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"Understandably Upset"

Business Interests Line up Against Old Town Camp

by [Denis C. Theriault](#) @theriaultpdx

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POWERFUL BUSINESS and neighborhood interests are quietly lining up against a controversial homeless tent refuge that opened this month on a vacant lot at NW 4th and Burnside—pressuring city hall to clear the site as a code nuisance.

Just hours after nonprofit Right 2 Dream Too opened its settlement, the Old Town/Chinatown Neighborhood Association, the Portland Business Alliance, and others all began contacting city officials in search of a quick and muscular response, the Mercury has learned.

The calls for action appear in emails sent to and from Commissioner Dan Saltzman's office since October 10, the day the camp opened. Saltzman runs the Bureau of Development Services (BDS), which oversees code violations in Portland.

The array of interests is politically powerful. But one voice might appear louder than others: David Gold, developer of the soon-to-be rehabbed [Grove Hotel](#) across from the site.

"We are about to invest over \$4 million across the street in the new [renamed] Grove Hostel," Gold wrote to Saltzman's office at 2 pm on October 10, not long after city inspectors showed up at the camp. "While I can't say that this homeless campground will kill the Hostel, my partners and I are understandably upset."

The Grove project is of keen interest to the city. The Portland Development Commission this summer agreed to lend Gold and his partners \$2.46 million. Gold's partners are high



DENIS C. THERIAULT

IN OLD TOWN: Andrew Alcante says Right 2 Dream Too's tent refuge has been a "relief" after years of sleeping in bushes and empty cars.



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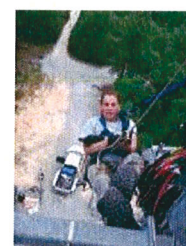
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phoenix1378

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powered in their own right: developer Howard Davis, John Jay of Wieden+Kennedy, and Ace Hotel's Alex Calderwood.

"BDS is not moving forward with any enforcement actions," cautions Brendan Finn, Saltzman's chief of staff. "They've simply asked the property owners to provide the city with a plan of what they're doing so we can determine how they can meet current codes."

Still, even as code enforcers visited the camp on opening day to "investigate," emails show staffers between the two offices, and Saltzman himself, nearly immediately began trying for an "expedited" solution.

"And we're all anxiously awaiting what you and Mike [Liefeld, code enforcement manager] discovered this afternoon," Matt Grumm, a Saltzman staffer, wrote to BDS spokesman Ross Caron. "Related to that, Dan would also like to know if there is an 'expedited' enforcement process."

But publicly, the city's response remained measured. In an October 12 email to business owners, neighbors, and Chinese community leaders—later passed on to Saltzman's office—Gold complained about a neutral [quote](#) from Caron in a news report.

"We need to make sure the city doesn't try to promote the idea that there is no opposition. From what I have heard, Saltzman's office must have received 20 calls. Based on the KOIN story, including the following quote, those complaints didn't [register](#)."

He didn't need to worry. That day, the city was already drafting a formal letter to the lot's owners, asking for a response in 10 days. And Grumm told neighbors, in an email previously revealed by the Mercury, that they should do their best to help log violations and bring the camp down.

"It is important in situations like this," Grumm wrote, "that good documentation of alleged code violations is made, so a strong record is in place when enforcement actions take place."

Life at the camp, meanwhile, has gone on mostly undisturbed. Mike Dee, Right 2 Dream Too's president, says a few drunks tried to mess with the camp last weekend, kicking down part of the camp's fence. Otherwise, donations and food and tents have been flowing in, with the camp now home to close to 100 people coming and going. As of press time, Occupy Portland was planning a march to the Old Town camp Tuesday, October 18, to show their support.

Andrew Alcante, 48, was waiting to smoke a cigarette near the fence on Monday, October 17. He said the camp has been a "relief"—better than the years he spent sleeping in bushes and in empty cars, getting pissed on or kicked by macho suburban kids. He's been accepted at Portland Community College and looks forward to starting next semester. If the camp is still around.

"I'm hoping somebody out there is listening and watching."

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They are listening and watching... for a reason to throw you back out on your ass. If they can't find one they will create one. Best of luck.

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Posted by Christopher Hawthorne on 10/20/2011 at 8:14 PM

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"Andrew Alcante, 48, was waiting to smoke a cigarette "

Quit fucking smoking and get a goddamn job you useless parasite.

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Posted by Ian Smith on 10/21/2011 at 6:56 PM

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What a useless, cowardly piece of shit you are, Ian Smith. If I heard you say that to the man's face, I'd punch you the fuck out. Just say no to being a fucking douchebag.

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Posted by I Hate Fascist Scum on 10/22/2011 at 10:30 AM

B.O.
Stinks

"I'd punch you the fuck out. Just say no to being a fucking douchebag."
Don't you just love that peace and love from the tolerant left?"

"What a useless, cowardly piece of shit you are, Ian Smith"

Coming from someone who doesn't use their real name in the byline, I think cowardly is not the adjective you want to use 'I Hate Fascist Scum'.

Don't fell bad IHFS, I give you 10 out of 10 on the entertainment value of your post.

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0 likes, 1 dislike like dislike

Posted by [Andy from Beaverton](#) on 10/22/2011 at 6:36 PM



You never know what happened that put these people out of homes. Illness, mental illness, personal tragedy that crushed their will to go on, combat or post traumatic stress or physical disability. You'd rather assume they are all simply lazy so you don't feel bad for not giving a shit. In a time where healthy Americans WITH homes, clean clothes, and resources from caring family members can't find a job you assume he's just a lazy piece of shit for not putting on his ironed slacks and tie and working 40 hours a week.
Thanks for showing us how out of touch and uncaring you are.

report

2 likes, 0 dislikes like dislike

Posted by Nate on 10/22/2011 at 6:57 PM



Big ups to Nate, for some rationale words. What happened to Americans caring for each other. In the last 20 years people have turned into a bunch of Me Me Me screw everybody else mentality.

I'm a Vet, after I got discharged honorably I was homeless for abit and big thanks to all the people that helped me out.

People like Ian and Andy are a nothing but Trolls, and one day they might lose their jobs and ended up homeless then see how they feel and understand how hard it is to get off the streets.

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Posted by Brian on 10/24/2011 at 12:41 PM



While Ian Smith is a megadouche, it is also a mistake to be too generous in what you presume about Alcante out of some sense of pity.

That specific man is, in fact, a parasite. Whether he can be blamed for how he got where he got in life is up for debate, but as it stands is he is a user and an abuser of himself and others. Andy has been in and out of jail for all sorts of Bad Things over the last few decades. In fact, he was arrested just this June for dealing coke downtown.

I tried to help him get his shit together once upon a time. I spent 4 months and way-too-much-money trying to help him get clean, and stay housed; providing emotional and material support; reuniting him with his family... He returned the favor by kicking in a hotel door and trying to kill me. That's another story for a different time-- but in the little ideological spat going on in these comments, I can offer this perspective.

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0 likes, 2 dislikes like dislike

Posted by S. on 10/25/2011 at 12:01 AM



i doubt what you say about this fellow is true. your post seems emblematic of a pathological liar. i know for a fact you have never met the guy. i wrote this article and made that name up.

report

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Posted by [l'mrightyerwrong](#) on 10/25/2011 at 2:25 AM



Business interests are "understandably upset" about people banding together to survive? Why aren't they "understandably upset" about people having to sleep in doorways?

Why aren't they "understandably upset" about the PDC taking money from affordable housing fund and putting it into commercial projects so they can line developers' pockets? Why aren't they upset about tax laws that continue to enrich the

few, while life for the rest of us gets more and more tenuous?

Not all business people are hostile to R2DToo. One restaurant owner down the street brings soup. Other community groups have donated lots of supplies. It doesn't take too much to realize that the line between being homeless and housed is very thin. We have everything to gain by solidarity here.

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Posted by Anne T on 11/11/2011 at 8:48 AM

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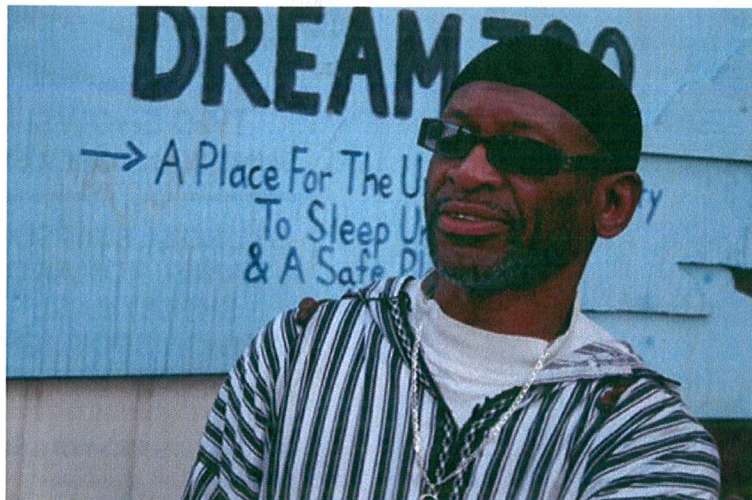
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2011

OCCUPY Occupying is Fine, Unless You're Actually Homeless

POSTED BY SARAH MIRK ON TUE, OCT 18, 2011 AT 7:00 PM

At dusk, 200 or so protesters from the Occupy Portland camp made their way down SW 4th Avenue to Burnside and Ibrahim Mubarak was there to greet them. Mubarak, of homeless group **Right 2 Survive** has helped establish a **tent city dubbed Right to Dream 2** on the private corner lot there. The city has stopped enforcement of various city codes at the Occupy site, but asked surrounding businesses to log code violations at the homeless site, an irony that's not lost on Mubarak one bit.

As the protesters approached, shouting "We support the right to dream!" to show support for the camp, Mubarak gave me his take on the whole situation. I'm just going to quote him in full:



Ibrahim Mubarak

"I don't want to pit them against us, we are in solidarity with them, we respect them. I think the city is trying to pit us against stem. The city looks at them as **privileged, white, middle class making a statement**, but they see us as not any of that. It shows where their reasoning is at—how can the city allow people who *have* somewhere to stay sleep in the park, but when people who have nowhere to go try to build a community, the city tries to kick us out? That place

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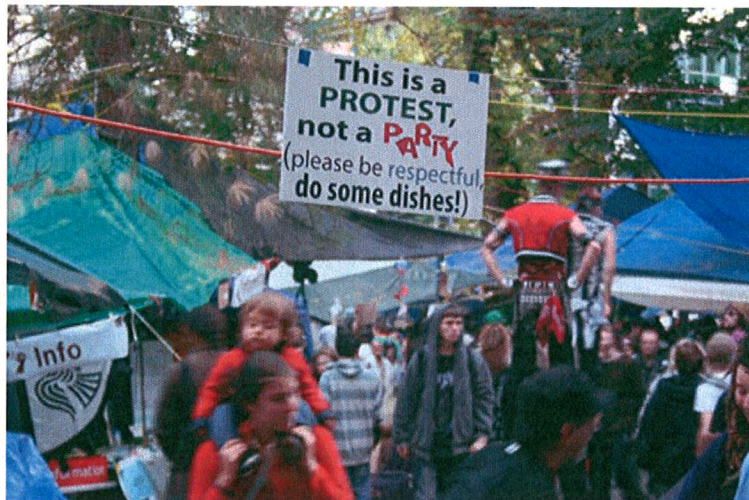
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is costing the city money, we're not costing anybody. We're voters, too, we just don't have the money. We're outcasts. We're nobody."

Exactly.

More photos from the march below the cut.



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Mubarak greeting the Occupy march on Burnside



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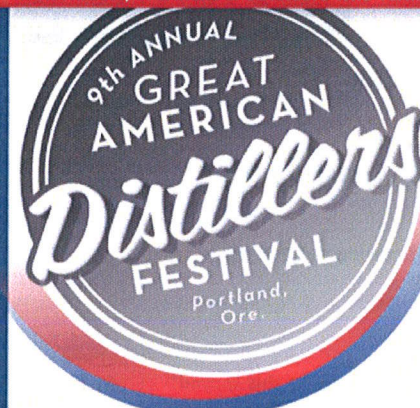
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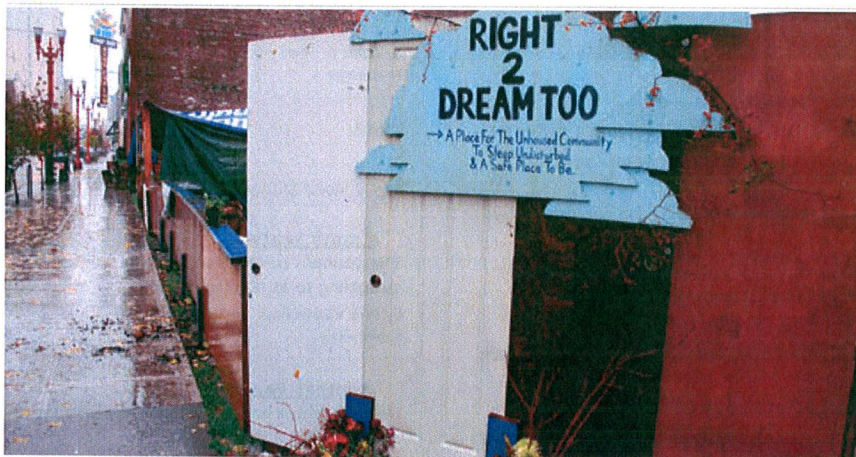
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This Is What Bureaucracy Looks Like!

