



October 25, 2016

The Honorable Dan Saltzman  
1221 SW 4th Avenue Room 230  
Portland, OR 97204

Commissioner Saltzman:

I am writing to communicate the Portland Business Alliance's position in regard to the Haven for Hope homeless shelter model and Terminal 1. As you know, the Alliance, on behalf of our almost 1,900 members, has expressed support for the Haven for Hope service model while also raising objections to the long-term use of Terminal 1 as the permanent location for this use. Neither of those positions has changed.

The business community has long supported efforts to address homelessness in our community. Many of our members and their employees donate their time and financial support to the many skilled service providers that work directly with vulnerable populations. Our members have also offered up space in privately owned buildings to provide indoor shelter for those in need. Finally, both the Alliance and our members have provided the first job to individuals who are newly in stabilized housing. Yet, we still think there are opportunities to do more.

We sincerely appreciate Homer Williams for initiating a conversation about creating a Portland version of Haven for Hope. His efforts have made it clear that there is a need and desire among many stakeholders to do more to address Portland's homeless crisis. We want to see that conversation continue.

Unfortunately, the focus on Terminal 1 has created an obstacle to moving this concept forward. The site has been roundly objected to and now faces legal challenges. As a result, we support de-coupling Haven for Hope from Terminal 1. By doing so, our hope is that Homer and his supporters can build on the momentum that he has created to move the Haven for Hope concept forward.

As you know, the Alliance is working with community and government partners to identify a short list of locations that can be considered for temporary and permanent locations for shelters and services. We believe that this process has the potential to identify alternative locations suitable for Haven for Hope.

The business community is united in its desire to make progress on addressing homelessness, which we understand is a complex endeavor given the variety of issues and challenges each unique individual faces. We have been and will remain at the table building on the progress that has been made in a manner that everyone can get behind.

Sincerely,

Sandra McDonough  
President & CEO

*Greater Portland's Chamber of Commerce*