

February 25, 2022

Dear Bend City Mayor Russell; Councilors Goodman-Campbell, Broadman, Campbell, Kebler, Perkins, and Schenkelberg; and City Manager Eric King,

The Bend Central District Business Association (BCDBA), representing the businesses and residents of the Bend Central District (BCD), have a clear, daily, short and long term interest in the livability, desirability, economic vitality and future of the Bend Central District. The City, in its planning, zoning and ongoing efforts over the last several years, has seemed aligned with the vision for this area. The City's efforts have led to significant private investment in the future growth of the District, but perhaps more importantly, a number of small businesses have already invested in the area over the past decades.

You are aware of the erosion of the current livability and viability of the District due to the economic, environmental and safety impacts resulting from the current, extensive and growing homeless encampments. You are likely also aware that the BCDBA was not in support of the use of the Rainbow Motel as a homeless shelter when it was originally proposed several months ago because it would not be in keeping with the vision of the District as put forward by the City and embraced by the current occupants of the area.

As the City has chosen to go ahead with the plan to purchase the Rainbow Motel and use it as a low barrier shelter, we now ask for the City to provide, in writing, a plan and a commitment to the District so we can believe that that City remains in partnership with the businesses and residents who call this area our home and continue to invest our hearts and dollars into the area.

- Do you have a statement of intent for use of the Rainbow?
- What is the exact timeframe for use of the Rainbow as a shelter?
- Please clarify the exact usage of the Rainbow in terms of number of residents, sheltering requirements, security, supervision, staffing, maintenance, etc.
- How do you foresee transitioning away from its use as a shelter? Where will you move residents once you close it?
- When will you remove the current encampments within the BCD?
- How will you continue to keep encampments from the area? Will you create updated policies accordingly?
- Do you maintain the vision that the City has built for the BCD over the last many years, or is that vision changing now that you are starting to create homeless services within the District?

Please feel free to provide a letter or series of comments back to the Bend Central District via email to: [info@bendcentral.org](mailto:info@bendcentral.org). Our next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 16. We'd very much like to be able to update our constituents with your response at that time.

We appreciate your honesty and partnership as we move forward.

Sincerely,

Bend Central District Business Association Board of Directors

- Kurt Alexander, President, Petrich Properties
- Brad Irwin, Treasurer, Oregon Spirit Distillers
- Mary Angelo, Secretary, DVA Advertising & Public Relations
- Charlie Thiel, Member, Open Space Event Studios
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