

The Oregonian

Public isn't invited to Portland meeting on homelessness

By Brad Schmidt

April 25, 2016

The coalition that sued Mayor Charlie Hales last week over the proliferation of homeless camps is now upset that members aren't welcome at a closed-door meeting Monday about homelessness.

Hales is planning a meeting at 1 p.m. to discuss the city's "overall strategy to handle the influx of travelers" who flock to Portland during the summer, according to an email that Hales sent out.

Hales asked invited groups to bring two or three things that each is willing to contribute "to the overall success of the mission."

Not welcome? Safe & Livable Portland, which sued Portland last week over Hales' lax enforcement of camping. The coalition includes the Portland Business Alliance, Clean & Safe and the Pearl District Neighborhood Association.

Sara Hottman, a spokeswoman for Hales, said the meeting is focused on the North Park Blocks and participation is limited groups that were involved during similar meetings last year.

Hales' email, however, is being touted as a "Summer Livability Planning Session" and the North Park Blocks aren't referenced.

Keeping participation limited will also help the group stay focused and on track, according to the mayor's office. Hottman said the meeting was scheduled before the coalition filed its lawsuit last week.

"Everyone invited was identified as among the most productive members of last year's meeting," said Hottman, adding that she wasn't sure if Clean & Safe members were invited to last year's meeting.

Safe & Livable asked last Friday to attend today's meeting – which begins at 1 p.m. in The Portland Building – but was told "no."

"Thank you for your interest; this is not a public meeting, and only invited participants may attend," the mayor's office responded.

In an email Monday, Safe & Livable Portland said that none of its coalition members are invited but members would like to have representation.

"Closed door sessions are part of the problem with where we are as a community today," the group said.

The Daily Journal of Commerce

\$47M awarded for Portland affordable housing

By Chuck Slothower

April 22, 2016

The Portland Housing Bureau has awarded \$47 million in local and federal dollars to eight affordable housing projects, the agency announced Wednesday.

The awards follow the bureau's notice in October of available money, specifically \$61.6 million for project-based Section 8 vouchers. The notice also made five publicly-owned sites available for affordable-housing development.

Funding was awarded to projects backed by REACH, Home Forward, Central City Concern, and California-based developers Meta Housing Corp. and Bridge Housing Corp. The money will enable construction of 585 new affordable units, and preservation of 255 more through renovations, according to the Housing Bureau.

Of the new units, more than 120 are expected to house the lowest-income households – those earning up to 30 percent of median family income, or \$15,400 for an individual and \$24,300 for a family of four.

The projects are:

- **72Foster.** REACH will receive \$5 million to build 108 units on Portland Development Commission land in Lents. The project includes commercial space and resident services from the Asian Health & Services Center.
- **North Williams Center.** Bridge Housing Corp. was awarded \$4.5 million to develop 61 new affordable units for low-income families on Multnomah County property in the Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Area. The project involves a possible partnership with Albertina Kerr to provide programming for developmentally disabled residents.
- **The Creators Collective.** Meta Housing Corp. was awarded \$9 million to develop 76 new affordable units on the Housing Bureau-owned King/Parks site in the Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Area for very-low-income families, seniors and veterans.
- **Block 45.** Home Forward received \$5.6 million for a mixed-income, mixed-use development with 127 affordable units on Housing Bureau-owned property in the Oregon Convention Center Urban Renewal Area.
- **Interstate.** Central City Concern was awarded \$2.2 million to develop 51 new affordable units in the Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Area.
- **The Henry.** Central City Concern was also awarded \$12.9 million for seismic and capital renovations to preserve 153 single-room occupancy units in Portland's Central City.
- **Stark I & II.** Central City Concern was also awarded \$7 million to develop 162 new units on two adjacent parcels in the Hazelwood neighborhood.

- **Gladstone Square/Multnomah Manor.** Home Forward will receive \$1 million to renovate and preserve 102 affordable units serving low-income families in two of its complexes in the Lents and Montavilla neighborhoods.

The Housing Bureau also announced that Human Solutions has been granted an exclusive right to negotiate with the agency for a proposed mixed-use development on PDC-owned land in the Gateway Urban Renewal Area. As proposed, this project would include 40 affordable housing units. The actual mix of site uses – office, retail, housing and community services – will be determined through further negotiations, the bureau said.