

Written Testimony - Agenda Item 864

| Agenda Item | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|-------------|--|----------|--|------------|-------------------|
| 864 | PCT Neighbors | Oppose | <p>I understand that as a city councilor you engage in many issues, that achieving high level goals is more important than small details. However, public buy-in for SRV solutions is essential if this SRV strategy will continue long term. This report does not comment on strategies for community buy-in, or defining success as getting people off the street AND community buy-in.</p> <p>The Peninsula Crossing Trail neighbors are tired of screaming into the void. The SRV planning did not have meaningful engagement. The SRV coordinator won't respond to anyone. Despite committing publicly for over a year that the city would start GNA discussions after setting up a site, no such discussion has occurred at the PCT. The SRV team said that RV and camp removal would be prioritized, and yet a drug dealing RV has been near the SRV for 3 weeks. The city has set up SRVs, but failed the surrounding community.</p> <p>Accept this report under the condition that the PCT village agrees to leave the site with no delay so that the housing can move in. Accept it under the condition that new engagements rules will be put in place.</p> | No | 10/10/23 11:08 AM |
| 864 | Anonymous | Oppose | <p>Here is an account from a single mother who lives near the Multnomah SRV, but fears retaliation if she were to voice her opinion, so she wishes to remain anonymous:</p> <p>"Unfortunately, I am woken every night of the week by various noises at the shelter. The noises vary, including dogs barking, doors slamming, music/TV streaming from Bluetooth speakers, people fighting, hammering/construction type noises, loud talking, people banging on doors, and even someone practicing on a drum set. I do call the SRV at night on a regular basis. I also call them when there are loud disturbances during the day (mainly when loud, horrible fighting or a mental crisis is happening), and many times they don't answer. It's hard to know if it's currently full, but by the noise level, I'd say it is... I can't go on living with little sleep and hearing the terrible fighting and breakdowns on a regular basis."</p> | No | 10/11/23 9:40 AM |
| 864 | Ann McMullen, Hazelwood Neighborhood Association | Oppose | <p>This report should be not accepted. It is so light on data, almost anyone who has been following the news could write it. It's completely devoid of data that might actually demonstrate real progress on how successful the SRVs are and whether or not they are providing the so-called "on-ramps to a stable life." The report is a mere 7 pages... one is the cover page, one is a testimonial and two of the remaining pages are a map and a list of community activities provided to the residents. What's not included – a list of services provided such as behavioral health, recovery support, and data on how many villagers utilized those services. "Number of 'Safe Nights of Sleep'" is not a success metric, number of beds is not a measure of success unless you are setting the bar very low. Those are data points.</p> <p>The report is also incomplete if not deliberately misleading by spending an entire page with testimonial from only one of the SRV locations. There is no data on how these villages impacted the adjacent communities who are hosting these Safe Rest Villages. I could go on about all the data that isn't included in this so-called report but I don't have time to do the SRV team's job for them.</p> | No | 10/11/23 11:40 AM |

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| 864 | Michelle Stevenson | Support with changes | <p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>I wish the city would reach out to the neighbors affected by the Safe Rest Village and work on providing more services to the community directly surrounding them. I support the houseless and giving them dignity and a safe place to be. I also support well-being in the surrounding community. My son's father has worked at a business next door to the Lents Safe Rest Village for over a decade. I've climbed the big RVs with my little son and our pet roosters to survey it all being built over the fence and wall. I personally had high hopes that this was the start to solving some of the problems our city faces.</p> <p>I cannot speak for the owner of that business but I can state that every day my partner has a new terrible story about crime and serious nuisance around the area that is directly connected to the Safe Rest Village. Both my partner and I deeply care for the houseless, I've been houseless myself. We often try to pay forward all the kindnesses we received in hard situations by reaching out in community to the houseless. We are not so different, my own household is a 6-month illness away from bankruptcy and possibly homelessness. At the same time hurting others isn't ok, and I *have* seen hurt done to the housed community in Lents because the city isn't offering sufficient help.</p> <p>Please provide more support to the communities around Safe Rest Villages—all of them. Please foster listening and caring for all our communities. Thank you.</p> | No | 10/11/23 1:36 PM |