



Office of Mayor Ted Wheeler
City of Portland

Old Town Chinatown Community Association
Via Email

February 2, 2017

Dear Old Town Chinatown Community Association:

Thank you for your letter to Mayor Wheeler regarding R2DToo and PDC's acquisition of property at NW 4th Avenue and W Burnside. The Mayor asked me to respond.

The Mayor appreciates your concern for R2DToo and your confidence that the City will be able to find a new location for it. He shares your view that R2DToo provides valuable service. He is committed to expanding the City and County response to homelessness to include alternatives to homelessness and traditional shelter.

There are a few reasons he not prepared to support your request for PDC to waive the requirement for R2DToo to relocate prior to PDC acquisition of the NW 4th and Burnside site. First, serving as R2DToo's landlord is outside PDC's mission. For that reason, PDC's Board of Commissioners has been clear that PDC should not purchase the site unless R2DToo has relocated. Second, there is liability associated with the PDC taking ownership of the site while there is an active legal complaint about R2DToo at that location. Finally, PDC acquisition of the site could reduce the likelihood of an orderly relocation, as the modest traction that has been achieved for relocation proposals has been due to pending sale requiring it.

The Mayor understands the importance of the site as a gateway to the New Chinatown/Japantown district. New design standards and the design review process are in place to guide development of the site whether publicly or privately sponsored. The Mayor believes Old Town Chinatown Community Association can effectively engage with developers to achieve appropriate development on the site. PDC resources allocated via the Action Plan continue to be available for investment on this site and other strategic opportunities within the district to realize community supported development objectives.

Thank for participating in the direction of your community and taking time to share your position with Mayor Wheeler. He looks forward to a continued successful partnership.

Sincerely,



Kyle Chisek

Director of Bureau Relations, Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler