
Fwd: BNA Shelter Policy Resolution Support Letter

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, Feb 3, 2020 at 10:36 AM

To: Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>, Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bayside Neighborhood** <bnaportland@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Feb 3, 2020 at 10:18 AM

Subject: BNA Shelter Policy Resolution Support Letter

To: Councilor Belinda Ray <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, sthibodeau <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, Jill Duson <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, Nick Mavodones, Jr. <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, pali <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, <tchong@portlandmaine.gov>, Kate Snyder <ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov>, kcook <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>, jcosta <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>

Cc: jpj <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>, <jgrondin@portlandmaine.gov>, <cityclerk@portlandmaine.gov>

To Members of the Portland City Council,

For the past twenty years the Bayside Neighborhood Association has advocated for the Bayside neighborhood, where the current Oxford Street Shelter is located. For the entirety of that time the OSS has been unequal to the task of effectively accommodating the City of Portland's desire to support those experiencing homelessness. This, in addition to the unplanned concentration of over thirty social services within a few blocks, has created a serious, ongoing and wholly unnecessary crisis for residents and social service clients alike.

Portland's current model of aiding the homeless with services strewn haphazardly over several blocks becomes more outmoded, ineffective, inhumane and unsustainable with each passing day. It does not reflect current federally endorsed best practices or what Portland is capable of achieving. For Portland to effectively support those experiencing homelessness the City must immediately begin design and construction of a modern homeless services center at the approved site in Riverton.

Therefore the Bayside Neighborhood Association supports the Resolution Outlining Policy Goals For The City of Portland's Single-Adult Shelter Facility as passed unanimously by the Health and Human Services Committee. The resolution reflects years of work, education, dedication and a determination to not repeat mistakes of the past. We ask you to vote passage on this resolution when it comes before you.

We further urge you to reject substantive amendments (such as 5, 8, 9 & 12) that have been proposed by Councilor Kim Cook on the basis that they would:

- Distort the purpose, scope and impact of the original resolution
- Indefinitely delay the replacement of the Oxford Street Shelter (8)

- Needlessly perpetuate the ever-worsening community crisis that has been created by operating out of the current failing facility (8)
- Fail to provide an appropriate number of beds and level of service to achieve the primary goal of adequately sheltering those in need and improving the way Portland addresses homelessness (8 ,9, 12)
- Result in a facility that is over capacity and ineffective as soon as it opens thereby replicating the same problems it was built to solve (8, 9)
- Continue to unnecessarily strain the City's public health and safety resources by failing to adequately support vulnerable populations
- Shift Portland's focus from dealing with the immediate crisis to imagining a shelter network for the entire state (5)
- Distance the city from the daily reality of shelter operations and the impacts they may be having on the surrounding neighborhood (15)
- Worsen the already unsustainable pressure on the Bayside neighborhood

The express intention of the resolution is to formalize guidance thus paving the way for Portland to enter the modern era of homeless services. Councilor Cook's wholesale alteration of Item 8 and elimination of Item 9 eviscerate those intentions and instead propose that forces beyond the City's control continue to shape Portland's destiny.

Efforts to garner statewide support are vitally important but do not excuse the City from taking immediate and decisive action. Failure to do so will leave the City in the unfortunate position of having to defend its choice to allow an acknowledged community crisis and public nuisance to continue unabated. This is not like the paid sick leave initiative, where the City could reasonably defer action because the state was poised to act. There is no magical solution in the offing, and the stakes are too high to put off this decision any longer.

The original resolution and new homeless services center model, Shelter 2.0, will position Portland as a leader in effective, efficient delivery of services via federally endorsed best practices. It will allow us to become an example to follow instead of a cautionary tale. Most important, this facility will give shelter staff breathing room and resources to do their best work so clients have the dignity and support they need to quickly transition out of homelessness and into permanent housing.

The deficiencies of the existing city shelter were obvious twenty years ago, yet action was not taken. We are now living the consequences of allowing distortions, objections, assumptions and projected fears to drive the narrative about homelessness and prevent progress. This council has the rare opportunity to memorialize its tenure with a truly transformative decision.

We ask you to respect the expertise, research, and documented history of the process that has brought us to this point. We strenuously urge you to reject any amendment, alteration, or suggestion that delays the design and construction of the Riverton

homeless services center, downgrades its capacity or compromises its mission. We ask you to choose a legacy of leadership.

Building the homeless services center in Riverton, based on policy guidance in the resolution before you, is the next step toward equity for all citizens and neighborhoods in Portland. The Board of the Bayside Neighborhood Association asks you to take that step, and the next, and the next until we enter the future through the doors of the new homeless services center in Riverton.

Sincerely,

Sarah Michniewicz

President, Bayside Neighborhood Association

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Jon P. Jennings
City Manager
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Fwd: New Shelter Policy Goals Resolution - Please Pass as is

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, Feb 3, 2020 at 9:11 AM

To: Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>, Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jason Tropp** <jasontrupp@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Feb 3, 2020 at 8:06 AM

Subject: New Shelter Policy Goals Resolution - Please Pass as is

To: <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, <tchong@portlandmaine.gov>, <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>, <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>, <ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov>, <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Cc: <cityclerk@portlandmaine.gov>

Good morning Mayor Snyder, Councilors, and Mr. Jennings,

I'm writing this morning as a Portland city resident in support of the upcoming resolution vote on the stated shelter policy goals. I've followed this process over the last four years, as a resident, and now as a homeowner, and I urge you to pass the goals as written. They were smartly and thoughtfully constructed through an extensive, detailed process incorporating the advice and work by policy experts, partners, city staff, Committee members, as well as Portland residents. Passing this resolution allows the work to start, while leaving flexibility for all of the remaining decisions that still must be made. The city, and the people that need these services, are in crisis. It would be reckless to delay any further, and demonstrate extreme hubris to think we can move through this crisis together while ignoring the subject-matter experts.