Old Town Tent City Outlasts Occupy, Thanks in Part to City Process

by [Sarah Mirk](#) @sarahmirk



A CROWD GATHERED in the dark at city hall on the night of Saturday, November 19, braving the cold to hold a candlelight vigil marking one week since Mayor Sam Adams and the Portland Police Bureau evicted Occupy Portland's five-week-old encampment.

But a few blocks away, a second five-week-old tent city remained: The residents of Right 2 Dream Too (R2D2) say they expect to continue occupying a vacant lot on NW 4th and Burnside for a full year. An unlikely friend is aiding their mission: city bureaucracy.

While Occupy took over public parks for their protest, the homeless residents of R2D2 are staying on private property, with the owner's consent. Occupy movements across the country have had to scrabble with police and politicians for each extra day at their sites. But R2D2's site has been notably peaceful and conflict free.

About 80 people sleep among the lot's hodgepodge of tents, which organizers diligently refer to as a "rest area" to try and skirt the city's anti-camping rules, and members give up their spot if they leave for more than 12 hours.

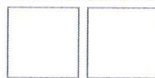
The homeless group inked a yearlong lease with lot owner Michael Wright on October 6 and it took just a little over a month for the Portland Bureau of Development Services (BDS) to cite the lot for two code violations: one for camping and another because its unique fence, built from donated wooden doors, is over the maximum six-foot limit. After the citations were delivered on November 8, Wright has another month to bring the site into compliance or face a \$583 fine a month for three months, when the city would then hold a hearing and

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[SARAH MIRK](#)

Peeking through Right 2 Dream's wall made of donated doors.



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Hi there :) Born and raised in Texas, moved to Oregon in January and haven't...

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by Alex Zielinski

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potentially levy a daily fine.

Occupy Portland media volunteer Jordan LeDoux says the Occupy protesters considered occupying private property, but opted to stay in public parks because their free-speech rights were not guaranteed on private land. In the end, the city control of the parks contributed to the protest's ouster.

"This country has greater protection for property rights than it does for speech rights. And that's probably not the way it should be," says LeDoux.

"It raises a larger question—if you have permission from a private property owner, what does that mean for any kind of camping?" says Israel Bayer, executive director of homeless newspaper Street Roots. "The city is following the bureaucratic process and doing their due diligence."

The camp has surprised its critics among Old Town businesses by remaining clean and self-policed. Organizer Ibrahim Mubarak says the site has a strict code of conduct—including no violence, threats, and (unlike Occupy Portland) no drugs or alcohol—and has asked about five people to leave for violating the rules.

"It's a real melting pot, but we all have experience doing these things," says Mubarak.

Among the tent city's main organizers are people who worked on homeless encampments Dignity Village (which worked with the city to find a legal home in Northeast Portland) and Phoenix Rising (a camp on an unused city right-of-way land that Portland officials dismantled last year [["The Coldest Shoulder,"](#) News, Sept 16, 2010]).

Longtime downtown business owner Howard Weiner, founder of [skateboard](#) shop Cal Skate, says he was initially unhappy about R2D2, but has been impressed with its self-policing.

"Having something managed is better than people sleeping in doorways," says Weiner. "I support their goals, but not their location."

Housing Commissioner Nick Fish is in conversation with several faith groups to discuss allowing churches to host homeless camps on their property, though Mubarak says R2D2 isn't interested in moving to a church. The R2D2 group plans to discuss whether they'll raise fee [money](#) or try to turn the lot into a legal campground.

Matt Grumm, a BDS liaison in Commissioner Dan Saltzman's office, says the lot could legally convert into a campsite, with proper water and sanitation facilities installed, though the permit for conversion costs \$500 to \$1,000.

At the heart of the issue is a lack of affordable housing and homeless shelters in Portland. The city has 669 shelter beds open year-round, plus 300 more in winter. But on any given night, about 1,700 Portlanders seek shelter or sleep on the streets. That leaves a lack of shelter for over 700 people every night, some of whom now find refuge on NW 4th and Burnside.

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R2D2, eh? Glad the police aren't going with C3PO (Count to 3, Pepperspray Organizers).

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Posted by [Todd Mecklem](#) on 11/24/2011 at 9:02 AM



What an idiotic statement by LeDoux. "This country has greater protection for property rights than it does for speech rights. And that's probably not the way it should be," says LeDoux. "Hey LeDoux, where do you live - I'm sure you won't mind if I occupy your space. I'd suggest you learn a bit more about the foundations of property rights and how it plays a role in a healthy and free democracy. But I suspect you care less about that care more about your myopic ideology. Try taking a look at the big picture.

The article headline is interesting. The point is the difference between private and public property. Since private property is private - duh - due process is an inherent part of the process.

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Posted by [Portlander66](#) on 11/26/2011 at 9:27 PM

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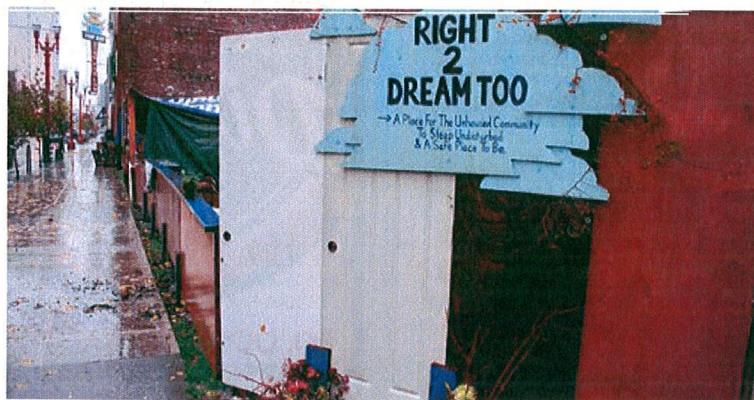
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FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2012

NEWS City Fines Homeless "Rest Area" in Old Town \$640 a Month

POSTED BY SARAH MIRK ON FRI, JAN 13, 2012 AT 12:14 PM



Apparently dreaming costs \$641 a month.

Since the Right 2 Dream Too "emergency rest area" **sprang up in October**, the tent city filling a vacant lot on NW 4th and Burnside has provided rather orderly shelter to at least 50 people every night. It's **outlasted the Occupy Portland campsite** by two months—but, finally, it looks like city code may have finally caught up to the site.

Right 2 Dream organizer Ibrahim Mubarak sent out a press release this morning announcing that while Right 2 Dream has provided "shelter, food, referrals, and community for 50-70 people a night at no cost to the city," the Bureau of Development Services (BDS) issued the group a notice on January 1st that they would be subject to a \$641 monthly fine for violating the city camping ban. That fine could potentially **increase to a daily fee** after three months. While several Old Town businesses have come around to supporting the tent site, there have been **complaints about code violations to BDS**.

The group could appeal the fee, but the appeal fee itself is \$1,215. **"We're homeless people, how are we going to come up with money like that?"** says Mubarak. The group could also go through the process of **applying** to make the lot a legal campground, but Mubarak says looking at the site as a camp site is a misnomer. "This is not really a camp ground, it's a place for people to rest who would otherwise be sitting on street corners and in doorways," says Mubarak.

Right 2 Dream organizers are hoping the city will waive the fee for appealing the **code violation** fine, or waive the fine entirely. The appeal money is officially due to the city on Monday, January 16th, and Right 2 Dream plans to join Sisters of the Road for an **MLK-inspired march**.

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what the hell. they are saving the city money. why do we insist on charging them??

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Posted by [Scrummy](#) on 01/14/2012 at 2:52 PM

The Director of the BDS has the authority to waive the fines, as has been done many times in the past for developers and other Portland Business Association members. The problem here is that homeless lack the deep pockets, connections and influence to obtain a waiver. They're not making money for anyone, or contributing to anybody's campaign, so they get no help. They will protest this treatment, and be summarily dismissed by the sock puppets that haunt these posts as "bums", "losers" and worse. Except for the 1% or so of wealthiest Portlanders, most of us are just a paycheck or so away from the street. The question is, will Paul L. Scarlett, BDS Director, and Commissioner Dan Saltzman, who is charged with oversight of the BDS, do the right thing? Will Portland be a city that shows compassion, or a city that is bought and paid for by the wealthy business community? Unfortunately, I think I know the answer.

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Posted by [Homer Less](#) on 01/26/2012 at 11:25 AM

The Director of the BDS has the authority to waive the fines, as has been done many times in the past for developers and other Portland Business Association members. The problem here is that homeless lack the deep pockets, connections and influence to obtain a waiver. They're not making money for anyone, or contributing to anybody's campaign, so they get no help. They will protest this treatment, and be summarily dismissed by the sock puppets that haunt these posts as "bums", "losers" and worse. Except for the 1% or so of wealthiest Portlanders, most of us are just a paycheck or so away from the street. The question is, will Paul L. Scarlett, BDS Director, and Commissioner Dan Saltzman, who is charged with oversight of the BDS, do the right thing? Will Portland be a city that shows compassion, or a city that is bought and paid for by the wealthy business community? Unfortunately, I think I know the answer.

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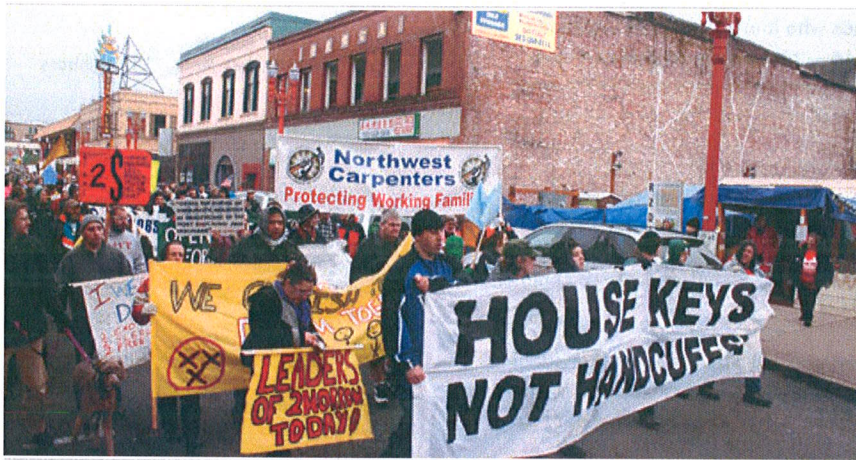
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Here to Stay?

Old Town Homeless "Rest Area" Will Reluctantly Try for Permit

by [Denis C. Theriault](#)

@theriaultpdx



DREAMERS Homeless advocates march to Right 2 Dream Too on MLK Day.

THE MERCY OF TIME—a side effect of Portland's drawn-out, bureaucratic code-enforcement process—is officially running out for a well-regarded homeless "rest area" that's been operating since early October at the highly visible corner of NW 4th and Burnside.

After citing Right 2 Dream Too in November for operating an illegal "recreational" campsite and having a too-tall fence, officials this month turned aside an appeal by the organizers and formally issued a \$641 fine that's due February 1. Organizers tell the Mercury they won't challenge that fine (a move that would have cost more than \$1,200) and instead are exploring two last-ditch options for keeping the tent city alive, at least through the end of its year-long lease.

The first is finding a way to transform the site into a legal campground—an option the city's Bureau of Development Services (BDS) repeated in a letter to Right 2 Dream Too this month. The second? It amounts to pressing city hall for some kind of reprieve.

"We're trying to work with BDS on the permitting process," says organizer Michael Moore. "That hasn't gone very far yet, but that's our plan."

