

**FOSTER AREA
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

fosterarea.com



January 8, 2018

Mayor Ted Wheeler
Portland City Hall
1221 SW 4th Ave, Room 340
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I am writing on behalf of the Foster Area Business Association (FABA) regarding our meeting on Tuesday Jan. 9th at 6pm at Pieper Café (6504 SE Foster Rd). We look forward to meeting with Seraphie, and, as we said before, welcome you to attend as well.

As you know, since 2015 the City of Portland, at the direction of Commissioner Fish and in partnership with Venture Portland, has invested significantly in the economic success of the Foster Area Business District. The City's investment follows a decades-long legacy of structural neglect in East Portland. In spite of hardship, Foster business owners, through grit, creativity, and hard work, have helped make Foster Road the most vibrant and exciting growth area in East Portland. We hope that the City of Portland continues its commitment to the economic success of Foster businesses by working with us to serve our district, strengthen our economy, build a positive district identity and protect the most vulnerable in our community.

This a regularly scheduled FABA board meeting and we expect seven of eight board members to be present. Because our board meetings are open to our members, we also expect a limited number of Foster business owners to attend. However, as with all of our meetings, comments and questions are restricted to board members. We have scheduled 30 minutes at the beginning of the meeting for the shelter discussion.

We want this meeting to be as informational and productive as possible. To that end, we compiled a brief list of concerns and questions from Foster businesses after the December 18th community meeting and look forward to receiving specific answers to the following:

1. How does this shelter fit into the City's investment strategy in this area (Council approved Foster Transportation and Streetscape project, Lents Town Center URA, and the Catalytic Investment Initiative)? Does the funding for the shelter include resources for litter removal, graffiti abatement and reinforced police presence?
2. What studies on the economic impact of this shelter on area businesses were completed? What are your estimates for impact on neighborhood businesses and how will you and JOHS mitigate them?

3. Foster Area businesses are already burdened by a significant level of crime, with 1,504 offenses reported in our district (Foster-Powell/Mt. Scott) in the past year. In comparison, NE Broadway (Irvington, Grant Park and Sullivan's Gulch) had only 1,388 offenses over the same period. The Southwest Hills had less than 250. Has JOHS seen crime levels rise around shelters in other neighborhoods? What follow up can FABA and district businesses expect if they report an increase in crime in the district? Will the number of police foot patrols be increased in the area?
4. Many area businesses have expressed concern about needles and other biohazards keeping customers away. Will there be sharps containers or safe injection/safe consumption sites? What follow up can FABA and district businesses expect when they make a complaint about health/safety hazards?
5. In your FAQ you mention that "[behavioral] expectations will be set in cooperation with the school and will be strictly enforced." How is the city reaching out to nearby schools and preschools (including FABA members Arleta Elementary, Green Tulip Peace and Nature School, Junior Achievement, Mt. Scott Learning Center, and Wild Lilac Community Development) to help set behavioral expectations? How will other district businesses that can expect an impact (including businesses that sell alcohol and businesses close to the shelter like 7-Eleven, Bar Carlo, Bar Maven, FoPo Tavern, Mac's Automotive, N.W.I.P.A., Starday Tavern, Tango Berretin, TVG Volvo, and others) be involved in setting appropriate behavioral expectations? What follow up can FABA and district businesses expect when behavioral expectations are not adhered to?
6. At the 12/18 community meeting, you brought up the possibility of designating the Foster shelter "High Barrier" as a way to mitigate potential disruptions in the heart of our business district. What changes are entailed in making the shelter "High Barrier," and how do you expect that to mitigate potential economic impact on the street? How will your office and JOHS ensure that Foster Area businesses remain involved in changes to the shelter plan?

Thank you for your attention to these concerns. I look forward to a productive meeting on Tuesday.

Sincerely,



Matthew Micetic, *President*
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Cc: Seraphie Allen, Policy Advisor and Community Liaison, Mayor Ted Wheeler