- The first two goals in support of a housing first approach and addressing the long term stayers are smart and good, and in line with policy guidance from experts like Ryan Cullen.
- The goal of collaborating regionally (and seeking additional support via funding from the state) is smart and good, and should **be done in parallel** with our own municipal efforts; that should NOT prevent us from acting to address this emergency situation.
- The goal to build to ample capacity (based on current average of 210) is smart and necessary. Flex space or a cap can be possibilities in the future if things improve, but designing for fewer than 200 beds would be foolish and create problems from day 1.
- The goals of adequate transportation, criminal trespass, and service guidelines (as well as more Good Neighbor policies!) are necessary.

In response to Councilor Cook's opinion piece, and proposed amendment: while I appreciate her eye toward the budget and the reality of fiscal responsibility I cannot support her proposed amendment in it's current form and I urge you to reject it. Yes, the city should pursue additional financial support, but that can

be done in tandem with working on the current emergency. Also, the city has the ultimate responsibility to lead this charge, and is the only entity that I trust to see us through this crisis. Based on experience I do not believe private partners would be held accountable for being good stewards of city resources, or partners to the community and they can easily lapse on procedures and reporting and shift any blame back to the city creating a new issue in the wake of trying to solve a real crisis. Lastly, central in-take and “quiet hours” as laid out in her proposal would work against best standards of care and efficiently serving clients, and unfortunately have the opposite intended impact on the surrounding neighborhoods. A turn away policy will lead to more people on the street in neighborhood and surrounding areas due to clients missing the cut off. Centralizing intake, while convenient for us, would present an unnecessary hurdle to those seeking assistance. A driving idea behind the new shelter is a its ability to provide multiple needed services in one location to help those in need. Let's not create more difficult hoops for those in need to jump through. Allowing direct intake will also lower the instances of clients being left with no choice but to be on the street.

Please continue to push for other communities, the state, and the federal government to share in addressing this issue, but please move forward with an appropriately sized facility this coming Tuesday, and pass the shelter policy goals as currently written.

Thank you for listening, and for your continued dedication to serving our city and citizens.

Sincerely,

Jason Tropp

To the city clerk: If this has arrived too late for inclusion in the Feb 3 packet, please place a copy on councilors' desks before the meeting

Jason Tropp

--

Jon P. Jennings
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Fwd: Upcoming Vote for Single-Adult Shelter Facility

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, Feb 3, 2020 at 6:56 AM

To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>, Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Michael Armata** <michaeljarmata@gmail.com>

Date: Sat, Feb 1, 2020 at 12:15 PM

Subject: Upcoming Vote for Single-Adult Shelter Facility

To: bsr@portlandmaine.gov <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, jcosta@portlandmaine.gov <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>, jduson@portlandmaine.gov <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, jpj@portlandmaine.gov <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>, kcook@portlandmaine.gov <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>, ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov <ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov>, nmm@portlandmaine.gov <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, pali@portlandmaine.gov <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, tchong@portlandmaine.gov <tchong@portlandmaine.gov>

Good Afternoon, Councilors-

I'm writing today about the upcoming vote on Monday concerning the Resolution Outlining Policy Goals for the City of Portland's Single-Adult Shelter Facility. First off, I'm surprised that the Council is taking up this vote without all members in attendance, especially knowing that one of the Councilors who will not be in attendance is a member of the HHS Committee. With that said, I wanted to express my concerns of the proposed resolution whereby in its current state, does not address Portland resident's concerns of bearing the entire responsibility for the care and housing of homeless people. I fear the proposed policy for the new shelter will not only recreate the same issues at the existing Oxford Street Shelter, but also burden the City of Portland to constantly provide and assist the most vulnerable in the state (and beyond) in the future. Let's look back at the past 30 years, where the City of Portland has provided services and beds for an ever-increasing number of homeless people. This is not an attack on our Social Workers as they've been doing their best, but what makes the City of Portland qualified to care for this many people? While being a City-operated shelter, the building and area has suffered. We can't simply build a bigger and prettier shelter and expect different results without making changes.

If the vote is happening, I believe we should take a step-back and listen to residents from all over the City. Clearly our model does not work, and as we build anew, we must make changes. Unfortunately the current resolution continues to expand the shelter but does not address why the model isn't working. Please support the amendment put forth by Councilor Cook on this matter. No area of Portland should accept the status quo. Something must change! Councilor Cook's amendments make sense. It helps all parties involved, including neighbors of the shelter and those seeking support from the shelter. I favor the guidance to solicit funds and support from the State and our neighboring communities. We must establish diversion and prevention tactics while not having the sole responsibility on the City of Portland. Let's get the City out of the business of warehousing homeless people. Let's support people in their communities, which will inevitably be better for all involved.

Thank you for taking your time to read my email in support of Councilor Cook's amendments to the Resolution Outlining Policy Goals for the City of Portland's Single-Adult Shelter Facility.

Kind Regards,
Michael Armata
Beverly Street, Portland

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Jon P. Jennings
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Fwd: New Shelter

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, Feb 3, 2020 at 6:56 AM

To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>, Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sean Kerwin** <cairdhubain@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Feb 2, 2020 at 12:06 PM

Subject: New Shelter

To: Belinda Ray <BSR@portlandmaine.gov>, Pious Ali <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, <tchong@portlandmaine.gov>, <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, Spencer Thibodeau <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, Kim Cook <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>, Nicholas Mavodones <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, Justin Costa <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>, <ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov>

CC: John Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Greetings Councilors and Mayor. I am writing to ask you to move forward with the proposed new homeless services center posthaste. A long, thoughtful, and comprehensive process has brought us to this point. Meanwhile, the people accessing services, those providing, and the city, are in a state of crisis. There is no time for further delay, nor is there any practical reason for it.

It is important that the state, other towns, and the federal government share the load on this issue. However, that doesn't mean we don't need a better facility. Realistically, getting there is a long term prospect - one that we can't afford to wait for to address the current failed situation. Designing flex space into the new center will allow the city to repurpose space when demand declines. As councilors you should be very familiar with pursuing multiple objectives at once. Please aggressively pursue shared responsibility, but please do not hold the thing we have full control over hostage to its resolution.