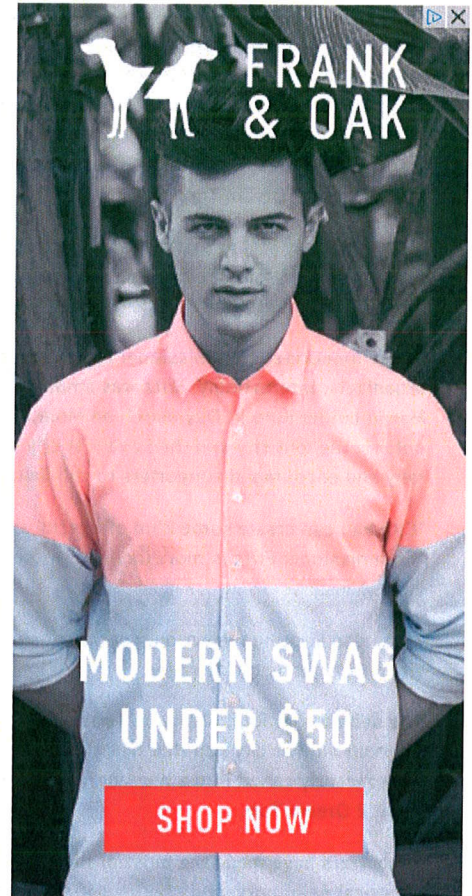
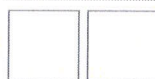
Getting legal is a long shot. Obtaining building permits and making improvements could cost thousands of dollars that the group doesn't have. Moreover, organizers flatly reject the idea that the members-only site, where as many as 80 people might take refuge on any given night, is "recreational."

"This is not really a campground," says organizer Ibrahim Mubarak, a founder of Dignity Village. "It's a place for people to rest who would otherwise be sitting on street corners and

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SARAH MIRK



creepyjones

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Portland is facing major transportation cuts—because it's committed to funding major projects.

by Sarah Mirk

3 comments »

in doorways."

Adds Moore: "People are pretty skeptical about that... but we're willing to try whatever they want."

Ross Caron, a spokesman for BDS, confirmed that organizers have phoned the bureau, but he also noted "fines will continue until violations are corrected."

That leaves city council. Moore and others have pointed to a pilot program, created in December, that allows small-scale car camping in church and nonprofit parking lots ["A Step Toward Legal Camping," Hall Monitor, Dec 15, 2011]. That program—an effort led by Housing Commissioner Nick Fish, but helped by Commissioner Dan Saltzman, who runs BDS—was made possible by a city resolution that directs inspectors not to enforce city codes that normally ban so-called "overnight sleeping." Advocates say the same thing could rescue Right 2 Dream Too.

"That's not something that would come from this office," says Matt Grumm, Saltzman's policy manager. "No one has pitched that to us either... Dan would definitely be open to listening to it, but I don't know where he'd land."

Moore mentioned Commissioner Amanda Fritz, who recently met with the rest area's organizers. Interestingly, Fritz was among the hundreds who joined Sisters of the Road's Martin Luther King Jr. Day march on Monday, January 16—cheering loudly during a stop outside the tent city and then again at city hall where organizers announced a February 1 rally and encouraged supporters to call Saltzman's office.

"City hall can create some kind of special exemption or ordinance," Moore says.

"Commissioner Fritz is more inclined to see it that way, but she is going to talk to her colleagues."

Fritz, also seeking reelection, confirmed she'd met with organizers but declined to comment when reached by the Mercury.

The debate over Right 2 Dream Too comes amid an ongoing, Occupy Portland-sponsored 24-hour vigil at city hall that aims to upend the city's camping ban. Its organizers say they were recently called into a meeting with Mayor Sam Adams' office and spoke in defense of Right 2 Dream Too.

Organizers have made the most of their time. They've won over Old Town beat cops and skeptical neighbors, and they've also shown that their model—a low-cost, low-impact way of extending a hand to those on the streets—is workable.

Moore says as many as six people who'd stayed at the rest area since October have taken advantage of the camp's sanctuary to find more permanent housing.

"That's not something the shelter system is doing," he says. "It's given us a chance to show that this can work."

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Let's all pitch in and pay the fine...then pressure City Hall for money to make the sewer connection they really need to stop more fines. Maybe Leonard could put a new mega-toilet there...duh!

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Posted by [MarcoPDX](#) on 01/19/2012 at 6:50 PM

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by Sarah Mirk and Alex Zielinski

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by Denis C. Theriault

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The State of Oregon already provides rest stops on Oregon highways and freeways for travelers so why don't the State of Oregon provide rest stops for homeless people?

Are not homeless people travelers on foot?

Oregon already taxes the tax payers to support rest stops of which most people agree is needed for highways and freeways, well homeless people need to rest as well.

With all the property the city of Portland owns I don't see why this is even a problem, people need to rest whether they travel by car or by foot and rest stops are already established in Oregon and accepted.

Terry Wagar

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Posted by terry wagar on 07/16/2012 at 10:55 PM

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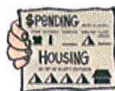
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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2012

HOMELESS "Sleep is a Human Right!" Homeless Protest Camps at City Hall, Packs Council

POSTED BY SARAH MIRK ON WED, FEB 1, 2012 AT 10:39 AM



Every protest needs an adorable tiny dog in a t-shirt.

Homeless advocates got started early on their Wednesday morning protest to urge city council to **waive the fines on the Right 2 Dream, Too tent city**—really early. Last night at 10pm, about 70 protesters met outside city hall, setting up a free coffee stand and settling in for an **"EPIC SLUMBER PARTY."**

The "rest area" on NW 4th and Burnside provides tents and a safe place to sleep for up about 70 people every night, but is facing **\$640 a month in city fines** for various code violations.

Spirits were high at the slumber party, despite the fact that no one seemed to be doing much slumbering and protesters were facing a cold night in sleeping bags laid over cardboard on the edge of the sidewalk outside city hall (under the **camping ban**, no structures are allowed to be build without a permit). "The camping ban is unjust," said 22-year-old protester Axelle Bell, who was recently "entrenched in Occupy" and planned to sleep on the sidewalk over night.

"Overturning the ban is the best idea, people sleeping in cars is unacceptable and just

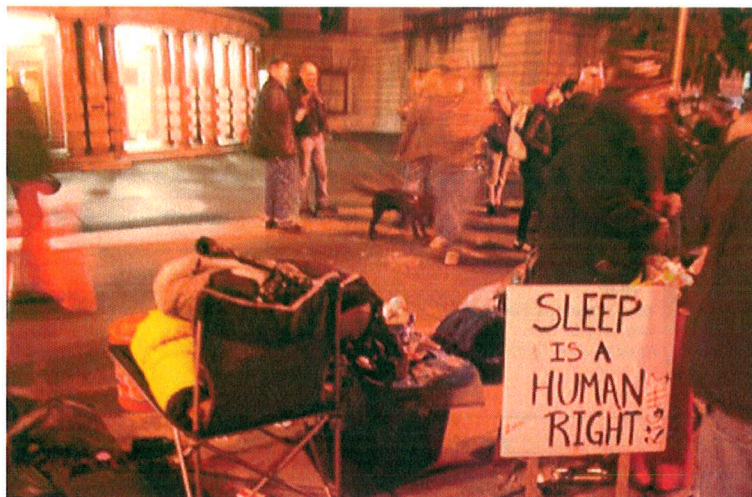
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stopping enforcement of the ban is nice, but it might not stop cop harassment."



Some protesters were still asleep on the sidewalk this morning when a larger crowd started showing up for a bright-and-early 8:30 am rally. Bell, though awake, said he'd only snatched a few hours of sleep on the cold and noisy street. Numerous people addressed the crowd, calling on the city to essentially leave Right 2 Dream Too alone, including current tent city resident Trisha Diertch, who said she became homeless three years ago after fleeing domestic violence. The wait list to get into a long-term shelter was two-and-a-half months, so Diertch wound up sleeping on the streets. While she's still looking for permanent housing, Right 2 Dream Too has been a haven for her. "I like it there, it's safe, I can leave my stuff there, I can stay dry," said Diertch.



Inside council, the homeless activists took up almost every chair in the lower chamber. "Instead of expensive police contact, sidewalk cleanup, and impact on local businesses, we have become good neighbors," protester Kevin Nolan told council during the three-minute public communications that kick off every meeting.

Council is not currently considering any move to waive the fines, but members of Right 2 Dream Too hope to put pressure on Commissioner Dan Saltzman, the head of the Bureau of Development Services, to nix the fees.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2012

HOMELESS / CRIME Homeless Men Shot Under Morrison Bridge Had Been Turned Away from Packed Old Town Tent Refuge

POSTED BY DENIS C. THERIAULT ON WED, FEB 22, 2012 AT 4:59 PM

The two homeless men shot this morning in what police suggest was a **random drive-by attack** had been staying "on and off" at Right 2 Dream Too, organizers of the Old Town tent refuge told the *Mercury* this afternoon. But the men had been turned away when they tried to sleep there again last night—after trying to escape stormy, blustery conditions—because there was no more room.

"Those two guys were coming here," says Ibrahim Mubarak, a spokesman for the group, "but we just didn't have enough room. This is a good reason why we need more places like this."

The men decided against sleeping in a nearby doorway, in hopes that some space would open up at some point in the middle of the night. And instead they trudged across the river and tried to sleep under the Morrison Bridge. Early this morning, someone in a black pickup truck fired shots at the **two men** as they lay in their sleeping bags, lightly injuring one man, but sending another to the hospital with injuries that police say were critical but aren't expected to be fatal.

Police have yet to identify the men, and say detectives are still investigating.

Right 2 Dream Too, which the city is treating as an illegal recreational campground and fining for a pair of code violations, normally hosts about 75 to 80 people every night. Art Rios, another organizer, says the tent refuge, right at NW 4th and Burnside, filled up around 9 pm. He says at least six other people were turned away.

"It's a lot of people we have turn away every night," Rios said, adding that some days it's as many as 20. "We tell them to go across the street and sleep in a doorway, and if someone leaves, we'll come and get you."

Rios also wouldn't share the men's names, but said he's spent some time with them over the past two months, about when they started showing up among Portland's homeless community. He says he'd sometimes walk with them up to Sisters of the Road for lunch and that they'd help clean R2D2 on the days they stayed there.

Both Rios and Mubarak say violence is a sad fact of life for anyone living on the streets—and that this attack just happened to get a lot more press than most other attacks that no one ever hears about.

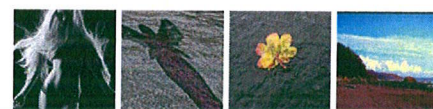
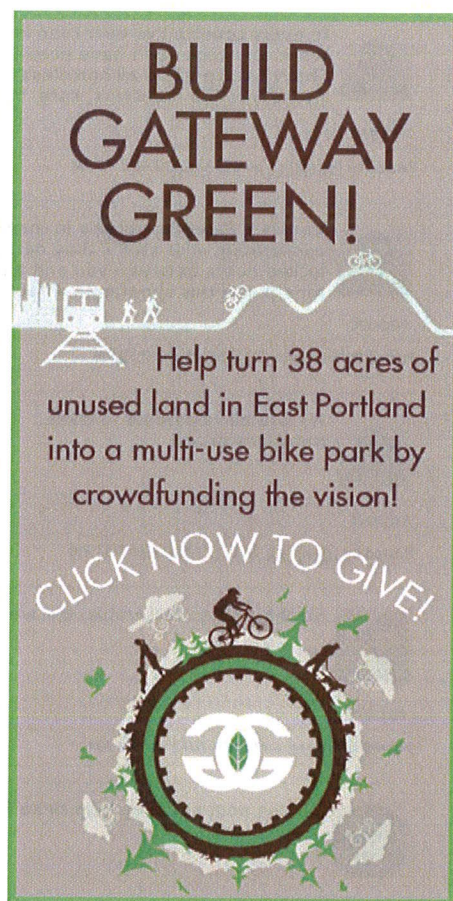
"This is an awareness thing," Mubarak says. "We provide security. We provide walls. And the city wants to charge us **money** to do something *they* should be doing."

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It is bullshit to suggest that a horrific random crime that happens is the fault of the city.
There will always be homelessness. You can build more and more shelters - but I tend to think you get people moving here in the hopes of getting free shelter. "dignity village" hasn't shown to be the place it was envisioned to be to help out on this either. The idea in the beginning was to have a transitional place to get back on your feet - but how many have been living there for months upon months?
Blame the asshole psychopaths that did the shooting.

