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May 14, 2015

Portland City Council
City Hall
1211 SW 4th Ave
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mayor Hales and City Council Members:

On April 28, 2015, the Planning and Sustainability Commission (PSC) voted unanimously to forward the *Multnomah County Health Department Headquarters Project* to City Council for approval. This project proposes to raise the maximum building heights on Block "U" in the Old Town/Chinatown neighborhood to accommodate a new County Health Department building.

The PSC received testimony generally in favor of the proposal, including from the Old Town/Chinatown Community Association and Transitions Projects. While these organizations support the proposed new Health Department headquarters, which will bring up to 350 employees to the neighborhood, some concerns were expressed. These include construction impacts to the adjacent Bud Clark Commons, questions about which particular FAR bonuses will be used and the anticipated community benefits of the project.

Multnomah County staff assured the Commission that the County will continue to work with stakeholders during the project design and construction phases to address these and other concerns. The County and the Old Town/Chinatown Community Association have agreed to negotiate a good neighbor agreement to address a number of issues, including: choice of FAR bonuses; provision of community amenities; community input during project design and construction; and County participation in community association meetings and events.

Thank you for considering our recommendation.

Sincerely,

Katherine Schultz
Vice Chair



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