As for sizing: I live in Bayside and I can tell you that many of the problems our neighborhood faces are not because the OSS is too big, but because it is too small. It's fine to design the new facility to permanently accommodate a realistic long term target, but please design enough comfortable, flexible space to accommodate the numbers we are currently seeing. We may want that number lower, but until it is actually so, designing otherwise will create problems from day one - not just for users, but for the new neighborhood as well. It will be the natural human inclination for residents of the Riverside neighborhood to advocate for as small of a shelter as possible. If they had the knowledge of having lived with the OSS for the past decade, however, I think their attitude would be: "if you must build here, please size it to accommodate the number of people that are actually going to show up on day one."

Again, I implore you to move forward without further delay. Please do continue to strongly push for other communities, the state, and the federal government to be more active contributors in addressing this issue, but please move forward with an appropriately sized facility this coming Tuesday.

Thank you for your time, and hard work on this difficult issue.

Sean Kerwin

18 Parris St.

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Fwd: Shelter Policy Goals Resolution - Please Pass as is

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, Feb 3, 2020 at 6:54 AM

To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>, Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Heidi Souerwine <heidi.souerwine@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Feb 2, 2020 at 8:46 PM

Subject: Shelter Policy Goals Resolution - Please Pass as is

To: Belinda Ray <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, Nick Mavodones <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, Spencer Thibodeau <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, jduson <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, Pious Ali <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, <tchong@portlandmaine.gov>, <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>, <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>, <ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov>, Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

CC: <cityclerk@portlandmaine.gov>

Good afternoon Mayor Snyder, Councilors, and Mr. Jennings,

I'm writing this afternoon as a Portland city resident in support of the upcoming resolution vote on the stated shelter policy goals. I've closely followed this process for the last four years, as a resident, and now as a homeowner, and I urge you to pass the goals as written. They were smartly and thoughtfully constructed through an extensive, detailed process incorporating the advice and work by policy experts, partners, city staff, Committee members, as well as Portland residents. Passing this resolution allows the work to start, while leaving flexibility for all of the remaining decisions that still must be made. The city, and the people that need these services, are in crisis. It would be reckless to delay any further, and demonstrate extreme hubris to think we can move through this crisis together while ignoring the subject-matter experts.

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- The goals of adequate transportation, criminal trespass, and service guidelines (as well as more Good Neighbor policies!) are necessary.

In response to Councilor Cook's opinion piece, and proposed amendment: while I appreciate her eye toward the budget (and I love that about her!) I cannot support her proposed amendment and I urge you to reject it. The city should indeed pursue additional financial support, but that can be done in tandem with working on the current emergency. Also, the city has the ultimate responsibility to lead this charge, and is the only entity that I trust to see us through this crisis. Private partners would not have the same accountability for being good stewards of city resources, or partners to the community. Lastly, central in-take and "quiet hours" as she's proposed them would work against best standards of care and efficiently serving clients, and unfortunately have the opposite intended impact on the surrounding neighborhoods.

Please continue to push for other communities, the state, and the federal government to share in addressing this issue, but please move forward with an appropriately sized facility this coming Tuesday, and pass the shelter policy goals as currently written.

Thank you for listening, and for your continued dedication to serving our city and citizens.

Sincerely,
Heidi Souerwine

To the city clerk: If this has arrived too late for inclusion in the Feb 3 packet, please place a copy on councilors' desks before the meeting

--
Jon P. Jennings
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Fwd: Dear manager Jennings and city council,

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, Feb 3, 2020 at 6:52 AM

To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>, Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **John McGovern** <jtmcgovern1@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Feb 2, 2020 at 2:10 PM

Subject: Fwd: Dear manager Jennings and city council,

To: <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

CC: <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>, <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>,

<nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>, <pali@portlandmaine.gov>,

<sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, <tchong@portlandmaine.gov>

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: John McGovern <jtmcgovern1@gmail.com>

Date: February 2, 2020 at 1:35:04 PM EST

To: jtmcgovern1@gmail.com

Subject: Dear manager Jennings and city council,

Dear manager Jennings and city council,

Given the magnitude of this very important issue regarding the new homeless shelter proposal moving forward, I am encouraging all of you to support public comment at the upcoming meeting.

I feel that every person has a right to voice their concerns whether they are for or against this most critical issue. In not allowing public comment the council is basically silencing both sides from voicing their opinions in pushing this to a vote without further comment.

With millions of dollars and the future of our homeless and the city I feel this process should not be withheld from any of our citizens, this includes all of our homeless and those for or against this proposal. This is an open public meeting and I feel the public has the right to address the council.

I would like to thank you all for your time and consideration.

Respectfully, John McGovern
Riverton.

Sent from my iPad

--

Jon P. Jennings

City Manager

City of Portland

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Fwd: Resolution Outlining Policy Goals

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, Feb 3, 2020 at 6:49 AM

To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>, Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sarah Wing** <sarahjwing@yahoo.com>

Date: Sun, Feb 2, 2020 at 2:22 PM

Subject: Resolution Outlining Policy Goals

To: <ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov>, <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, <tchong@portlandmaine.gov>, <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>, <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>, <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Good Afternoon Mayor, Councilors, and City Staff,

I am concerned with the proposed "Resolution Outlining Policy Goals for the City of Portland's Single-Adult Shelter Facility" that maybe voted on tomorrow.

The current resolution the HHS Committee has outlined only continues to expand the shelter but does not address the policies that need to be addressed to fix the current issues before proceeding on a vote. i.e. intake process, criminal trespassing, etc. it states will develop clear policies but these policies should be developed first to ensure we are proceeding correctly.

If the council isn't going to change policies for the shelter then it is just moving the problem to another location and making it worse by adding more beds. Already with the current number, there are not enough resources and money to be ensuring a safe environment for shelter seekers or the neighborhood. How will that change with a new shelter?

I do not feel the City of Portland should be the only voice in helping the homeless. This is not just Portland's issue, it's a state issue, and a nation wide issue. The state should have input as well.

The city of Portland tax payers should not be the sole financial support of the shelter. It's time that every community helps and that starts with policy changes. We want to consider the well being of those seeking shelter and the City of Portland tax payers do not have enough money to provide adequate services.

I don't want to see another Oxford Street happen in Portland, or any other city, or state.