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Posted by [frankieb](#) on 02/22/2012 at 5:36 PM

Not all societies have had any such thing as homelessness, but don't let that stop you from using the assumed inevitability of the problem to get away from the fact that the U.S. does a lot less to take care of our most vulnerable than many other countries do.

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Posted by [geyser](#) on 02/22/2012 at 6:43 PM

In every country I've ever lived in or visited there has been homeless people. What countries don't have homeless anyway?
Should we consider all homeless to be 'vulnerable'?
Mentally ill and homeless, sure, but most?

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Posted by [frankieb](#) on 02/22/2012 at 7:11 PM

frankieb: Sleeping outside in the weather, subject to the cops summarily confiscating your stuff if they decide to move you along one morning, no walls or locked doors between you and a potential beating/rape, a more obvious target for shit like this shooting....what would you call that if not vulnerable?

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Posted by [xauen](#) on 02/22/2012 at 7:39 PM

We are all vulnerable to crime.
Homeless or not.

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Posted by [frankieb](#) on 02/22/2012 at 7:52 PM

So they're not vulnerable, but we're all vulnerable....okay, you're a troll.

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Posted by [xauen](#) on 02/23/2012 at 5:44 AM

Did the post say they help clean R2D2? WTF!?

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Posted by [Mara](#) on 02/23/2012 at 8:51 AM

Homeless people in Portland are indeed vulnerable. From outside crime, internal crime, Police etc. I disagree that many other countries better than the US in this regard. There are a number of countries that have homelessness up to and surpassing 1/3 of the population. Nothing is done for them (well, other than occasional brutality and round ups into "Government Centers"). I would agree that for a non third world country we do not have a great track record. Something people are missing is the fact that we have the highest population of homeless people for a first world country. We do not have government subsidized housing for most. We have a much larger population, number and diversity of immigrants than anywhere else. I don't see the problem going away sadly. Nor do I see services for the Homeless here improving much. Even as the numbers grow

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Posted by [The Showstopper](#) on 02/23/2012 at 10:56 AM

Right 2 Dream Too = R2D2

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Posted by [Rommel](#) on 02/23/2012 at 12:13 PM

Take that, George Lucas.

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Posted by [geyser](#) on 02/23/2012 at 2:08 PM

Ooooooh. That makes sense now. They could have just said that. Not like they were hurting for space.

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Posted by [Marg](#) on 02/23/2012 at 4:01 PM
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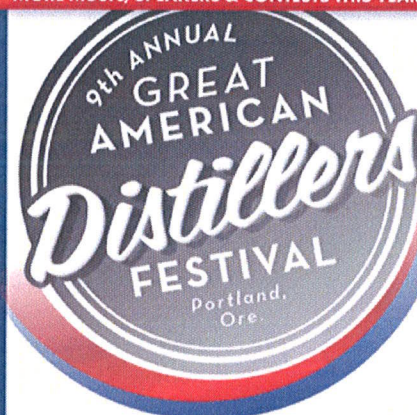
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WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 2012

HOMELESS / CITY HALL **Lawyer for Old Town Camp Asks City to Make It Legal, Like Dignity Village**

POSTED BY DENIS C. THERIAULT ON WED, JUL 11, 2012 AT 4:14 PM

On the same day the Portland City Council approved another **contract extension for Dignity Village**, an attorney with the National Lawyers Guild sent Commissioners Dan Saltzman and Nick Fish a letter demanding that they offer the same legal status to Right 2 Dream Too—the "rest area" for the homeless that's been operating since October at NW 4th and Burnside.

The letter is signed by the lawyer, Mark Kramer, and R2D2's vice chairman and lead spokesman, Ibrahim Mubarak. It notes that **state law** says cities may set up a total of two "transitional housing campgrounds," and it asks for a meeting to start the process. It went to Fish because he oversees the housing bureau and to Saltzman because he oversees the city's code enforcement bureau.

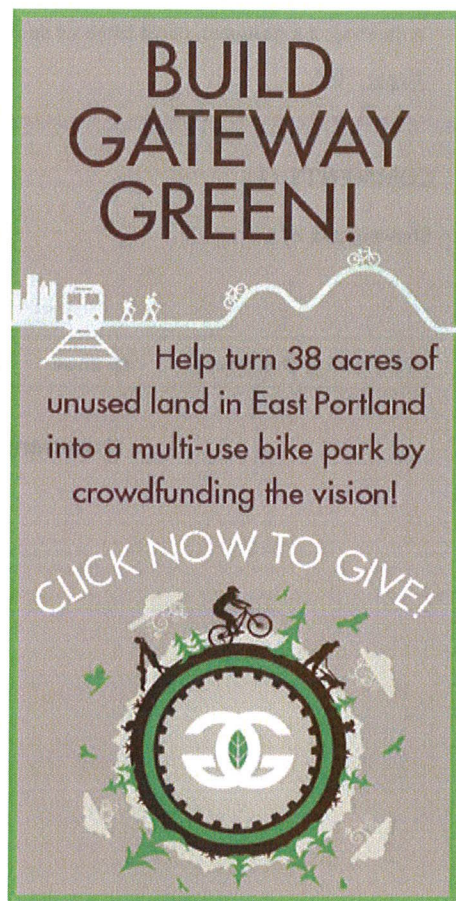
The letter about R2D2 comes not only amid discussions about Dignity Village, but also **during a high-profile hunger strike by former mayoral candidate Cameron Whitten**, who's made the fate of the well-regarded rest area one of the central themes of his protest.

The city has declared the site an illegal recreational campground and has been fining its landlords since the winter. The landlords, **Michael Wright and Dan Cossette**, have so far made R2D2 come up with the scratch for the thousands in fines they've incurred. According to the letter, the landlords have been fined more than \$6,000, with one of the co-owners giving the city \$4,000 so far.

"Portland has been a leader in acknowledging and addressing the needs of the homeless," the letter says. "It has been creative in meeting the city's health and safety needs, while at the same time allowing for necessary programs to assist the homeless. We hope and trust that history continues and look forward to meeting with you and your staff to resolve this issue."

The letter also sees a model in the deal that led to the city's **new car-camping experiment in church and nonprofit parking lots**. In that case, Fish and Saltzman stopped short of making car-camping legal but did get council to approve a resolution directing the city's code enforcers not to enforce city code.

"I appreciate the tone and the content of this letter," says Fish, who mentioned a list of recent housing bureau successes—Bud Clark Commons, the community push for full safety-net funding, the imminent settlement of the city's camping lawsuit, the car-camping plan—as proof "that my housing team has demonstrated over the past few years that they are always open to new ideas and new approaches.... We will respond in kind. We will take it



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seriously."

But Fish also cautioned he doesn't "see a clear path forward for how to address this problem," and that he's hesitant to "normalize" a system in which people would choose to live on the streets or in tents instead of more permanent housing. Many advocates disagree with that line of thinking, arguing that providing places like R2D2 and Dignity Village is a lifeline for people who can't access limited shelter spaces at night or who find themselves on waiting lists for other programs.

Saltzman's office, meanwhile, has not returned a request for comment. But one thing is certain: This effort won't fly if advocates insist on staying at their current location.

Wright and Cossette have battled the city for years after inspectors, cops, and firefighters, at the behest of Commissioner Randy Leonard, **shuttered the adult bookstore that used to occupy what's since become a vacant lot in a highly visible part of town.** Wright used to have a sign up at the site targeting Leonard, now he's got one ripping into Saltzman.

Kramer and Mubarak, in their letter, say that Wright supports "the process suggested here" and copied him on the letter, suggesting they want to stay where they are. But all that bad blood, if moving the campsite doesn't emerge as a real option, appears likely to get in the way of a compromise.

Saltzman told me, even before I'd heard about the letter, that he considers Wright "a convicted murderer who hates the city" and that "we're not going to go there" when it comes to waiving fines. Leonard tells me he's told Whitten all about Wright's past and that he's told R2D2 that he's "open to moving these folks somewhere else" and find a place to "legalize" what they're doing.

"But," he says, "not on that piece of property."

A meeting, if it happens, could come as soon as August.

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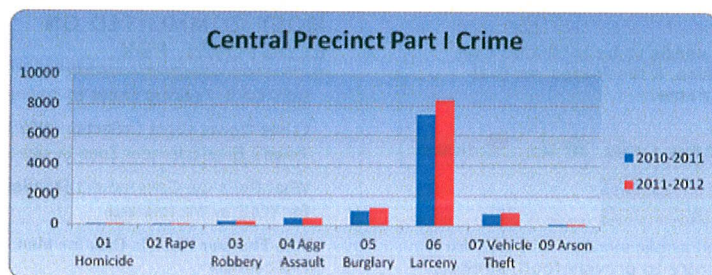
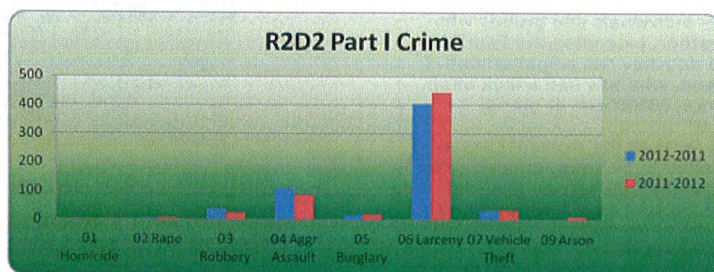
HOMELESS / POLITICS / CRIME Police Stats Don't Make Case for Crime Spike at Old Town Tent Refuge

POSTED BY DENIS C. THERIAULT ON TUE, DEC 18, 2012 AT 12:59 PM

As you might recall, the Portland **Business Alliance** sent a **stern letter** to Commissioner Dan Saltzman last week demanding that he **dramatically step up efforts to oust Right 2 Dream Too**, the successful tent refuge that's been operating at NW 4th and Burnside since October 2011.

The PBA, in making its case, listed two major concerns: a slew of code complaints (some people would rather not look at tents), but also "an increase in illegal activities in the area." **The letter specifically accuses R2DToo of having "generated" both**—directly contradicting anecdotal statements from residents, cops, and some neighbors that crime is down because of the camp.

The problem, though? The crime stats around R2DToo, comparing the 12 months before it opened to the 12 months after, don't actually prove the PBA right. The *Mercury* asked the police bureau to pull the **numbers (PDF)** after reporting on the PBA's letter.



While crime did go up in a 1,000 foot radius around R2DToo, it also went up all throughout the police bureau's Central Precinct, which **includes** Old Town. Further, the increase around

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R2DToo was much smaller than that overall increase in Central Precinct, and some crimes—like aggravated assaults and robberies—actually bucked the trend for the precinct and went down.

Even that's not definitive, though. The area around R2DToo is part of a much larger Old Town/Chinatown ecosystem—an ecosystem that's earned an increased amount of scrutiny and police attention over the past year. Much of the neighborhood is in a **drug-impact area**, for instance, meaning foot patrols are up.

Sergeant Pete Simpson, the bureau's main spokesman, cautioned that the only way to tell which crimes were directly affiliated with R2DToo, and make blanket statements about an increase or decrease, is to read through hundreds of police reports.

Looking at the full package of numbers, Simpson said: "I don't think it shows crime up or down in relation to R2D2."

Maybe the PBA has different or better numbers to back up their assertion? I emailed Megan Doern, the PBA's spokeswoman, with that question, and I'll update if and when I hear back.

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"a slew of code complaints (some people would rather not look at tents)"

Aren't the code complaints more substantive than that? For instance, that the whole camp is not allowed there?

report

6 likes, 13 dislikes like dislike

Posted by [Blabby](#) on 12/18/2012 at 1:12 PM



@ Denis:

F.Y.I.: while i'm sure that we can all figure it out, the dates on the right in that first graph are a bit off.

report

3 likes, 2 dislikes like dislike

Posted by [human in training](#) on 12/18/2012 at 1:24 PM



These are not the droids you're looking for....

report

6 likes, 0 dislikes like dislike

Posted by [Spindles](#) on 12/18/2012 at 1:25 PM



The Portland Business Alliance, and assorted other individuals and groups who have a specific goal of turning Old Town into.. or rather, extending the Pearl District to reach into Old Town to create one large douchey rich neighborhood. I have never spoken with anyone, not a single person, who has had a legit beef with R2DToo that was not rooted in either ignorance, NIMBY-ism or greed.

