarian expenses when a participant at the MSR.V needs this professional service. We are delighted the MSR.V is working out so well, especially given all the worry about drugs and crime voiced by some in our community before it launched.
- Kudos to the two facilitators who set a cooperative tone, creating space for dissent and the variety of views voiced at the meeting on what is still for some here a controversial policy issue. Here are my suggestions for improving the listening session, if you come back next year, as I hope you will, to keep us in the information loop if nothing else.
- Prepare and show the data for the accomplishments of the MSR.V. A slide set show on our big screen can present to a skeptical audience the several clear positive impacts of the program, while also acknowledging how ambitious it is to help someone traumatized by life on the street for months or years. It will not change the hearts and minds of naysayers if they are fearful and angry, but it will allow for a more informed discussion during the program. It might begin to dislodge the notion that these people became homeless from laziness or other moral failings. Or that the City is learning little in its programming efforts, just throwing money at an unsolvable problem.
 - How many participants have been served in the MSR.V?
 - How many have graduated out to more stable housing? In what kinds of settings have they landed?



- How many participated in the wrap-around services? How many took advantage of the drug and alcohol addiction or mental health services? How many accessed City services, like the classes at the nearby Multnomah Arts Center?
- Were any participants involved in police actions during their stay? How many? Any felonies?
- What complaints have neighbors filed? How many?
- Who pays for the MSR/V program? Pie chart breaking out city, county, state and federal portions?
- How much does it cost to house an individual at the MSR/V for six months? How does this cost compare to the cost of incarcerating that person for six months in a City jail? How much does it cost the City to fund a single visit to an emergency room for a drug overdose?
- What has your team learned so far about the specific model used in Multnomah? It's not enough to say there are many models being considered across the county or being tried across Portland. How are you holding Good Neighbors Northwest accountable at this site in SW Portland? What outcomes are you measuring? What do you anticipate will change as the MSR/V doubles in size?
- How can your team begin to humanize the MSR/V participants in the minds of the naysayers at such a meeting as was held last week? How can we frame this task as a public relations challenge? We cannot show photo portraits of participants of course, and must respect their right to privacy foremost. They may never choose to come to a meeting like we had last night, but how can we make that invitation eventually more possible next year or the following? Have you done online surveys anonymously of participants, asking them what they wish for, what they hope for, where they would like to be in their lives in 2 years, say?



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