I understand this has been a long term problem and needs attention now. Let's address the issues first so you don't end up in the same place and with more people involved.

This will not solved overnight. All neighborhoods and communities need to work together on policy and implement a new approach.

As urgent as this maybe, moving forward tomorrow when there are changes that need to be done first is not the correct resolution.

Everyone should consider Councilor Cook's amendment and work together to make better policy changes before proceeding.

Thank you for your time and I will be at the meeting tomorrow.

Thank you,

Sarah Wing

Sent from my iPhone

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Jon P. Jennings

City Manager

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Fwd: Portland's Shelter Facility

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, Feb 3, 2020 at 6:48 AM

To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>, Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kara Wilbur** <karawilbur@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Feb 2, 2020 at 2:34 PM

Subject: Portland's Shelter Facility

To: Kate Snyder <ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov>, <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, <tchong@portlandmaine.gov>, <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>, Kimberly M. Cook <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>, <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>

CC: <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Dear Mayor Snyder and Councilors,

Understanding the incredible need for sheltering an increasing number of people who are dealing with homelessness, I am writing to encourage the Council to reconsider its plan to establish a large centralized facility in Portland. Any new facility should not be paid for entirely by City of Portland taxpayers. Homelessness is a state-wide issue that requires a response from the broader Maine community. We should continue to build on the important and successful "housing first" work already happening, by collaborating with others in the state to establish a network of low-barrier shelters across the state. This might include a facility in Portland that is smaller than what's currently proposed - if that is determined to be needed after taking a more holistic approach to the problem.

It is unreasonable for the city of Portland to be building a facility at the cost of potentially more than \$10 million and spending \$1,742,598 each year to provide a shelter - all on local Portland taxpayer money. This state-wide challenge deserves state-wide attention and a solution that responds to the full complexity of the problem.

With a new Mayor and a new Governor, there is a great opportunity for a renewed conversation and planning effort. I hope you will consider engaging with the state to advance a proposal that allows all Mainers to be a part of the solution around homelessness.

Sincerely,

Kara Wilbur
89 West Street, Portland

--

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Fwd: Vote on the Shelter Resolution

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, Feb 3, 2020 at 6:48 AM

To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>, Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jeffrey Coolican** <jeffrey.coolican@yahoo.com>

Date: Sun, Feb 2, 2020 at 2:53 PM

Subject: Vote on the Shelter Resolution

To: ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov <ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov>, Belinda Ray <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, Spencer Thibodeau <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, tchong@portlandmaine.gov <tchong@portlandmaine.gov>, Justin Costa <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>, Kimberly M. Cook <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>, Pious Ali At Large <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, Nicholas Mavodones <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, Jill Duson <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, jpj@portlandmaine.gov <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Good afternoon Mayor, City Council and Staff,

The current resolution presented by the HHS Committee does not provide confidence that this shelter will be better than the one on Oxford Street. There has been limited data and policies provided to give me the confidence that this shelter model will work. The only people that seem to have confidence that this will work to end homelessness are the ones trying to get it out of Bayside.

The problems at the Oxford Street Shelter need to be fixed, but moving the shelter to a new location without fixing the policies, will not help fix the homeless problem. All of Portland needs to have a hand in helping with this issue, and far too long Bayside had to deal with most of the issues alone. Bayside wants it fixed and they have every right to want a safer neighborhood. However, trying to say that moving this out of Bayside without a plan and the appropriate policies in place first, will not be good for Portland.

Multiple neighborhoods have reached out to help work with these policies, but little action has been taken to address these neighborhoods' concerns. These concerns are real and need to be discussed before trying to force this larger shelter model into Portland. The new shelter under the current resolution would only mask the current problems for a little while behind the face of a new facility. Is this really a sustainable solution to helping our homeless problem? Are we doing this in the best interest of the homeless or for the residents of Bayside? If you were homeless would you want to be placed with 100's of people with mental illness and substance abuse issues all in on place? Or would you rather be with a smaller amount of people with similar issues to yours that are being addressed? What facts do we have that this proposed resolution has been successful in other areas with a population similar to Portland?

The data from The Poverello Center in Missoula, Montana shows that their shelter hasn't helped their homeless issue. The funding of the shelter is unable to keep up with the needs of the homeless community. The Poverello Center continues to say that the solution to end homelessness is affordable housing. Instead of investing millions of dollars in affordable housing around Portland, we are planning on building a Multi-million dollar facility that will cost over a million dollars a year more to run than the current shelter. Shouldn't all of these issues be addressed and discussed with the public before we move forward?

Thank you for your time and I hope that everyone involved realizes that this vote sends us down a path of what our homelessness problem will look like in Portland for years to come. Is having minimal policies and no clear and concise plan for the future the best we can do? If we don't have clear policies and a plan for the future how are we sure we can keep another Oxford Street from happening in the future? I continue to believe that Portland can do better than this resolution and hopefully you do as well.

Thanks,
Jeff Coolican

--

Jon P. Jennings
City Manager
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 874-8689 Office
jjp@portlandmaine.gov
www.portlandmaine.gov

Fwd: Shelter policy subterfuge

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, Feb 3, 2020 at 6:47 AM

To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>, Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Laura Cannon** <laura@lauracannon.com>

Date: Sun, Feb 2, 2020 at 11:01 PM

Subject: Shelter policy subterfuge

To: Belinda Ray <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, Pious Ali <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, Jill Duson <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, <sthobodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>, Nick Mavodones <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, Justin Costa <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>, <tchong@portlandmaine.gov>, <ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov>

CC: Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Dear Mayor and Councilors,

I am absolutely appalled at the message below, sent out by Councilor Cook. I anticipate that tomorrow night, the presence of people misled into showing up to comment will be used as a rationale by Councilor Cook, to allow public comment. To make that change, based on the misleading action of a councilor who is clearly intent on disrupting and delaying progress, would be a miscarriage of your duty to all of your constituents who are not on Councilor Cook's mailing list.

As to the actual points in Councilor Cook's proposed amendment (numbers refer to those in Cook's message below)...