I am very glad the owner of that lot (whose name I cannot recall at the moment) has a personal beef with the city. They made him tear down the adult book store, refused to let him open a cart pod, and so on.. so he sent a message of his own. He has no financial interest in R2DToo staying open, if it gets too costly for him I'm sure he will shut it down himself.. but with their sterling reputation with anyone whose name doesn't have the letters CEO in it has made them fundraising darlings for their cause.

report

13 likes, 2 dislikes like dislike

Posted by [mediocr](#) on 12/18/2012 at 3:37 PM



Thank you for looking into this. It seems that PBA needs to be reminded that they don't actually run the City, hard as they try. Also, it fascinates me that McDonough never refers to Right 2 Dream Too by name.

report

13 likes, 1 dislike like dislike

Posted by [S. Rose](#) on 12/18/2012 at 4:11 PM



Right 2 Dream Too has been providing an essential public service. The city, for too long, has simply refused to act. We must organize to provide food, shelter, and protection for the homeless who wander our streets. Instead of fining R2DToo for getting the job done, the city should be paying for the services rendered and thanking the dynamic and courageous people who provide food, shelter, protection, and support for residents of our city who have fallen on hard times.

Let us hope our new mayor and new council members can begin to recognize and appreciate the opportunities for partnership and support. We can work to expand this successful beginning. The fines currently being imposed are foolish, counter-intuitive, and shameful. Contact your leaders to put an end to this persecution. We can all get along, in solidarity and with best regards,

Tim Flanagan, associate editor at The Portland Alliance

The Northwest Alliance for Alternative Media and Education has been Speaking Truth to Power Since 1981

Of, by, and for the people. We must stand firm during this time of economic crisis. Corrupt banks and irresponsible government officials must be held accountable. No Fear, No Compromise, and No Surrender!

report

13 likes, 2 dislikes  like  dislike

Posted by [ThePortlandAlliance](#) on 12/18/2012 at 4:40 PM



I feel safer walking by Right to Dream Too than other parts of Old Town, and will intentionally walk NW 4th on my way to work in the morning.

Rather than being freaked out by it, why not celebrate that we're doing what we can as a community in tight financial times? (although obviously not with any help from PBA)

report

12 likes, 1 dislike  like  dislike

Posted by [catbot](#) on 12/18/2012 at 5:27 PM



How long do people really think prime real estate in the heart of the city will be loaned out to this group of non-taxpaying, non rent-paying folks? The owner of the property isn't doing this for altruistic reasons, right? Just to stick his thumb in Randy's eye. It won't last, regardless of what the city does or does not do.

report

4 likes, 4 dislikes  like  dislike

Posted by [frankieb](#) on 12/18/2012 at 7:31 PM



Oh, Mr Flanagan, in light of the existance of 'dignity' village and the recent opening of Bud Clark Commons, among other programs, I sure hope you were joking by saying: 'the city, for too long, has refused to act'. You had to be smiling writing that, eh?

report

3 likes, 6 dislikes  like  dislike

Posted by [frankieb](#) on 12/18/2012 at 8:10 PM



No I don't believe Mr. Flanagan was joking or smiling. Have you ever spent time on the streets with no where to go? Try going to Bud Clark or any of the shelters and tell them you need a bed and a place to stay today. Let us know if you are put on some waiting list you have to call in about on a weekly basis. It would really surprise anyone who ever tried to get a bed, if you were rushed to the top of their list. Expedition and need of some place warm thou a priority for you isn't their problem. You need to just sit the nights out in the rain and cold till your number is up. R2DToo is a safe haven for many people who are on the wait list or couldn't get into shelters. They aren't taking tax dollars or federal money, all the while providing a place for people to sleep, grow, have self respect and pride by knowing they are doing things to help there fellow human beings! What have you done for the masses of us who are down on our luck to encourage a brighter tomorrow? Spread negativity and drink more Starbucks and promote more greed (Every man for himself)!

report

3 likes, 0 dislikes  like  dislike

Posted by [Lisa Fay](#) on 12/19/2012 at 9:14 PM



Like Right 2 Dream Too, Dignity Village was started by houseless people and supported by allies. The Bud Clark center mainly lined the pockets of developers and construction companies. I applaud the courageous, visionary action of people who see how broken the system is and do something about it, the people who started Right 2 Dream Too and Dignity Village.

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Posted by [S. Rose](#) on 12/20/2012 at 9:07 AM

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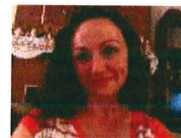
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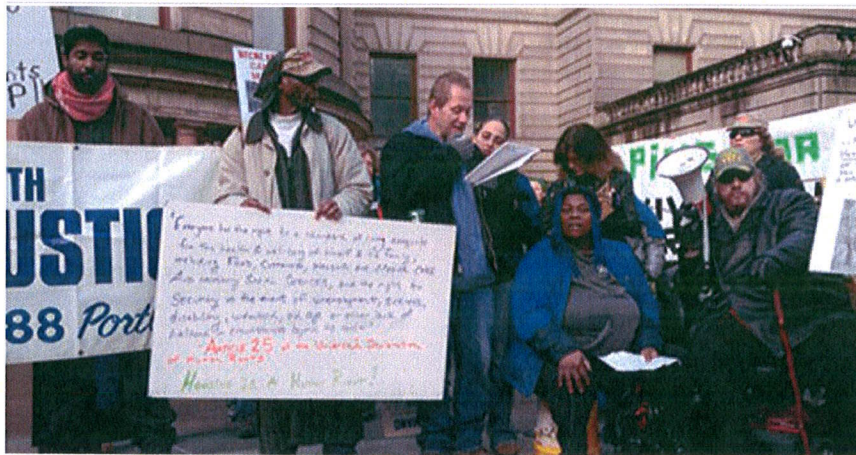
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Boiling on Burnside

Old Town Tent Refuge Sues Saltzman

by Denis C. Theriault @theriaultpdx

A LONG-SIMMERING code enforcement fight over the future of Right 2 Dream Too—the well-managed rest area for dozens of homeless Portlanders at NW 4th and Burnside—is finally heating up after months of uncertainty amid a low-key city crackdown.

Hoping to escape thousands of dollars in fines issued by the Portland Bureau of Development Services, Right 2 Dream Too and its landlords on Monday, December 10, took the decisive step on filing a lawsuit against both the bureau and the commissioner who leads it, Dan Saltzman.

The suit, filed on world Human Rights Day, demands Saltzman stop treating the site like an illegal "recreational" campground and more like, instead, Northeast Portland's Dignity Village—a state-sanctioned and city-permitted campsite providing transitional housing. As of September, according to the suit, the city had assessed \$5,349 in fees and other penalties on the camp's landlords.

"Right 2 Dream Too is not a Boy Scouts camp, it's not a Girl Scouts camp, it's not a recreational camp," attorney Mark Kramer told a crowd of nearly 100 supporters gathered outside city hall. "It's a temporary shelter for homeless people because the city cannot meet the needs of the homeless in our society."

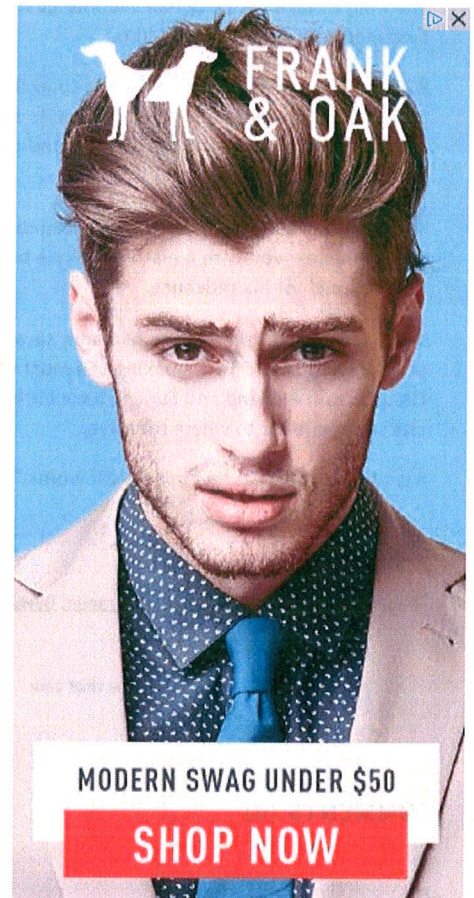
Coincidentally, R2DToo's lawsuit comes just as one of its more prominently placed foes, developer David Gold, steps up his own campaign on Saltzman to have the place cleared out ["Understandably Upset," Oct 20, 2011].

Gold and his partners—including John Jay of Wieden+Kennedy and Ace Hotel's Alex Calderwood—have borrowed millions in city redevelopment cash to turn the derelict Grove Hotel across NW 4th into a youth hostel and restaurant row.

In a move first reported by Street Roots earlier this month, Gold tried to force Saltzman's hand by circulating partially filled-out nuisance-complaint forms to neighbors, and he also



PHOTO BY DENIS C. THERIAULT



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Trading Places

Portland got a tight race and a blowout—just not the ones we expected.

by Denis C. Theriault

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wrote a letter complaining he was struggling to woo tenants. A copy of the letter, obtained by the Mercury, shows Gold is so serious about the crackdown that he wants anyone who actually does his bidding to send him an email. It reads, politely, "Please confirm."

Saltzman's office, however, seems content with using a light touch—other than insisting on piling up fines. It's unclear, though, whether the lawsuit will change that. When a group of protesters tried to hand-deliver a copy of the legal complaint after Monday's protest—sparking a clash with city hall security guards that briefly saw riot cops suiting up—Saltzman was out of the building.

R2DToo organizers had been hoping to avoid a court fight. Kramer sent a letter to Saltzman and Housing Commissioner Nick Fish this summer that he says led to two meetings but "no resolution" about waiving the fines or finding a different site for the camp to [continue](#) flourishing.

The biggest roadblock is Saltzman's palpable distaste for R2DToo's main landlords, Michael Wright—an ex-con with a history of code battles and legal fights with the city—which is fueling much of his reticence.

Meanwhile, organizer Ibrahim Mubarak says dozens of people have found housing and jobs after staying at R2DToo—making the most of a chance to get a good, safe night's sleep. Groups from Ashland and Eugene have both come up Interstate 5 to study up and take the site's model back to where they live.

Says Mubarak, "That lets us know it works."

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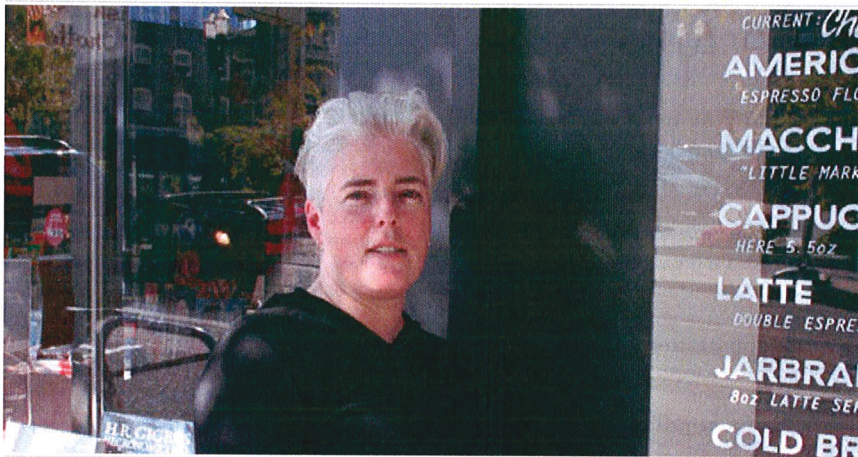
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Another Pearl Jam

Q&A: Neighborhood President Explains Fight to Keep Right 2 Dream Too Away

by Denis C. Theriault @theriaultpdx



WELL, THAT DIDN'T take long. Three days after Commissioner Amanda Fritz announced a deal moving homeless rest area Right 2 Dream Too into a remote corner of the Pearl, residents—already vocal with disdain over the plan—officially decided to put their money where their mouths were.

On Thursday, September 12—at a meeting sources describe as fairly heated and sometimes ugly—the Pearl District Neighborhood Association (PDNA) approved spending up to \$10,000 of its savings on a potential legal challenge.

The PDNA had already begun consulting with a land-use attorney, as reported by the Mercury, on whether the relocation was legal. But the vote was the strongest signal yet that neighbors—despite Fritz's olive branch of “public process”—don't intend to go along quietly. And it's not just neighbors. Prominent Pearl developers Homer Williams and Dike Dame—major campaign donors for Mayor Charlie Hales—have also loaned their considerable might to the cause.

To better understand where neighbors are coming from, the Mercury sat down with PDNA President Patricia Gardner.

MERCURY: What's your biggest concern about the Right 2 Dream Too relocation?

