Old Town Community Association/Pearl District Neighborhood Association (OTCA/PDNA) Joint Task Force **Implementation Committee** Presentation for **City Council**







Background and History

April 2018Joint Task Force created

May 2019

Finalized a set of recommendations to:

- Improve the quality of social services delivery for vulnerable populations in the two neighborhoods
- Improve public health and safety in the neighborhoods.





Joint Task Force Implementation Committee

- The Old Town/Pearl Joint Task Force Implementation Committee (JTFIC) was then formed with the charge to implement the Joint Task Force Recommendations.
- The goal of the JTFIC is to prioritize the recommendations adopted by the Old Town/Pearl Joint Task Force and work towards implementing those recommendations in both the short and long term.





Social Services Recommendation Themes

- Inclusion
- Education
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Enhanced Services



Public Safety & Livability Recommendations Themes

- Community Engagement
- Public-Private Health, Safety, and Livability Partnerships
- Law Enforcement & Criminal Justice
- Public Space Management





Public Space Management/Safety & Livability Partnerships

Recommendation:

- Start a Livability Team program, where community members gather together to address neighborhood cleanliness.
- Recruit and welcome a diverse range of residents to these teams.
- Improve effectiveness of resident-run neighborhood patrols by providing clear explanations of the role of these patrols, their codes of conduct, and how residents can participate.





Public Space Management/Safety & Livability Partnerships

Action Plan:

Collaboration between neighborhoods is underway.





Communication - Reporting on Violence

Recommendation:

 Provide training and tools to encourage neighborhood residents to document and report acts of violence to the Portland Police Bureau.





Communication - Reporting on Violence

Action Plan:

 Our plan is to work with agencies such as PPB Neighborhood Response Teams (NRT) & Portland United Against Hate (PUAH) to identify training programs and organize community training.





Community Engagement - Decoupling Criminality

Recommendation:

- Improve public knowledge and community-level discussion to help de-couple basic survival activities among people experiencing homelessness from criminal behavior.
- Help residents distinguish emergency from non-emergency situations and provide tools to respond to each.
- Help residents understand the legal and civil rights frameworks that apply to people experiencing homelessness.
- Offer trainings and engagement opportunities for residents and businesses toward deepening understanding and empathy for those experiencing homelessness, e.g. trauma, mental health, addiction, institutional racism.





Decoupling Criminality

Action Plan:

- Sarah Berkmeier & Sandra LeFrancois from Civic Life's Community Safety Program have joined the Implementation Committee.
- The Community Safety Program organizes and supports partnerships to build safe communities with programs like "Neighbors Together".
- Our team is working to identify educational programs and secure a venue to conduct community trainings and offer engagement opportunities for neighborhood residents and businesses.





Education - Social Service Open House Events

Recommendation:

 Hold periodic coordinated open-house events at non-profit service providers.



Education – Social Service Open House Events Action:

- Pursuing strategies aimed to make social services better coordinated and productive for all.
- We began our first series of Social Services Open House events in September.
- The 6th Open House will be held at Maybelle Center on March 31 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Social Services Open House Feedback

- "The tour of the building learning about all the different parts and services (simply seeing the spaces) was super helpful."
- "It was nice simply making connections."
- "Connections leading to staff collaboration among different providers."
- "Inspired to link more partners, i.e. CAP, Meals on Wheels."
- "Learning the common and unique services."
- "Moving from a sense of competition to a spirit of community of partnership."





Collaboration - Arts as Action

Recommendation:

 Create collaborations among galleries, artists, non-profits and people experiencing homelessness around various forms of visual and performing arts to enhance understanding and relationships in the neighborhood



Collaboration - Art as Action

- Poetry Readings
- Interactive Art Projects
- Art Classes (Pacific Northwest College of Art (PNCA)
- Art Shows (at PNCA, galleries, residential/commercial building lobbies etc.)
- Music Performances (at cafes, arts venues, schools, shelters etc.)
- Acting and Production
 Opportunities (skits at theater venue lobbies, schools etc.)







What's next...

- City Council continued support of community involvement
- Adopt a resolution to support the Implementation Committee's work
- Bring Implementation Committee back to City Council for ongoing updates