1. What is the point of disallowing intake? And how is it fiscally responsible to fund and manage a separate facility for intake? This makes no sense.
2. What happens to the people who don't make it to the shelter in time for the "quiet hours" curfew? What about people who work the swing shift or night shift? This seems like an odd requirement to shoehorn in at the 11th hour, and is bound to have unforeseen ramifications. If there's a legitimate goal related to this amendment, it could be pursued with incentives, not a curfew.
3. The City is responsible to residents as is no other entity (private or non-profit), and needs to remain an integral player in addressing this crisis. Public/private partnerships are not prohibited in any way by the resolution now. Adding this as a requirement is clearly intended to bog down the process.
4. My email of January 23 (subject: "Emergency shelter policies, capacity, cost, and timing") addressed the main things wrong with the idea of accepting the crisis we have now until the day comes when the state and other communities all agree on a unified approach. We need a facility for the need that exists now AND to pursue more resources and involvement from others. Neither should be "only after" the other.
5. Another delay tactic, dictating something that is in no way prohibited by the resolution.

The process I've witnessed and participated in for the past few years has been difficult and often contentious, but Councilor Cook's subterfuge here is a new low. Please do not let the process be compromised by this blatant attempt at manipulation.

Sincerely,

Laura Cannon
18 Parris St.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kimberly M. Cook** <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>

Date: Fri, Jan 31, 2020 at 1:50 PM

Subject: Amendment to Shelter Policy Resolution

To: Kim Cook <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>

On Monday night, the City Council will be considering a Resolution to establish policies for our low-barrier emergency shelter. The Council's Health and Human Services Committee recommended a Resolution that would provide for a 200 bed shelter with additional room for overflow to accommodate all who may need it.

I have submitted a substantial amendment which is attached and described below. **The Council will take public comment on Monday night on this amendment** (the hearing on the resolution was held on November 18 and postponed). This resolution and my amendment only deal with policies for the single-adult shelter and it provides guidance not only for a new shelter but also for changes at the existing shelter in the meantime.

Please note: This Resolution does NOT deal with location and comments MUST be about the policies that will apply to our existing shelter on Oxford Street as well as any new facility that is built.

Key aspects of this amendment compared to the HHS Committee recommendation include:

1. in-take will not be located at the shelter, but be done at a central location and referrals made to the appropriate shelter.
2. a "quiet hours" policy will be developed (essentially requiring people to come into the shelter by a certain time)
3. The City will explore having a private entity operate the shelter, as is a common practice for other cities who seek to have a shelter in their communities
4. the Amendment removes the guidance to build a 200 bed shelter with room for unlimited overflow and replaces it with guidance that has the staff bringing forward a design for new shelter **only after** implementing diversion and prevention tactics AND receiving the commitment of State, municipal and nonprofit leaders to establish a network of low-barrier shelters across the State.
5. staff will have to develop public and private funding sources to pay for the design and construction of the new single-adult shelter and bring a recommendation regarding how to finance the construction of the facility to the City Council for consideration and approval.

Please feel free to share this amendment and the above summary on social media or via email to help spread the word. Please send your thoughts to the City Council, Mayor and Manager and plan to come on Monday night to the Council meeting.

thanks
kim

Kim Cook
Portland City Council, District 5
Deering Ctr., Riverton, No. Deering
www.kimcook.org
207.874.8986

Notice: Under Maine law, documents - including e-mails - in the possession of public officials or city employees about government business may be classified as public records. There are very few exceptions. As a result, please be advised that what is written in an e-mail could be released to the public and/or the media if requested.

--
Laura Cannon

laura@lauracannon.com
207-542-7059

--
Jon P. Jennings
City Manager

City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 874-8689 Office
jjp@portlandmaine.gov
www.portlandmaine.gov

Fwd: Homeless Service Policy Resolution

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, Feb 3, 2020 at 6:46 AM

To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>, Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jim Hall** <mtjimhall@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Feb 3, 2020 at 6:21 AM

Subject: Re: Homeless Service Policy Resolution

To: Belinda Ray <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, Pious Ali <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, Jill Duson <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, Spencer Thibodeau <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, <tchong@portlandmaine.gov>, Kimberly M. Cook <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>, <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, Justin Costa <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>, <ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov>
CC: <cityclerk@portlandmaine.gov>, <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Councilor Cook
(CC full council)

Although I have expressed my overall viewpoint on homeless service policy, it seems I couldn't sleep until I more directly addressed the amendment you have suggested.

Everything about your proposal appears designed to manufacture an appearance of need to delay this vote. I can think of no valid reason to obfuscate such major changes by hiding them amongst so many grammatical ticks that provide nothing to clarify instructions to staff (How is the phrase, "*To ensure safety*" better guidance than, "*That will ensure safety*"?). We do not need a council debate or additional chance for public comment on 90% of these line items.

Two of the meaningful additions are similar enough to items in Councilor Ray's amendment factoring in findings from the workshop on this resolution, that inclusion here under slightly differing language similarly only serves to cast an unnecessary pall of confusion over these topics (contemplation of an off-site triage facility, and diversification of revenue streams for facility construction and operation)

The dozen or so added call-outs to the fact that Portland has been providing more than its share of solutions to regional problems also would not contribute to a better staff understanding of council policy goals. Believe me, they already know they are overwhelmed.

Some omissions (such as striking "continue") seem to indicate an unwillingness to admit work in progress, or imply that prior expansions have not been sanctioned by this body (removing mention of budget approvals), or take away references to "national best practices" – which I admit I don't understand... but again, don't feel these offer improvements to guidance that would reasonably reopen debate on nomenclature.

The language about establishing a network of low-barrier shelters is slightly more explicit (but not really better guidance) than the original request to develop a regional strategy for addressing homelessness and more equitably distributing the responsibility of caring for the homeless across municipalities.

The credible amendment hidden amongst all this distraction is to prolong the status quo in Bayside while we wait for a regional solution to appear, so that the new facility can be built to accommodate smaller numbers at some unspecified future time. I seem to recall hearing the same argument in council chambers when we elected a new governor (i.e. "Let's wait to see what changes at the state level before we talk about capacity"). Conversations about regional solutions are in progress such places as the MRC, and should definitely continue in parallel, but I guess you already know I don't condone sitting on our thumbs until these bear fruit.