PATRICIA GARDNER: I can only pick one? City council is playing by a different standard. That's it, at its simplest level. If a private citizen wanted to do something in this neighborhood, they would have to go through a lot of process. Because we are in a design review zone, they would have to come before the neighborhood. Either the rules exist for all of us or they exist for none of us.

Would Amanda Fritz be talking about “public process” if neighbors hadn't



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PATRICIA GARDNER: “This feels like a freight train.”

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Forward Momentum

Fritz hopes to have a police reform referee hired by the end of the year.

by Denis C. Theriault

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Under the Bridge?

Maybe ending a long legal fight, Amanda Fritz

started writing letters?

I don't think so. Even if she was, it was going to be public process after a fait accompli. I also think there's a conversation that we have not had as a city. "Okay, smart people of Portland, how do you want to solve homelessness?" [The Right 2 Dream Too relocation] feels like the easy way. The hard way is to come up with a long-term, innovative solution.

But Right 2 Dream Too would argue it is innovative: It's low-cost, low-impact, self-managed—and addressing an immediate crisis on the streets.

It's going to start raining. So I said, "Okay, Commissioner Fritz. Why don't you put them into a building?" It could still be innovative, but they can have a real roof over their head.

Have you had any more conversations with Commissioner Fritz?

We reached out to her to see if she wanted to come to our board meeting last night. She was out of town. She threw out that if we want, we can have a special meeting that she can attend.

Are you talking to other commissioners?

I had called the mayor's office trying to figure out what's going on. Everybody was saying, "Just talk to Amanda." We've sent letters to the commissioners but haven't heard anything back.

The letter from attorney Christe White arguing that there's no legal way to move Right 2 Dream Too—was that something that she sent in tandem with the neighborhood association?

She has been investigating the options. There is a consortium of people who are kind of behind it right now. Williams & Dame, Hoyt Street, and then there's a group of business folks.

Having Homer Williams and Dike Dame on board—are you getting the ear of city hall?

They've been involved since the beginning. It doesn't seem to have helped so far. This feels like a freight train.

Commissioner Fritz insists the city attorney wouldn't have let her settle with Right 2 Dream Too if they didn't think this could happen in 30 days and legally. Why does her assessment veer so dramatically from that of the neighbors?

I have no idea. Maybe it's the [emergency housing](#) thing. [In which the council would invoke emergency powers to establish [temporary housing](#).] That's not my understanding of how it works. But I don't know. We don't know what they're doing. We're not sure what their timeline is. We don't know if it's going to council. We don't know anything.

Commissioner Fritz has indicated that the city's agreement with Right 2 Dream Too wouldn't come for a formal council vote.

I want to see some kind of vote. I pity people who have to build in this city. It's a really painful, painful process. The cynic in me says the reason they're avoiding all votes and commission hearings is so they don't open themselves up for lawsuits, and it's ridiculous.

Have neighbors visited Right 2 Dream Too, to check on their operation?

We have not yet. Yes, there's an agreement [between the site and city], but we don't know what the approval process is. That's a whole other conversation.

Would you invite Right 2 Dream Too to the association meetings?

To be honest, I haven't thought it through.

Some of the concerns I've heard have little to do with process and everything to do with crime and quality of life. The mere fact that it's a spot for the homeless clearly has some people upset.

It's very hard to have tents next to buildings. We've got the Richard L. Harris Building, which is transition housing, in our neighborhood, which is fine. We've been big supporters of the Bud Clark Commons. It comes down to buildings vs. tents. If we've decided that we're

offers a new home to Right 2 Dream Too.

by Denis C. Theriault

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embracing a Bedouin lifestyle, that's one thing, but the codes aren't written that way.

Are you saying there's a little bit of fear?

It's the form more than the substance. We've got clinics in our neighborhood. We are on the record as saying: "Go for it." We're the ones who got the family housing. We're the ones who really pushed hard to get low-income family housing. Nobody else in the city did that. We did that.

The residents at Station Place [a senior community near the city's chosen site] have been especially vocal about safety concerns and not bringing in more homeless people.

We've heard a lot from them. That's, again, back to the word "irony." That is one of our low-income buildings. They are really worried about it. They are worried about safety. They also feel like they're being used by Amanda. My understanding is she reached out to them, and that she's trying to get a good-neighbor agreement with them and nobody else.

Old Town neighbors say they've come to appreciate Right 2 Dream Too.

Depends on whom you talk to.

I recall, three years ago, some similarly harsh concerns about the homeless over the Portland Loo at Jamison Square.

And in all fairness to those residents, a number of them have come up to me afterward and said, "I'm sorry. It has been no problem, you were right." Change is hard, unfamiliar things are hard, and that's human nature. We don't deal well with change.

But the Loo was a well-planned idea. This [relocation] is by default. We get 30 inches of rain in five months. So we're going to move this facility off of Burnside, so nobody can see it, put them under a bridge, where we know the feral cats live, where the pigeons live. There are poky things on every structure underneath there because that's like pigeon heaven. Under a bridge that is barely seismically upgraded. With no running water and no electricity. And we're going to say that's good enough?

Is there any chance neighbors might change their minds, just like with the Loo?

You're confusing beginning and ending. Right now we're just like: "Really? That's how you're going to do this?" Fundamentally if one commissioner can say, "This is how it is," what's the point of democracy? The beginning, right now, is really that big. When did I join a dictatorship?

If the city gave it more time, would you come to the table?

If you've been on record saying, "We think buildings are important, we think all incomes are important," it's really hard to embrace tents. And as someone who goes camping a lot—and I have camped in the rain; it's miserable—there's got to be a better way. It feels lazy.

So talking about a building instead of a lot with tents would somehow be an easier conversation?

MUCH easier conversation. We understand that. That's what the code is written for.

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COMMENTS (14)

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Patricia looks like a Grendler from Earth2. Just sayin'.



report

5 likes, 13 dislikes like dislike

Posted by [Drew Lunn](#) on 09/18/2013 at 2:26 PM

Sigh. It seems that Portland is guilty for shifting around the homeless population, again and many of its residence are experiencing a profound case of N.I.M.B.Y. (Not In My Back Yard). Addressing how the homeless have been bounced around from one area to another over the years is a very long conversation that should be had, but so should the classism that reeks from this article. It seems that Patricia Gardner is representative of a reaction that often comes from a neighborhood that wishes to maintain a specific quality of life, opting to ignore the quality of the lives of anyone that does not reflect their own narrow definition of happiness and safety, "safe" often meaning maintaining a privilege that is presumed to have been earned, when it is often not. Yes, I am aware that many have started with nothing and worked their way to positions of success, but that seems to be a very small percentage, many taking advantage of an already privileged life or with the assistance of persons or institutions. It also seems that there is a lot of strong reaction to a program that has not even been investigated, Gardner stating that her organization have not even bothered to look at how Right 2 Dream Too operates. I am not sure if the city opting to volunteer the Pearl for this project is in the best interest of anyone, but I am also not sure where we can place this population when there are many of Portland's citizens believe their locations are just too valuable to open their doors to citizens that very well may need help.

report

11 likes, 11 dislikes like dislike

Posted by [lancelot77](#) on 09/19/2013 at 8:25 AM

I don't hate her as much as you seem to want me to. She has a point about putting them in a building. We have a lot of empty ones the city might have access to.

report

20 likes, 3 dislikes like dislike

Posted by [seanpdx](#) on 09/19/2013 at 11:51 AM

"I pity people that have to build in this city. It's really a painful, painful process."
WHAT A LOAD OF PRIVILEGED BULL CRAP!

You're comparing a disadvantaged group's plight of HOMELESSNESS to the bureaucratic red tape that financially secure/wealthy land developers will deal with (secure in the fact that they're not wondering where their next meal is coming from, where or when they'll be able to sleep in a secure environment without being harassed or threatened with bodily harm)?

Get a friggin clue, Pearl residents. You don't even have any remotely similar experiences in your combined lives to compare to the actual/literal pain that comes from economic instability, food instability, lack of access to medical & mental health resources, let alone a safe & secure place to sleep for the night.

I hope the city RAMS this down your throats, and that all of your meals are forever tainted with the after-taste clinging to your soft palate.

report

10 likes, 24 dislikes like dislike

Posted by [nibbler83](#) on 09/19/2013 at 12:45 PM

This woman is offensive to the point of absurdity.

report

5 likes, 23 dislikes like dislike

Posted by [George Hayduke](#) on 09/19/2013 at 2:18 PM

>>Would you invite Right 2 Dream Too to the association meetings?

>>To be honest, I haven't thought it through.

But if PDNA is one of the officially sanctioned neighborhood associations here in Portland, I don't think they have the right to exclude any one from attending (aside from those who are obviously impeding the meeting through behavior or other means). Oregon public meeting law says that these meetings are open to the public. If it is a public meeting, and they are discussing R2D, then members of R2D have the right to attend and speak if the meeting is open to public comments (which I would hope it would be). Just sayin'.

report

5 likes, 4 dislikes like dislike

Posted by [JKL](#) on 09/19/2013 at 9:58 PM

To the indignant, self-righteous commentators herein: Would this process work for you if Amanda moved R2D2 on to a vacant, city-owned parcel in your neighborhood???

report

14 likes, 2 dislikes like dislike

Posted by [buckeroo](#) on 09/20/2013 at 2:19 PM



I will not speak for everyone, but I can say that my concern is far from self-righteous and is nowhere near generalizing. There is a flaw in both parties, those in the Pearl having issues with this potential move and the city, both far too near sighted for their own good. There is a flaw in the city simply moving this population from one area to another, versus taking the time to evaluate the actual need and services to meet those needs. As in many neighborhoods that have been "threatened" with the addition of collectives like R2D2, the fear of crime, a drop in housing value and general inconvenience of seeing these individuals has created an overreaction to an organization that they have not even bothered to look into. This is a problem that has been shifted from one Portland area to another, once even in the area that is now the Pearl, well before it was such a highly valued area. So, I am not really sure if where the city places these folks is the greater issue, as it will surely anger whatever population is in that neighborhood, humanity seemingly a little more complicated when you have to see reminders that our system has failed some of its citizens living in a tent in a vacant lot. Those in the Pearl that are so adamant about not allowing R2D2 to be apart of that neighborhood are not special, there are many in this populace that bristle against the homeless or those that do not fit within the parameters of what we find acceptable, those in the Pearl are not special in this selfish behavior. I hope all parties would be willing to sit down and have an honest discussion about who needs what and how all parties can work towards that direction, possibly acting upon the kindness and liberal thinking many Portlanders so proudly claim we have an abundance of, instead of just talking about it.

report

4 likes, 4 dislikes like dislike

Posted by [lancelot77](#) on 09/20/2013 at 4:24 PM

"I don't think so. Even if she was, it was going to be public process after a fait accompli. I also think there's a conversation that we have not had as a city. "Okay, smart people of Portland, how do you want to solve homelessness?"

Funny, I don't remember there being much "public process" either when our tax dollars were used for the urban renewal project that created the little yuppie utopia you apparently think you own. You've got to love the Pearly White attitude of Patricia, as if the homeless issue didn't exist before the coming of the condos. After reading this through several times, I still can't seem to find any sense of empathy.

Ironically, PDNA can so casually pull 10k from their coffers to hire a lawyer, which is probably more cash than most neighborhood associations have anything near to, and yet they can't even bother to reach out and engage with R2D2. I don't think anyone is considering this move a permanent solution, but at least it's a sheltered area and the whole idea of this is to provide a safe place for people working towards transition. The individuals there are no more permanent than the use of this space. If PDNA really gave a shit they would use their money and influence (okay, "smart people") to help find a better solution.

report

3 likes, 3 dislikes like dislike

Posted by [zipitup](#) on 09/21/2013 at 1:49 PM

.....The system has not failed the homeless..the homeless has failed the system. Look carefully at the youthful vagrant wonders on our taxed streets. most of them I encounter are unemployable...either by mental disorder.. or over indulgence in drugs. (which ever came first)...they bring nothing to the table, no tax revenue etc. A tent city it to good for them. All they do is drain the surrounding economy by scaring away the people with money.

report

5 likes, 5 dislikes like dislike

Posted by [matt126](#) on 09/21/2013 at 3:41 PM

One of the benefits of our society, in theory, is that we are willing to care for those that can't do so for themselves. Without this willingness for the government and it's citizens to help protect the entire populace, we would not have services like social security, medicare/medicaid, workers compensation, etc. There are very few citizens that have not found some benefit from many of these services, even if those moments are forgotten when some of those individuals are experiencing better times.

