

Mayor Wheeler  
Commissioner Saltzman  
Commissioner Eudaly  
Commissioner Fritz  
Commissioner Fish

The Lents Neighborhood Association Livability Committee would like to acknowledge and thank you for attending our Town Hall in April and your commitment to rectifying inequity in Lents as well as addressing the myriad of livability issues our community has faced ( especially in the last two years).

We have seen some recent improvement. The One Point of Contact system of reporting is working well, and Lucas Hillier has been responsive to illegal campsite challenges quickly and professionally. On the occasions where clean-ups have been highly coordinated, we've seen things return to a more normal, useable state for the general public for longer periods of time, with each successive clean up granting us a longer period of reprieve. This shows that these efforts are working.

Commissioner Saltzman and his staff have been extremely responsive to issues relating to illegal RV's and parking enforcement in Lents as well. The addition of no overnight parking signs to the perimeter of Lents Park has demonstrated that clearly designating areas where activities are not allowed is an effective deterrent to high-impact camping and RV use.

The addition of Rangers proposed by Commissioner Fritz is producing good results along the SWC and issues have been addressed quickly along the corridor with good coordination with One Point of Contact and Rangers.

We have seen some positive movement by Commissioner Eudaly's office identifying and addressing "Zombie houses" ~~as~~ as well. In places where fences have been installed, trespassing and other activities have been significantly curtailed. Once again, ~~we~~ we want to thank you for partnering with us on these issues.

We do however, have continual challenges regarding safety and livability in Lents -mainly around parks, schools and transportation ~~hubs~~ areas. Many of the problems can be traced to- unique multi-jurisdictional situations in Lents. We have ~~large~~-illegal camps with populations that exceed 20 people and are often up to 60 people ~~on~~ using public ODOT property as a private dwelling. ~~that~~ These camps continue to grow, our parks continue to be impacted by crime/illegal camping. Around our transportation hubs and on our trails, ~~and our transportation centers are also greatly impacted by~~ accessibility and safety challenges grow with these camps and frequently render the areas unusable for their intended purpose. ~~due to illegal camping.~~

After the Town Hall, the LNA Livability Committee was assured the city was working with ~~ODOT~~ ~~ODOT~~, ~~Trimet~~ ~~Trimet~~ and ~~as well as~~ city bureaus on to work on these multi-jurisdictional challenges. The Mayor's staff contacted us to inquire about the areas (specific ~~streets~~ ~~streets~~) around the schools most impacted by camps and biohazards and police began patrolling. Camps along the multi-use path near the school were addressed. Police served warrants at one camp and 18 people (several sex offenders) were arrested.

Unfortunately as soon as school ended camps sprang up along the MUP, parks, ~~and~~ ~~and~~ near MAX stations. Police patrols decreased and the biohazards are once again abundant. The camps along the footbridge to Lents School and near the Springwater Corridor ~~WC~~ are especially entrenched and unsafe. Children are still using the footbridge to access summer school and have walked through these camps all summer. ODOT is averaging six weeks in posting and clearing of camps. This is not acceptable.

Recently The Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association created a proposed ordinance which would designate "safe zones" around parks, schools, and other public areas frequented by minors. We fully support this proposal and ask the city to adopt this ordinance to create safe ~~and create a safety~~ zones in Lents. Last year

the LNA ~~created a proposal~~ sent a letter to the city which was similar and outlined areas which were ~~deemed~~ designated as inappropriate areas for camps, camping areas. They included ~~the our~~ town center, schools, parks, day cares, our boys and girls club, homes, natural areas, wetlands, and transportation areas – including the Springwater Trail and 205 Multi-use path. -

We are advocating and proposing that the city adopt safe zones along the MUP and Springwater Trail, parks, transportation hubs areas, schools, community centers and other areas designated for community use ~~public~~ areas. If you would like specific geographi sites we would be happy to provide them for you. It is imperative our children and community members are safe when walking to school, work and utilizing public spaces.

Sincerely,

Lents Neighborhood Association Livability Committee

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