

## **Community Conversation on SE 3<sup>rd</sup> & Harrison Site: Discussion Highlights**

Nearly 100 Portlanders gathered at St. Philip Neri Church in SE Portland on Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup> for a community conversation on the proposed development of the SE 3rd & Harrison Site, the potential future home of Right 2 Dream Too (R2DToo). Participants had the opportunity to learn about the City's plans to potentially relocate R2DToo, as well as share concerns and discuss potential solutions with neighbors and R2DToo members.

The following summary captures the main points of small group discussions that took place at the meeting.

### **Community Building**

- R2DToo / houseless individuals want more engagement among communities, especially between housed and houseless.
- The people coming together and the process of creating a community are what created R2DToo.
- Desire for an interface with concerned neighbors and dreamers – avenue for collaboration
- Need for community building
- “As a local homeowner, I want dreamers to feel welcome!”
- Relationship building
- “How can we support project / help provide services?”

### **Diverse Strategies**

- The structure of R2DToo is crucial to the organization's success but cannot be artificially replicated.
- The R2DToo model will not solve houselessness by itself; it is a success model for certain groups and individuals and R2DToo wants to help similar groups from, by inspiring and consulting new communities. However, this model cannot be applied to all houseless needs.
- Need strategic advancement and solutions to houseless problems (zoning laws / development)
- Stepping stone to alleviating the burden of homelessness, but not the solution

### **Safety**

- Crime problems are parallel: (1) glad R2DToo will be part of the solution; (2) need to do more
- More Portland Police Bureau presence and strategic collaboration for overflow
- Houselessness does not equal crime
- Policing on east side
- Existing crime and harassment

### **Effective Implementation**

- Mental health care mobile, available
- Children (WIC/DHS) impact of formal vs. informal channels

- Tool sheds vs. tents
- City response to overflow
- Solution to sleep deprivation
- How do we properly train a group with heavy turnover to deal with a chemical spill?
- Health/sanitation concerns
- Health risks lead to cost impacts to houseless people, communities, the city, and the government
- Accessible facilities for waste management
- How can ESP maintain truck access at all hours?
- Spillover
- Concerns for tents vs. pods
- Terminology from “camps” to something like survivor bases
- Sidewalk
- Parking
- Access to services

### **The Bigger Picture**

- Want job training, education
- Will homeless concerns on the east side be alleviated or worsened by the move?
- Do tents meet the minimum standards for human rights? (tents v. trailers)
- Frustration with city – lack of neighborhood communication
- R2DToo part of the solution
- Bigger picture. More than 100 people
- Addiction treatment
- Need strategic advancement and solutions to houseless problems (zoning laws / development)
- Want permanent indoor solution
- How does this fit into the city’s long-term plan?
- R2DToo Model is a working model
- The R2DToo model greatly expands the city’s toolkit.