Also, I am not sure how individuals can fail a system when many of those persons are often making efforts to improve their lives and are only asking for a little help to do so, services that should be part of any attempt to improve the welfare of any population. An addendum to our social contract, if you will. Are there some individuals that could better care for themselves? Absolutely. Are there many that have received the short end of the stick, often experiencing the inability to work or function from experiences in their past? You bet. It seems when some citizens do well, they often want to keep as much of that success, and/or protect it, as they possibly can, developing excuses for why others do not deserve what that successful person has, such success often coming from the labor of others, coming from someone else that had earned it and passed it down or came about such success through assistance of some kind.

It appears there are many individuals that have benefited from tax breaks or other forms of government assistance to better themselves, touting to deserve every bit of it, while turning around and claiming individuals like the homeless are simply drains on society. Making such a broad generalization about drug-addled youth and mentally troubled persons not only shows a profound ignorance, but reflects a gross selfishness that is part of the reason why I am disturbed with this issue in the Pearl in the first place. And if people with money are that easily scared, perhaps Portland does not need individuals with such flimsy character.

report

2 likes, 3 dislikes like dislike

Posted by [lancelot77](#) on 09/22/2013 at 11:26 AM



Let's get real. Homelessness is permanent. Permanent Hooverilles. The Pearl District was built on a former homeless area, and benefitted from tax subsidy created by lobbying and low land prices created by the homeless.

The thousands of Pearl residents have an opportunity to give something back by hiring homeless and funding a dedicated social worker to work with the R2D community. How about requiring Pearl cleaning be provided by homeless? Token subsidized housing is not enough.

Imagine that as a national brand.

The individual interviewed has an opportunity to become a hero instead of choosing villain. Let's turn NIMBY to helping.

report

3 likes, 3 dislikes like dislike

Posted by [R](#) on 09/22/2013 at 12:45 PM



The city isn't playing fair.

The Pearl gets wooden planked sidewalks, wetlands, and million dollar fountains. While the park in my hood has muddy ruts from the groundskeepers driving around the paths in trucks that are too big.

Double standard.

report

7 likes, 0 dislikes like dislike

Posted by [oliver](#) on 09/24/2013 at 12:27 PM



Don't forget the Pearlies get the Portland Police to forcibly eject Occupy from Jamison Park the instant they became an inconvenience.

Listen, Pearlies - you live in the middle of a crowded city, where there will be a number of people who have no place else to go. You sound like Barbara Bush not wanting to burden her "beautiful mind" with Hurricane Katrina refugees.

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Posted by [LawyerPepper](#) on 09/27/2013 at 10:32 PM

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2012

HOMELESS / CITY HALL Portland Business Alliance: "City Must Seek and Apply Other Tools" to Oust Old Town Tent Refuge

POSTED BY DENIS C. THERIAULT ON WED, DEC 12, 2012 AT 3:14 PM

Now that a **lawsuit has been filed over months of code violation fines**, Portland City Hall can no longer talk openly about Right 2 Dream Too—the well-managed rest area for the homeless leasing a lot at the highly visible corner of NW 4th and Burnside.

That doesn't apply to the Portland Business Alliance, which remains bitterly opposed to the presence of the camp and, according to **lobbying reports** regularly reminds city commissioners of that fact. The PBA is so bitterly opposed, in fact, that in a recent letter urging Mayor Sam Adams and Commissioner Dan Saltzman to crack down on the tent refuge, **it couldn't even bring itself to print R2DToo's name**.

The **letter (PDF)** was sent Tuesday, a day after R2DToo filed its lawsuit. The *Mercury* obtained it through a public records request. And besides using phrases like "illegal camp" and "illegal encampment," the letter doesn't mince words about whom the PBA is fighting for.

We are particularly saddened that this camp is directly adjacent to the gates to Portland's Old Town/Chinatown, one of the most historic neighborhoods in our city and one that is working hard, with city assistance, to achieve a renaissance. It is the small businesses and residents of that neighborhood who are most impacted by this problem, and they deserve better attention from our city leaders.

It calls for the city, since its "current fine-based remedy does not appear to be having an effect," to "seek and apply other tools at its disposal" to persuade R2DToo and its landlords to "comply with city law." But later, the PBA minces only slightly its words about who ought to be handling this issue instead of the Bureau of Development Services: the Portland Police Bureau.

We hope you will direct the appropriate city bureaus to take action regarding this site as soon as possible and correct the damage that has been done to this important Portland neighborhood.

At least I assume that's what Sandy McDonough means by "appropriate."

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2012

HOMELESS / CITY HALL Right 2 Dream Too Files Suit Against City—Protest (Almost) Draws Riot Cops

POSTED BY DENIS C. THERIAULT ON MON, DEC 10, 2012 AT 12:29 PM



PHOTOGRAPHS BY DENIS C. THERIAULT

Mark, an advocate with Right 2 Dream Too, says the rest area on NW 4th and Burnside, open since October 2011, "may have saved my life."

Right 2 Dream Too and Michael Wright, the controversial figure who co-owns **the homeless rest area's lot at NW 4th and Burnside**, have finally filed suit over the city's monthslong code enforcement crackdown—drawing close to 100 chanting protesters outside city hall and, eventually, riot cops after a brief but heated clash with security guards.

The lawsuit, filed by attorney Mark Kramer, is a big deal in that it will force some overt dialogue on a conflict the city, led by Commissioner Dan Saltzman's office has preferred to let quietly burn. The suit says Saltzman's Bureau of Development Services is unfairly treating Right 2 Dream Too like a "recreational campground" and asks the city treat it just like Dignity Village, a transitional housing site up in far-out Northeast Portland that isn't subject to the same standards as a "recreational" site. State law allows two such sites in each city.

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The suit also asks BDS to waive the thousands of dollars in fines it's levied against the property owners starting a few months after BDS declared the rest area—a successful, safe and self-policing site where as many as 80 people sleep daily—a code violation.

Kramer hinted at this approach in **a letter sent to city hall over the summer**. He sat down with Saltzman and Housing Commissioner Nick Fish and their staffers twice since then. The city admitted it knew of no safety or health concerns at R2DToo but wouldn't budge on waiving fines that now clock in at \$1,200 a month. It also told advocates they'd support a different site in Old Town—but that advocates would have to find it themselves.

"Right 2 Dream Too is not a Boy Scouts camp, it's not a Girl Scouts camp, it's not a recreational camp," Kramer told the crowd. "It's a temporary shelter for homeless people because the city cannot meet the needs of the homeless in our society."

Saltzman, who's handled the conflict in low-key fashion while trying to separate Right 2 Dream Too (which his office likes) from its landlords, like Wright (a former adult bookstore baron embroiled in several legal fights with the city) has increasingly earned the ire of advocates. The Rev. Kate Lore of downtown's First Unitarian Church of Portland started a "shame on you" chant aimed at Saltzman. Others chanted, at times, "Pennies, nickels, quarters, dimes, Dan Saltzman squash those fines."

Saltzman was out of the office during the protest and wasn't available for comment.

After the news conference, advocates tried to swarm into Portland City Hall to personally deliver copies of the complaint and speak to commissioners. That set up a clash with guards that almost turned violent—thanks to a decision to phone in the riot cops.

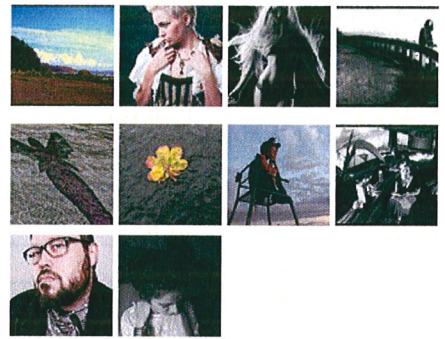


City hall security tries to keep protesters from swarming inside to deliver the legal complaint.

Close to 40 people crowded in front of the security turnstiles just inside city hall's front door, held back by security guards. A few people managed to bust through and run upstairs while others grew more and more restive and asked to use the bathroom.

Guards were worried enough that several police cruisers and motorcycles rode in to block off the street outside city hall and start putting on tactical jackets and riot helmets. But just as that was happening, some of the protesters who'd made it up to the commissioner's offices came back down and reported handing a copy of the legal complaint directly to Mayor Sam Adams—reportedly the only city commissioner actually on site.

"We've won," the man said—giving the crowd license to evaporate, and the cops license to take off their gear and put back in the trunks of their cruiser a few minutes later.



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What Does the Government Shutdown Mean for YOU? by Erik Henriksen



Landlord Michael Wright says he's "angry" and "disappointed."

The city's **distaste for Wright and his role in the R2DToo experiment** is driving much of the fuzziness on its response. Wright has a history of poking the city and especially Commissioner Randy Leonard—who went after Wright when R2DToo's now-cleared lot had been home to Cindy's Adult Books and then an ill-fated pod of food carts.

BDS staffers and Saltzman's office have felt like Wright hasn't been willing to sit down with them, while Wright, meanwhile, has at times felt the same way. R2DToo opened in October 2011 and signed another one-year lease this fall.

"The most recreation they get is to eat something and get out of the weather," Wright said at the press conference. "I'm angry and I'm disappointed."

Kramer invoked "fiscal cliff" negotiations between the president and US House speaker as an example for a time when people who don't like one another still have to sit down. Answering a question about Wright's past conduct, Kramer told me, "This is a separate issue" that doesn't matter because "he's a landlord."

The site has drawn controversy almost since the day it opened. Developer David Gold, who owns the city—redevelopment-backed Grove Hostel building across NW 4th on Burnside **nearly immediately railed on Saltzman to pull the plug**, the *Mercury* has reported. Coincidentally, Gold late last week started circulating complaint forms and a denunciatory letter to neighbors—claiming investors wanted to bolt his project, costing the city money, because of R2DToo. Gold's letter was **first reported** by *Street Roots* but the *Mercury* has since obtained a copy.

R2DToo organizer Ibrahim Mubarak said today that more than 30 people have gone one to find housing in directly from the site and that a few dozen more have been able to find work. Groups from Ashland and Eugene have come up Interstate 5 to study the site's model and adapt it to where they live.

"That lets us know it works," Mubarak says.

One resident, Mark, said he and his wife had been staying there for the past three and a half months and that, bluntly, it "may have saved my life."

"Being able to lay down and sleep on a daily basis is the biggest step I have taken toward

The Thurber Prize Is Only for Men, I Guess by Paul Constant

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Pearl Developers Plan to Challenge Right 2 Dream Too Move by Denis C. Theriault

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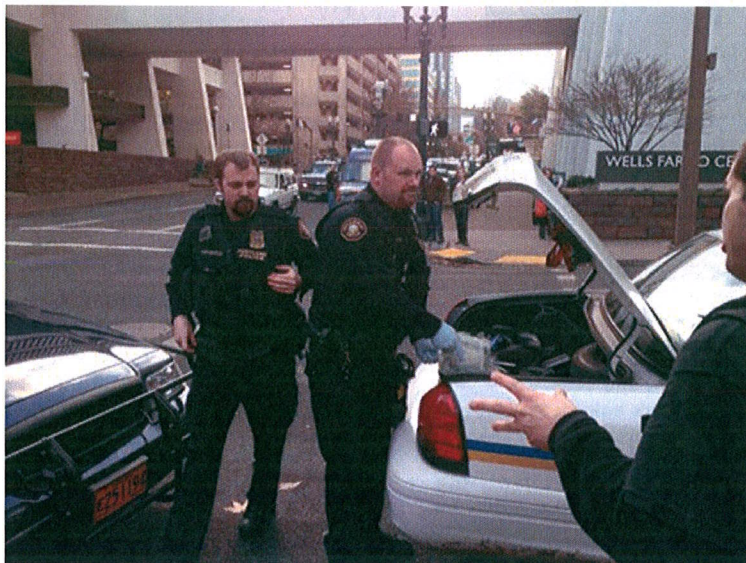
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feeling more normal since arriving at Right 2 Dream Too," he said. "And all this with absolutely no help from the city of Portland."



The crowd shouts "this is a public building!"



Police officers pack up their riot gear and reopen NW 4th.

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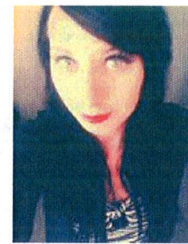
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MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2013

HOMELESS / CITY HALL **Guess How Much Right 2 Dream Too Owes the City: \$12,592.02**

POSTED BY DENIS C. THERIAULT ON MON, JAN 14, 2013 AT 3:59 PM

Over the weekend, organizers for Right 2 Dream Too—the "rest area" for the homeless flourishing on some vacant parcels at NW 4th and Burnside—took to Facebook and posted their latest assessment from the city's code enforcement bureau.