There are also several explicit new gates against forward momentum added to your proposed guidance (bring back for review / recommend how to finance). Maybe these would have been part of the process anyway, but making them into "policy guidance" reads like an additional delay tactic.

I can understand the desire to preclude / reduce / delay any potential impact on your direct constituency, and to wrap this under the guise of reducing costs across the city tax base. However, I don't actually believe that delaying saves money because of the current

and ongoing hidden costs of leaning on police, emergency, overflow, and other services which won't be as necessary once the better model is instantiated. Neglecting a worsening circumstance is what allowed the current dumpster fire to burn, and every additional moment it rages while we have a better plan in hand is an embarrassment.

I will admit that some of the more straightforward language you added around protecting affected neighborhoods would be a welcome addition. In fact I would go further and say this resolution should really tell staff they need to immediately and continually focus on finding new such improvements at the current site until the new center can open. Unfortunately the tacked-on idea of creating "quiet time" frankly demonstrates a naive understanding of the current situation, and would be an extremely poor substitute for thoughtful public process on this *separate* topic, which deserves equal attention as the coming new model. Building a better shelter will not alleviate the issues that the city has allowed to fester in Bayside, without more directed attention and efforts – which I implore you and the council to undertake independent of this resolution.

If you really do want to help Bayside citizens, a much more fruitful area to explore would actually be how the city can convince (or coerce) Preble Street to catch up to OSS in the way it interacts with its host community. City staff have already worked hard to determine what kind of neighborhood protections were possible and useful at the current city shelter – which is why I can't excuse additional delay even if the above language about improving community relations were adopted. But despite currently failing to protect my neighborhood from some externalities associated with providing its services, I do consider the OSS to be a responsible and responsive community partner. I cannot say the same of PSRC. When your constituents drive up Preble and see mayhem, they are not seeing the side-effect of practices at OSS, but instead are seeing how the city allows an irresponsible "partner" to abuse and neglect its neighbors. There are now some fairly good conditional use standards that will regulate future new shelters, but unfortunately they don't have teeth for how PSRC will continue to operate. To be honest I would warn you against considering PS as a vendor you want to bring to your neighborhood, even if it would save the city some overhead in shelter operations.

Sincerely,
Jim Hall
47 Cedar St

On Sun, Feb 2, 2020 at 8:23 PM Jim Hall <mtjimhall@gmail.com> wrote:

– *To the city clerk: If this has arrived too late for inclusion in the Feb 3 packet, please place a copy on councilors' desks before the meeting.*

Dear Councilors,

I'm writing to urge you to vote yes on the resolution before you to provide homeless service policy guidance for the first time in Portland's history – specifically in the form that was unanimously recommended by the HHS committee after months of consideration. With or without the minor adjustments of councilor Ray's amendment, this will be a meaningful step toward order in an area that has been left to chaos for too long.

In the name of such progress, I am even more strongly urging you to reject councilor Cook's proposed amendment, which posits that Portland should wait for entities beyond our control to provide solutions before we act. We've seen proposals like this at every step of this multi-year process – so we need only look back at how effective "waiting for others" has been over the past few years in order to see the inevitable morass such abdication causes.

There is an ongoing emergency in homeless services in Portland, which is continuously almost exactly on par with the discrete influx of asylum seekers last summer that generated such a swift and targeted response. This journey toward remediation of more basic services has already taken too long. Although it is extremely well reasoned to include nationally recognized best practices, the entire years-long process has so far produced zero tangible results. Yes, we do have more equitable zoning across the city, and a site chosen that can actually succeed in wrapping services around those in need the way experts and partners recommend – however, we are still years from an effective launch date of a model to better serve clients staff and community, even when this process moves directly to the next logical phase of site planning.

The primary decision you have to make is whether you, and therefore Portland, will act to systematically improve the lives of those in need, those who help them, and those who happen to live nearby – or whether you wish to legitimize the current non-system that ultimately cannot succeed at any of the above. I find the choice to move forward the clear winner, and I hope you do too.

Sincerely,
Jim Hall

—
Jon P. Jennings
City Manager
[City of Portland](#)
[389 Congress Street](#)
[Portland, ME 04101](#)
(207) 874-8689 Office
jpj@portlandmaine.gov
www.portlandmaine.gov

Fwd: Amendment sponsored by Councilor Cook

1 message

Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Kristen Dow
Director of Health & Human Services
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101
207-874-8633

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jon Jennings** <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Fri, Jan 31, 2020 at 9:28 AM
Subject: Fwd: Amendment sponsored by Councilor Cook
To: Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Brian Bouchard** <boubbin1@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Jan 31, 2020 at 8:01 AM
Subject: Amendment sponsored by Councilor Cook
To: <ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov>, <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, <tchong@portlandmaine.gov>, <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>, Kimberly M. Cook <kcook@
<pali@portlandmaine.gov>, <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

City Councilors -

I support Councilor Cook's amendment regarding the policy goals for the new city shelter! It is important to consider councilor Cook's recommendations and not vote on the amendment Monday.

Thank you,
Brian Bouchard

--
Jon P. Jennings
City Manager
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 874-8689 Office
(207) 874-8669 Fax
jpj@portlandmaine.gov
www.portlandmaine.gov

Fwd: AMENDMENT SPONSORED BY COUNCILOR COOK

1 message

Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fri, Jan 31, 2020 at 5:44 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jon Jennings** <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Fri, Jan 31, 2020 at 5:05 AM
Subject: Fwd: AMENDMENT SPONSORED BY COUNCILOR COOK
To: Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Gina MacVane** <wingmac0929@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Jan 30, 2020 at 9:25 PM
Subject: Re: AMENDMENT SPONSORED BY COUNCILOR COOK
To: <ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov>, <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, <tchong@portlandmaine.gov>, <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>, Kimberly M. Cook <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>, <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Hello Councilors,
I'm actually referring to councilor Cook's Op-Ed in the Portland Press Herald. She has good, thought out recommendations and I would like to follow and listen to what she has to say.
Thank you again for your time,
Gina MacVane
Bailey Ave.

