

December 16, 2013

Mayor Charlie Hales
City of Portland
1221 SW 4th Avenue, Suite 340
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mayor Hales,

We have had an opportunity to review your letter to the Old Town/Chinatown Neighborhood Association regarding the relocation of the Right to Dream Too encampment. While we are supportive of moving the encampment from the gates of Chinatown, we share the community's concerns that this move could become permanent, yet again adding social services to an area of the city that has, by all measures, shouldered more than its fair share of such facilities. While we appreciate your commitment that this is a short-term solution, the history of Right to Dream Too has been that the city has allowed them un-permitted use of a downtown property for years, and our experience tells us that, once a facility of this kind is opened, it is very difficult to relocate it.

If, in fact, Right to Dream Too is moved to the identified location at 320 NW Hoyt St., we ask that you stand firm by your commitment to make this a temporary solution lasting no more than 15 months. We also ask that, as you seek a permanent location for Right to Dream Too, you consider the disproportionate burden Old Town/Chinatown has shouldered and consider locations in other Portland neighborhoods. If we are to accomplish our goals of revitalizing the Old Town/Chinatown neighborhood, we must give that neighborhood more room to attract a broad array of investors developing uses that include more retail, more offices and more residential space. As you know, we are deeply involved in the revitalization efforts for the Old Town/Chinatown neighborhood. With the commitment of PDC, the city and all the neighborhood partners, we see a bright future for this historic and important area.

We are also committed to working with you and all our business and community partners on long-term strategies that provide indoor shelter for all homeless individuals in our community who are open to services, and we believe it is time to explore other options that are not within the central city. It is clear that outdoor encampments are not a humane solution to the challenges of those who are homeless.

We appreciate our strong working relationship with you and other members of the Council. As always, feel free to call any time we can assist you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra McDonough". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sandra McDonough
President & CEO

cc: Commissioner Fish
Commissioner Fritz
Commissioner Novick
Commissioner Saltzman