

DRAFT

January 8, 2015

Traci Manning
Portland Housing Bureau
421 SW Sixth Avenue #500
Portland, OR 97204

RE: East Portland Community Housing Needs

Dear Traci,

The East Portland Action Plan (EPAP) was created by the City of Portland to improve the livability of East Portland neighborhoods. The EPAP Housing Subcommittee would like you to take greater consideration the housing needs of East Portland. We are particularly concerned about two matters: declining PHB investment in East Portland and so called “opportunity mapping.”

PHB Investment in East Portland

EPAP has used the city’s budget mapping data to track expenditures from six key bureaus. For the last three years PHB investment in East Portland has declined from \$15 million to \$13.9 million. PHB is the only bureau that is spending less here since the beginning of budget mapping. Considering spending on a per capita basis, PHB’s performance is the worst of any bureau.

Opportunity Mapping

Instead of using budget mapping to redirect funding to East Portland, PHB has chosen to use opportunity mapping to further disadvantage our neighborhoods. PHB has chosen to allocate \$1 million in FY2015 to opportunity areas and proposes allocating \$5 million in FY2016. The city has rightfully found \$20 million to address displacement in North/Northeast Portland; EPAP believes that a similar investment should be made to address the critical housing problems in East Portland such as derelict housing, foreclosures and homelessness.

Request

The EPAP Housing Subcommittee would like to continue to dialog with PHB toward reaching common ground. We would like PHB to use the Office of Equity and Human Rights Budget Equity Tool to assess policies such as opportunity mapping. Also, in our meeting with you in August 2014, you indicated that you would be willing to send a PHB representative to the EPAP Housing Subcommittee meetings. To that end, we request that you designate a PHB representative to attend our meetings beginning in March 2015 or earlier. The EPAP Housing Subcommittee meets at 6:00pm on the second Monday of each month at EPNO.

Sincerely,

Jean DeMaster

Frieda Christopher
EPAP Housing Subcommittee Co-Chairs

Arlene Kimura

Jeremy O'Leary
Co-Chairs on behalf of the East Portland Action Plan