

**IMPACT STATEMENT**

**Legislation title:** Affirm the City of Portland's intent to relocate Right 2 Dream Too onto City property located on SE 3rd and Harrison (Resolution)

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**Presenter name:** Robert Kieta, Mayor's Office

**Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:**

The purpose of this Council Action is to affirm the City's intention to relocate Right 2 Dream Too onto current City property located at SE 3<sup>rd</sup> and Harrison. On the proposed site, Right to Dream Too, a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, would operate and manage a rest area that provides refuge and a safe place for Portland's houseless community to rest or sleep undisturbed.

Additionally, this resolution confirms the City's intent to establish a Use Agreement, through the Office of Management and Finance, for use of the property, and to convening a Good Neighbor Agreement process with surrounding property owners and community stakeholders in the Central Eastside.

In October 2015, the Portland City Council declared a State of Emergency around housing and homelessness. As noted in the City's 2015 Report on the State of Housing in Portland, in the last year average rents across the City increased between 8-9%, or roughly \$100 per month. At the same time, low-wage workers have experienced a decrease in inflation-adjusted wages and a reduced ability to find adequate and affordable rental housing.

Despite the improving economy, a 2015 point-in-time count of homelessness in Portland and Multnomah County found that on any given night in Multnomah County, more than 1,887 people experience homelessness without even basic emergency shelter. They were found sleeping on the streets or in parks, cars, abandoned buildings, or other places not meant for human habitation

More people are newly homeless - 33% of people who were unsheltered on the night of the 2015 point-in-time count reported being homeless for less than six months, a five percentage point increase over 2013. Moreover, the numbers of people using emergency shelter increased to 4,311 in FY 14-15 from 3,041 in FY13-14 – a 42% increase. There is an inadequate number of emergency shelters to accommodate the number of people experiencing homelessness, which is also expected to increase.

These combined circumstances are contributing to significant human suffering, creating an immediate need to provide adequate, safe, and habitable shelters for persons experiencing homelessness. The severe shortage of rental housing and shelter space arise from human-made events and circumstances, causing or threatening to cause human suffering and contributing to blight throughout the City.

By declaring a housing emergency, the City has acknowledge the need for new and innovative tools for addressing the increased number of individuals experiencing homelessness in Portland through the provision of adequate, safe and habitable places for individuals to rest and sleep.

Right 2 Dream Too is a nonprofit organization successfully operating a space that provides temporary refuge and a safe place to rest or sleep undisturbed for Portland’s houseless residents who cannot access affordable housing or shelter. They are committed to providing shower and bathroom facilities, information about accessing social services, storage, and other services to Portlanders experiencing houselessness, in addition to providing space for up to 100 individuals to rest overnight and during the day on the site in tents.

**Financial and budgetary impacts:**

The City has allocated \$846,000 from the sale of Station Place Lot 7. Staff and the Right 2 Dream Too Board are committed to ensuring that costs related to site development and the move remain within budget.

Should there be a need for ongoing funding, a request will be made in the FY 2016-17 Budget process.

**Community impacts and community involvement:**

This resolution provides the community with an opportunity to publicly comment on the City’s commitment to relocate Right 2 Dream Too to a more permanent site.

There has been a great deal of public interest in and concern around the relocation of Right 2 Dream Too, particularly to the Central Eastside. In response, Commissioner Fritz’s office convened a community conversation on January 30 which included outreach to Central Eastside stakeholders, including the Central Eastside Industrial Council, SE Uplift, Hosford-Abernethy Neighborhood District, adjacent property owner Eastside Plating, and numerous other property owners and interested community members.

If Council approves the resolution, the City will convene a Good Neighbor Agreement process between Right 2 Dream Too and community stakeholders.

**Budgetary Impact Worksheet**

**Does this action change appropriations?**

- YES: Please complete the information below.
- NO: Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount

Record  
is  
CLOSED  
2/18

Saltzman Amend  
#187 2/24/16  
As Amended by  
Fish  
Seconded by Fritz  
371 93

Affirm the City of Portland's intent...  
Second be therefore it resolved...

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Office of Management and Finance, as a manager of the property located at SE 3<sup>rd</sup> and Harrison, is authorized to sign a Use Agreement with Right 2 Dream Too, that is substantially in accordance to the Use Agreement attached in Exhibit A and contains a prohibition on minor children (individuals under the age of 18) from being on the premises overnight or from the hours 8pm to 7 AM, and a requirement that Right 2 Dream Too shall refer all pregnant women who stay on the premises to a federally qualified health center for pre-natal care.