

Questions from the Multnomah Neighborhood Association Meeting, Nov. 10, 2015

1. If this is really an emergency, wouldn't it be more cost effective to put up tents in all the city parks to shelter all of the 1,800 homeless, like what is done after earthquakes?
2. What is the cost of preparing the building for use as a homeless shelter?
3. What fraction of this cost would be unnecessary for its use as an emergency response center?
4. What would be the additional cost of removing or altering any features that were be inappropriate for an emergency response center?
5. What influence does the neighborhood have to include more families in the shelter?
6. How can the neighborhood stop the Sears Armory from being used as a homeless shelter?
7. Is the City going to provide additional security for the people who are living there?
8. Is the City going to provide more policing for the community, including the nearby West Hills Christian School?
9. Will the homeless shelter hire private security?
10. Is the City guaranteeing that the shelter will be closed at the end of six months?
11. Once people are dropped off for the night, is there any guarantee that they will all get on the shuttle buses and depart the next morning?
12. Why are people being bused in from their own home base to a neighborhood that is primarily a family neighborhood?
13. Will the homeless be able to line up at the door to get a room for the night or will the shelter only be available to people who are bused in?
14. Will Transition Projects be providing "wrap around" services to the people at the shelter?

Post-Meeting Questions and Request for Documentation

Public Process

- 1) What is the public process for deciding where to locate a homeless shelter?
- 2) Please provide an analysis of all the facilities being considered, including Wapato, if it was considered.
- 3) Has the decision been made to use the Sears Armory as a shelter?
- 4) What public outreach was done with local residents, local community groups, local property owners, and local business owners?
- 5) What input has the Multnomah Neighborhood Association, the Multnomah Village Business Association, or SWNI provided?
- 6) Whom did the Mayor's office contact to reach a decision?
- 7) Were adjacent property owners, such as Century Link, West Hills Christian School, and Safeway, contacted?
- 8) If the decision has been made, what public input was received and how was it incorporated into the decision?
- 9) If a decision has not been reached, what public outreach will occur and how will public input be incorporated into the decision?

Allowed Uses

- 10) What are the legally-allowed uses of the Sears Armory?
- 11) To date, has the City complied with all federally imposed terms of the property transfer?
- 12) What are the consequences if the City does not comply with the terms of the property transfer agreement?
- 13) Please provide correspondence with the federal government granting any exemption to the allowed uses of the property (granted exemption).
- 14) Please provide any correspondence with the federal government limiting the time frame to six months for a granted exemption.
- 15) What would be the consequences of an exceedance of the allowed time frame for a granted exemption?

16) What guarantee is there that the shelter will be permanently closed in six months?

Building Improvements

- 17) Please provide a list of building improvements that includes the project budgets, schedules, and contractors.
- 18) Please provide the budget and tasks that will be performed by City staff.
- 19) Is a commercial kitchen required for a six-month homeless shelter?
- 20) Please provide the plan for handling hazardous materials, such as asbestos, lead paint, and fuel contamination, at the site.

Shelter Management

- 21) Who is eligible to be housed at the shelter?
- 22) Is there a requirement that people be drug tested before they are admitted to the shelter?
- 23) Is there a requirement that people be enrolled in a documented program before they are given shelter?
- 24) Will the homeless be screened for mental illnesses before receiving shelter?
- 25) Please provide the statistics showing the success rate for the City, the County, and A Home for Everyone for moving this homeless demographic into permanent housing within a six-month period.
- 26) Please provide the resumes of the onsite manager and program lead, and set up a meeting with them.

Cost Benefit Analysis

- 27) Please provide an analysis of the benefits of opening a temporary shelter versus the costs to do so, including the start-up construction and set-up costs, as well as the likely short-term and long-term financial impacts to the local residents, businesses, and property owners.