On Thu, Jan 30, 2020 at 8:46 PM Gina MacVane <wingmac0929@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear City Councilors,

I'm writing this to let you know I support Councilor Cook's amendment regarding the policy goals for the new city shelter.

We need to keep working with our neighbors within the state for funding and more. Portland can no longer take the responsibility of people who do not live here or do not have any ties to living here.

A no cap shelter is not the answer and one neighborhood cannot bear that responsibility.

Please consider councilor Cook's recommendations and not vote on the amendment Monday Feb 3rd,

You all know in your hearts that what is currently proposed is not the answer.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gina MacVane
Bailey Ave.

Jon P. Jennings
City Manager
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 874-8689 Office

jjj@portlandmaine.gov
www.portlandmaine.gov

--

Kristen Dow
Director of Health & Human Services
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101
207-874-8633

Fwd: Shelter Resolution- please PASS

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Sun, Jan 26, 2020 at 10:59 AM

To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>, Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **stephanie scherer** <stephanie.f.scherer@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Jan 26, 2020 at 9:49 AM

Subject: Shelter Resolution- please PASS

To: Belinda Ray <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, Pious Ali <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, <tchong@portlandmaine.gov>, jduson <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, Spencer Thibodeau <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>, Nick Mavodones <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, Justin Costa <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>, <ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov>, Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Hello Councilors, Mayor, and Mr. Jennings,

I am writing in response to Councilor Cook's January opinion piece, and regarding your upcoming resolution vote on the stated shelter policy goals-

As a Portland constituent who has been heavily involved in this process over the last 4+ years, **I strongly urge you to pass the stated goals as written.**

- The first two goals in support of a housing first approach and addressing the long term stayers are GOOD, and in line with policy guidance from experts like Ryan Cullen.
- The goal of collaborating regionally (as well as seeking additional support / funding from the state) is GOOD, and is something that **should be done in parallel** with our own municipal efforts, but that should NOT hold up our process to address this emergency situation.
- The goal to build to ample capacity (based on current average of 210) with flexibility for overflow or flex space later, along with the goal of considering a cap when numbers are more stable (and there is more support from others) is GOOD
- And the goals of adequate transportation, criminal trespass, and service guidelines (**as well as more good neighbor policies!**) are NECESSARY

These goals represent 10+ years worth of work by policy experts and partners, city staff, Committee members, as well as Portland residents. Passing this resolution will allow us to formalize that work, while still leaving room for the many, many remaining policy / funding / community involvement related decisions that still lay ahead.

Please pass this resolution to help define what we know now, so that we can continue working on and moving forward incrementally with the rest.

Thank you,
Stephanie Scherer
Bayside neighborhood homeowner

--

Jon P. Jennings
City Manager
[City of Portland](#)
[389 Congress Street](#)
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 874-8689 Office
jpj@portlandmaine.gov
www.portlandmaine.gov

Fwd: Emergency shelter policies, capacity, cost, and timing

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Thu, Jan 23, 2020 at 11:07 AM

To: Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>, Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

For the backup

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Laura Cannon** <laura@lauracannon.com>

Date: Thu, Jan 23, 2020 at 7:51 AM

Subject: Emergency shelter policies, capacity, cost, and timing

To: Belinda Ray <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, Pious Ali <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, Jill Duson <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>, Nick Mavodones <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, Justin Costa <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>, <tchong@portlandmaine.gov>, <ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov>

Cc: Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>, Greg Mitchell <gmitchell@portlandmaine.gov>

Greetings Councilors and Mayor,

I write in support of the policy resolution for the emergency shelter facility. I have participated in and/or witnessed years of civic discussions which illuminated the benefits of and/or need for each of the recommendations listed, and we need to do this.

What is not beneficial, and we do not need, are more delays or to rehash old arguments that have been well-examined and resolved in order to get to this point.

In a recent opinion piece, Councilor Cook asked voters to let officials know what we think is "the right path forward." As a resident of Bayside and someone who has followed this process closely for years, my answer is that the right path forward is FORWARD. The current situation is a crisis, and has been for years. No one facility or policy is going to solve homelessness in Maine or Portland. We don't face a choice of doing this OR getting the state and other communities to do more. Both of those things must happen. Others stepping up doesn't mean we can step back; homelessness is a big, multi-layered challenge that needs multiple solutions.

We need to build this facility for the known, existing need. If statewide support, provider partnerships, and better behavioral and public health policy eventually result in an average need of fewer beds per night, the space previously dedicated to beds could be repurposed for programming, partner provider workspace, or to suit some of the many other needs faced by the homeless community and those who serve them. Build the shelter we actually need today, not one we wish was adequate.

It's appropriate for the City to track bed use numbers and be proactive in addressing surge need, and to work with the state and other communities to share the responsibility of providing for shelter stayers that don't have a connection to Portland. The current resolution provides for this. As a taxpayer and someone who lives in community with people experiencing homelessness, I am more concerned about having a facility and policies that enable positive outcomes, than about where people are from.

We don't save money by building an inadequate facility. We have an inadequate facility now, and we know what the results are. As a taxpayer, I would rather see my hard-earned dollars go toward intervention and preventive assistance when someone is at risk, rather than policing and emergency medical services when someone has hit a desperation point. I want my money to help people find safety, stability, and assistance, not to fund the path to incarceration or the grave.

Councilor Cook thinks there's "ample time to implement a new approach in Maine that ensures access to shelter." It is taking all my willpower to write a response to that in a civilized tone. It has been seven years since the city's Homelessness Prevention Task Force completed their report. It has been three years since the HHS&PS committee took up the goal of planning for a new facility. And we're a city that's fairly well-aligned politically in comparison to the

population of the state of Maine. It was below zero overnight this past week. I can't believe I have to point this out: we don't have "ample time." We needed this years ago.

I am grateful for the good and hard work that has gone into the decision to build a new facility to replace the Oxford Street Shelter and the policy resolution that's up for vote on February 3. Please continue in this positive direction. The right path forward is forward.