The bill is part of a yearlong city crackdown, **since spun out into a court fight**, that accuses the site of illegally operating as a "recreational" campground. And, according to a high-resolution copy of the bill obtained this afternoon, some big numbers pop out.

The overall amount owed by the group and its landlords—who are **leasing** out their prime downtown property for pennies a year? **\$12,592.02**, including **interest payments** and other late fees. The monthly fine? More than \$1,400. And how much has R2DToo and its supporters sent the city so far? **\$3,833**—putting the total fines/penalties levied by the city at more than **\$16,000**. Court papers filed last month said the amount owed, as of September, was about half as much.

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PORTLAND, OREGON
REVENUE BUREAU - LIENS SECTION

BILLING STATEMENT


Make Checks Payable to: CITY OF PORTLAND

RIGHT 2 DREAM TOO
4635 NE GARFIELD AVE
PORTLAND, OR 97211-3312

Account No: 151298
Financing Type: REVOLVE
Payment Due Date: 02/01/2013
Amount Due: \$ 12,592.02
Amount Paid: _____

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Revenue Bureau - Liens Section
PO Box 8834, Portland, Oregon 97207
Telephone: (503) 823-4090
Fax: (503) 823-3549
Walk-ins: 111 S.W. Columbia St., Suite 600

ASSESSMENT BILLING

ACCOUNT: 151298 STATEMENT DATE: 01/10/2013 PAYMENT DUE DATE: 02/01/2013

CURRENT CHARGES:	
Current Principal:	\$ 1,346.40
Current Interest:	0.00
Charges & Fees:	3.00
Late Interest:	107.81
Penalties:	26.45
CURRENT CHARGES DUE:	\$ 1,483.66

PAST DUE AMOUNT:	\$ 11,108.36
TOTAL PAYMENT DUE:	\$ 12,592.02

Or, to pay account in full \$ 12,592.02

Tax ID No: R180202270 Property Address: 4TH & W BURNSIDE ST 400 BLOCK
 Project Name: NON-HSG CODE 12/11 Type: CODE ENFORCEMENT FEES
 RECORDS INDICATE THIS PROPERTY IS IN VIOLATION OF CITY CODE. WHEN YOU
 CORRECT THE VIOLATION, OR HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL 503-823-7306.

	Principal	Interest	Penalties	Costs	Total
Last Payment	3,833.80	44.07	6.38	9.00	3,893.25
Year To Date	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Form 7352

COURTESY OF RIGHT 2 DREAM TOO

The group has been quietly helping scores of Portlanders with its low-drama, low-to-no-cost model of success and empowerment since it opened in October 2011. Meanwhile, developers and other powerful downtown voices, like the Portland Business Alliance, are trying to persuade city officials to shut the place down.

They've even been playing dirty. The PBA sent a letter, for instance, accusing the camp of seeding a crime spike in Old Town. But as we reported last month, the police bureau—after looking at the statistics when we asked for them—said **that couldn't be proven true**.

This bill also raises some questions. Where does all that penalty money go? Will the city donate it to social services agencies doing similar work? And why is Right 2 Dream Too, and not its landlords, named on the bill. The city has routinely taken pains to try and distinguish between the two when it was making, before the lawsuit silenced them, its more bellicose comments.


All the same, I've phone up Ross Caron, spokesman for the Bureau of Development Services, and I'll update if I hear back.

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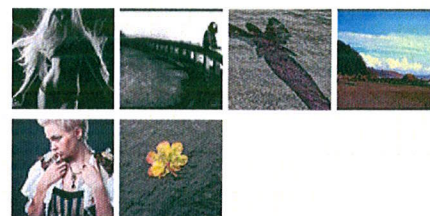
What a travesty. I hope that penalty money goes to further social services rather than to a city paid consultant making \$300 an hour to teach a highly paid city employee how to perform his job duties.

report

5 likes, 0 dislikes  like  dislike

Posted by Handsome McHaberdasher on 01/14/2013 at 5:04 PM

Correction to your bolded text: \$3,833.80 was just the amount put on principal. \$3893.25 was the "last payment" total. Did they pay before the last payment, too? That would make the amount even higher.



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Posted by [sethwoolley](#) on 01/14/2013 at 6:08 PM

Pay up bitches!

report

3 likes, 12 dislikes like dislike

Posted by [frankieb](#) on 01/14/2013 at 8:43 PM

So the lease is pennies on the dollar, and the city is only charging \$1400/month in penalties....seems like a pretty decent rent rate for a prime location in the heart of the city. Especially when divvied up between the dozens of resters. Maybe one less heroin fix or three less Steel Reserves for each person once a month would have paid that off if they had been willing to be participants in society.

I'm being kind of jerky about it, and have a lot of sympathy for the homeless that have honestly not chosen this path for their life....but c'mon, there are options for those people slightly better than homelessness.

report

4 likes, 15 dislikes like dislike

Posted by [Gniles](#) on 01/15/2013 at 9:23 AM

Yeah, "there are options for those people slightly better than homelessness." It's exactly what they have now -- and it's R2DToo. I'm downtown frequently, and they are really doing it right at that corner. I also know one of the organizers who has been homeless as long as I've lived in Portland. He wouldn't be supporting it if it was folks drinking and shooting up. I know you are just be facetious, and that shit obviously goes on in the homeless community, but R2DToo sprung up because the city doesn't have enough beds for everyone who wants one. Period.

Yes, some homeless folks are addicts, and yes some homeless folks choose to not get a job, but everyone deserves a safe space to sleep at night, I think. It was a sleazy porn store beforehand, and an empty lot after, and it my estimation it's being used for the greater good now. And it's not hurting anyone. So I think the city should just lay off and/or work with the group to find another space. Because if homeless folks aren't staying there, then they are just going to be spread throughout the city and endangered. I'm happy this is a safe space for people.

report

5 likes, 0 dislikes like dislike

Posted by [j'peaux](#) on 01/15/2013 at 9:30 PM

The city doesn't have the right to charge anything when it's on private property. That is being leased by the landowners themselves. The city claims that the rest area is a recreational facility. I don't see anyone there that wants to be sleeping in tents. The point of the rest area is for the homeless to have a safe and uninterrupted place to sleep. So they will be able to function the next day just like you and me who need to go to work, school or where else that life takes us for the day. In December alone 12 people who stayed at R2DToo found housing.

report

4 likes, 0 dislikes like dislike

Posted by [skinhnarath](#) on 01/15/2013 at 11:13 PM

@j'peaux & skinhnarath Thank you for the replies. I really don't like the corner probably due to the fact that I'm uncomfortable with it. I'm consistently one paycheck away from not being able to afford rent, and while I'm far from being homeless, since I do have some family and friends that would be welcome to take me in, it can scare the crap out of me.

I would agree that an empty lot is an appropriate place to have a tent rest area, but I think another reason I am somewhat uncomfortable with the location is the overall concentration of poverty in that area of Old Town and its effect on the local businesses (uncomfortable people like me are weary of making the area anything more than a very focused destination, i.e. I'm going to Brody Theater and not even thinking about going anywhere else - not that there is much else for money spending loiterers [but how much does this have to do with businesses not setting up shop there due to the perceived concentration of poverty?])

The City does have the right to charge for land use violations. That is one of the core duties of a today's planning departments around the nation. I applaud Right 2 Dream Too's attempt to challenge this in the court however, and I hope media other than the Portland Mercury pick up the story to bring light to the fact that we have a huge problem with people who don't want to camp out for the rest of their lives. I believe the statistic of 12 people finding permanent (or at least warm) homes in December. That is great news and I hope it's a consistent statistic!

report

like dislike

Posted by [Gniles](#) on 01/16/2013 at 8:34 AM

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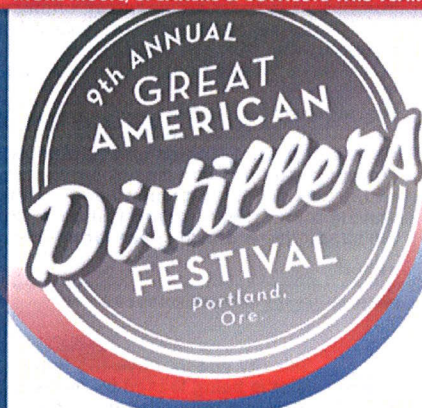
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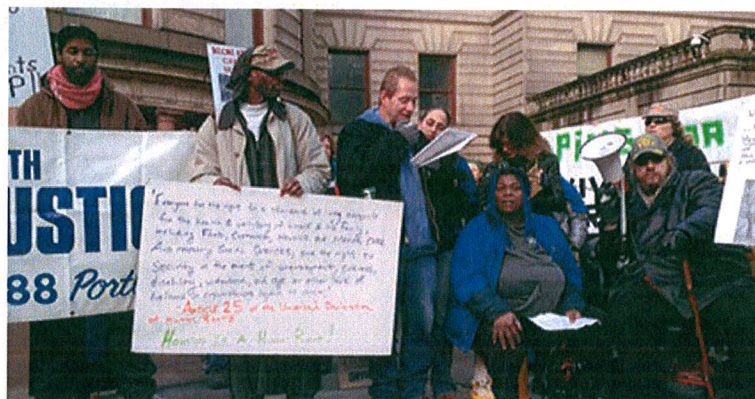
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THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2013

HOMELESS / NEWS / CITY HALL Unpaid Fines for Right 2 Dream Too Now Top \$17,000


POSTED BY DENIS C. THERIAULT ON THU, APR 18, 2013 AT 1:29 PM



Right 2 Dream Too—the thriving Old Town tent refuge for the homeless **currently waging a legal battle** against Portland over code violation fines—has posted its latest bill from the city's Bureau of Development Services.

The city, you'll recall, is treating the place like an unpermitted "recreational" campground—a characterization organizers, clients, and their attorneys vehemently dispute. But the city hasn't budged, and so the new unpaid total, as of this month, has hit \$17,128.93. That's a sizable but steady bump since the last time organizers posted their bill, back in January. With interest and penalties, the monthly hit is now more than \$1,500.

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Current Principal:	\$	1,346.40
Current Interest:		0.00
Charges & Fees:		3.00
Late Interest:		144.16
Penalties:		36.55
CURRENT CHARGES DUE:	\$	1,530.11
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PAST DUE AMOUNT:	\$	15,598.82
<hr/>		
TOTAL PAYMENT DUE:	\$	17,128.93
<hr/>		
Or, to pay account in full	\$	17,128.93

The well-run refuge opened in October 2011. Though cops anecdotally say it's helped, not hurt, crime, the site quickly annoyed groups like the Portland Business Alliance and has been blamed by developer David Gold for the failure of his **heavily city-financed plan** to redevelop the old Grove Hotel across NW 4th from the rest area.

It's even received the back of the hand from social services providers like Transition Projects Inc., which runs shelter beds and helps operate the city's multimillion-dollar homeless day center, Bud Clark Commons. TPI director Doreen Binder, who's also **backing the PBA's attempt to tighten sidewalk laws** and is close to Police Chief Mike Reese, called Right 2 Dream Too a "blight" in a **recent piece** by the *Daily Journal of Commerce*.

"It's an unacceptable temporary situation," she said. "It's a blight on our visual, and it's a blight on the statement about what we think about people and what we're willing to do to help people. I don't think it's an acceptable way to live."

Spokesman Ibrahim Mubarak, however, says the site, which rents its land for pennies a month, is soldiering on. Last month, he says, 11 people left for permanent housing while others took advantage of the chance for a quiet and safe night of sleep.

"We're meeting with our lawyers today," he says.

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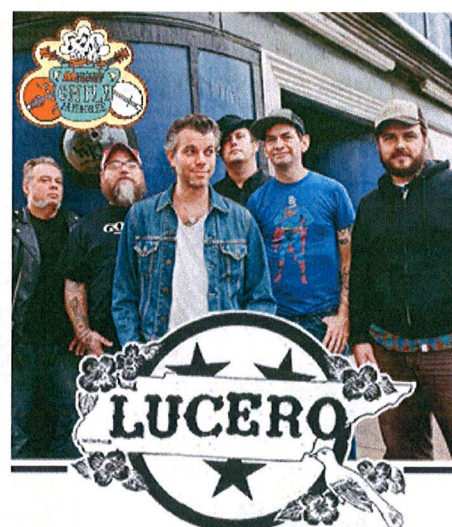


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