

December 19, 2023

Community Information Meeting

River District Navigation Center



OMF OFFICE OF
MANAGEMENT
AND FINANCE

Agenda

- Introductions
- Why is the City continuing the River District Navigation Center?
- What does the future look like?
- Questions & comments



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Introductions

- **Bobby Lee**, Chief of Staff to Mayor Wheeler
- **Skyler Bocker-Knapp**, Senior Policy Advisor to the Mayor
- **Hank Smith**, Policy Advisor to the Mayor
- **Brandy Westerman**, City of Portland Director of Humanitarian Operations
- **Dan Field**, Director of Joint Office of Homeless Services



Houselessness Crisis in Portland

- **We all realize this is a crisis moment**
 - **USA:** 12% growth in last year
 - **Oregon:** 12.1% growth in last year
- **Multnomah County: 20% growth in last year**
 - **2022:** 5,228 homeless
 - **2023:** **6,297** homeless
 - ~40% of homeless are in shelter/transitional housing
 - Thousands left living unsheltered on streets



City Response to Homelessness

- **Mayor's vision has two key parts:**
 - **Increase shelter and services**
 - **Increased investment in enforcement & response tools**
- **Shelter:**
 - **City-run shelters:** 589 new beds; growing to 1,000+ next year
 - **County-run shelters:** ~2,000 shelter beds and adding more
- **Services:**
 - Housing (Q1-Q3 of 2023): 3,100 placed into housing; 25K people in prevention programs; 5,510 served in shelter
 - New City-run street outreach program

Enforcement & Response Tools

- **Creation of Street Services Coordination Center**
- **Impact Reduction Program:**
 - 15 campsite assessment teams → 80+ assessments/day
 - 26 posting and removal teams → 15+ areas/day
 - Property storage program; various work program opportunities
- **New City rules addressing behavior on the streets**
 - Time, Place, Manner → behavior around camping in City
 - Ban on open drug use → requires State legislature action



Why maintain the Navigation Center?

- **Critical importance to maintain shelter beds**
 - 1200+ people served since August 2019
 - Vulnerable and aging population
- **We do not want to decrease shelter in this moment**
 - Moving the facility would increase costs and time
- **We are increasing shelter beds, types of shelters, and geographic distribution of shelters to address this humanitarian crisis**



City's shelter system

By the numbers:

- **Safe Rest Villages**
 - 7 sites
 - 345 people served (last fiscal year)
 - ❖ 70 exited to permanent housing
- **Temporary Alternative Shelter Sites**
 - 1 site operational (Clinton Triangle)
 - ❖ Currently serving 187 guests
 - ❖ 40 people moved to permanent housing since July
 - Next site in development in N. Portland (RV park)
- **River District Navigation Center**
 - 19% exited to permanent housing since 2019
 - 77% of the individuals identified as living with a disability
 - Average length of stay = 65 days



What's next?

- TPI continues providing services on site
- Collaboration with the Joint Office for Homeless Services
- Identify and explore opportunities to share resources across shelter system, increase services if needed
- City/county agency support for surrounding area
- Addressing security, livability concerns near site
- City managed maintenance, support begins Jan. 1
- Seeking community input



City Can Bring New Resources

- **Mayor's staff will participate in Good Neighbor Agreement (GNA)**
 - Direct line to impact reduction program and other offices
 - Commitment to more detailed GNA
 - Response times
 - Clear communication structure
 - Regular meetings of Community Advisory Group

Questions & Comments