All the best,

Laura Cannon
[18 Parris Street](#)
[Portland](#)

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laura@lauracannon.com
207-542-7059

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Jon P. Jennings
City Manager
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(207) 874-8689 Office
(207) 874-8669 Fax
[j pj@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:jpj@portlandmaine.gov)
www.portlandmaine.gov

Fwd: Shelter resolution

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Thu, Jan 23, 2020 at 11:07 AM

To: Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>, Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

For the backup.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <s.morrison@myfairpoint.net>

Date: Thu, Jan 23, 2020 at 8:31 AM

Subject: Shelter resolution

To: <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, <bbatson@portlandmaine.gov>, <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>, <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>, <ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov>, <tchong@portlandmaine.gov>

Cc: <mbkm@myfairpoint.net>, <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>, <gmitchell@portlandmaine.gov>

Greetings all,

Trust you are all well and surviving the winter weather okay. We just paid our December 1 - January 19 snow plowing bill. Yikes! 8 storms already.

We understand that the full council will be voting February 3 on the HHS committee resolution outlining policy goals for a new single adult services center. Further we understand that adoption of the policy goals is the next step in the new Riverton shelter process. A new full services center for our homeless population has been needed for upwards of 20 years. The current services model, which is not serving the homeless, city resources nor the Bayside neighborhood particularly and the city overall very well, needs immediate attention. Frankly, as Bayside residents, we find the current model has created a public nuisance. Your HHS committee's resolution is well researched and carefully thought out giving Portland a viable services model in need of implementation.

Your supporting vote of the HHS committee resolution is requested, needed and will be much appreciated to keep forward action on the new Riverton shelter and not "kick the can" any further down the road.

Best regards,

K. Scott and Mary K. Morrison
[9 Parris St. #1](#)

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Jon P. Jennings
City Manager
[City of Portland](#)
[389 Congress Street](#)
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 874-8689 Office

(207) 874-8669 Fax
jjp@portlandmaine.gov
www.portlandmaine.gov

Fwd: Homeless Shelter Approach

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Sat, Jan 18, 2020 at 7:06 AM

To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>, Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>

For backup.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <srosenthal@maine.rr.com>

Date: Fri, Jan 17, 2020 at 6:30 PM

Subject: Homeless Shelter Approach

To: ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov <ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov>, nmm@portlandmaine.gov <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, bsr@portlandmaine.gov <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, tchong@portlandmaine.gov <tchong@portlandmaine.gov>, jcosta@portlandmaine.gov <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>, kcook@portlandmaine.gov <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>, jduson@portlandmaine.gov <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, pali@portlandmaine.gov <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, jpj@portlandmaine.gov <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Dear Madam Mayor, Council members and City Manager,

If you have not already read the recent OpEd by Councilor Kim Cook in the Portland Press Herald, regarding a path forward on the resolution of homeless shelter debate in Portland, I would respectfully suggest that you take the time to do so. I feel that this is the most rational response I have heard from any elected city official in Portland regarding a viable solution to the homeless issue. I believe that Councilor Cook's approach with regard to the fact that the city of Portland can only do so much and cannot be the unlimited resource for the state's homeless problem is spot on. Her quote, "Just as nonprofits are constrained by space, staffing and budget, so is the city of Portland." , is direct and to the point.

For me this is a refreshing change view from that expressed by our city's erstwhile Mayor Strimling. Mayor Strimling continually espoused the view that any and all were welcome at the homeless shelters in Portland. To me this begs the question, is the city to budget for supporting 500, 1000 or 2000 homeless persons ? The city does not have an infinite budget. In light of City's continuing out sized support of the homeless, I cannot see any other cities in our State daring to criticize Portland if we were to adopt the approach that the City will budget to help support a given population of homeless and if that number is exceeded the State and/or other will need to step up and do their part.

Thank you all for taking into consideration my point of view,

Sam Rosenthal

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Jon P. Jennings
City Manager
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 874-8689 Office
jpj@portlandmaine.gov
www.portlandmaine.gov

Fwd: Shelter policy

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Tue, Oct 8, 2019 at 5:21 AM

To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>, Heather Brown <hbrown@portlandmaine.gov>, Kristen Dow <kjd@portlandmaine.gov>

FYI—for back up.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Nick Mavodones** <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>

Date: Mon, Oct 7, 2019 at 6:44 PM

Subject: Fwd: Shelter policy

To: Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ashley Creighton** <ashleyc2820@yahoo.com>

Date: Mon, Oct 7, 2019 at 6:43 PM

Subject: Fwd: Shelter policy

To: <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ashley Creighton <ashleyc2820@yahoo.com>

Date: October 7, 2019 at 5:35:46 PM EDT

To: bsr@portlandmaine.gov, pali@portlandmaine.gov, bbatson@portlandmaine.gov

Cc: estrimling@portlandmaine.gov, Spencer Thibodeau <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, kcook@portlandmaine.gov, Justin Costa <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>

Subject: Shelter policy

Good Afternoon,

I just finished reading the shelter staff's recommendations for policy for the new homeless services center. I have attended and listened to all City Council meetings and HHS Committee meetings pertaining to the shelter, spoken with numerous advocates and learned more about policies of shelters across New England than I ever could have imagined. I must say, it is incredibly discouraging to read the recommendations put forth by the shelter staff. They are really not recommendations, more like a suggestion to leave everything the way it is and throw in a van for transportation. I cannot believe this is what has come out of all these discussions. Again, no community involvement and no speaking to experts across the nation about what works/what doesn't in a shelter located in a small city like Portland. When Riverton was chosen as the site, Councilor Ray promised us the shelter would be a "good neighbor". By not making any changes, you are ensuring that the same problems that plague Oxford Street will be transferred to the new shelter. The only difference will be a fancy new building. It's time to go back to the drawing board and to start listening to your constituents. I truly hope these are not the "recommendations" the HHS Committee chooses to put forth to the entire Council. We are quickly losing faith that there will be a successful outcome to this.

Ashley Souther

Sent from my iPhone

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Nick Mavodones City Council At-Large [389 Congress Street Portland ME 04101](#) (207) 874-8685
nmm@portlandmaine.gov Sent from Gmail Mobile

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