

Concordia Neighborhood Association



January 7th, 2022

Dear PPS Board Members,

The Concordia Neighborhood Association is writing on behalf of Concordia residents to request more information on the Whitaker/Adams Safe Rest Village (SRV) proposal. We understand the PPS Board typically undertakes a public engagement process when considering new projects at its properties. The proposed SRV is unique because it lies outside of PPS' stated mission. We are asking for more clarity on the proposal from Portland Commissioner Dan Ryan's team, engagement by PPS with the surrounding community, and updates on PPS' decision-making process **before a decision is made by the PPS Board.**

SRVs are currently prohibited from Open Space Zones and parks. Although the Whitaker/Adams site is zoned as CM2/R5, it is adjacent to Fern Hill park. After overwhelming public opposition to locating SRVs in parks (during S2HC zoning meetings) last year, language was added to prohibit SRVs in parks. It cites that these zones "include environmental resources that should not be disturbed" and that any selected area shall be for "recreation or open space purposes, which doesn't include housing, shelters or other types of development." Given the site's proximity to the park and its current use as an extension of the park, this proposal appears to conflict with the spirit of the SRV criteria.

In its siting criteria, the SRV team also notes that sites shall be "flat and paved." This site is currently a grassy field. What additional site preparation and expense will be required? Can these funds be better utilized in support of a site that is more readily available?

The most recently announced SRV in SW Portland, at the Sears Armory parking lot, is also receiving many questions from a nearby school and concerned parents about the lack of community involvement prior to site selection. We echo many of the questions posed by that school's principal to the City, particularly around community engagement, safety and long-term management. We also have a very similar situation with the De La Salle High School within a few blocks of the proposed Whitaker/Adams site.

Given the passions surrounding this issue throughout the City, we believe more community engagement and clarity are needed prior to decisions being made affecting the surrounding communities.

At the PPS Facilities and Operations Meeting, on Nov. 17, it was agreed that this topic be moved to a Board meeting for further discussion. An update on this proposed meeting date would be much appreciated.

We are asking for more public engagement prior to any decision being made **by the PPS Board** regarding the Whitaker/Adams site. We also ask that the Concordia Neighborhood Association be engaged on all **proposed future uses** of this site.

Thank you for your consideration,

Peter Keller, 2022 Chair
Concordia Neighborhood Association