



CITY OF
Vancouver
WASHINGTON

Proposed Safe Stay Community Information Session

Nov. 3, 2022

Meeting Agenda

- Review community engagement and feedback
- Staff's recommendation
- Next steps and timeline
- Council feedback and direction

Community Engagement

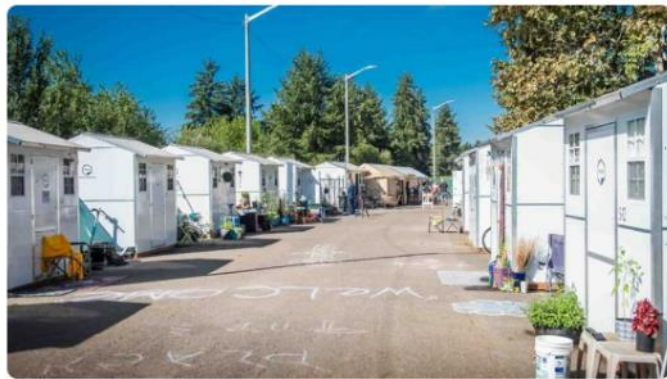
- Postcards mailed to 2,234 addresses
- Mayor hand delivered 100 postcards to businesses/homes surrounding property
- Community engagement events
 - October 15 – 38 attendees
 - October 19 – 24 attendees
 - October 25 – 60 attendees
 - November 3 – 26 attendees

Community Engagement

- 5 tours of existing Safe Stay Communities given to downtown neighbors
- Individual in-person/phone meetings with several neighbors/business owners
- In-person meeting with group of 20 neighbors/downtown stakeholders

What We've Heard from the Community

- More than 185 comments via:
 - Email/phone
 - Be Heard Vancouver
 - Social media
 - Facebook, Instagram, Nextdoor and Reddit
- More than 140 people have attended community information sessions



City Seeks Feedback on Proposed Downtown Safe Stay Community. The City is proposing the property at 415 W. 11th Street in downtown Vancouver as a potential location for our third Safe Stay Community for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. The City believes that this location would be a good fit for a Safe Stay Community. See more...



Safe Stay 3
beheardvancouver.org

Posted to Subscribers of City of Vancouver



24 · 3,393 Impressions



Like



30 Comments



Share

Themes from Community Input

- Community members expressed a diversity of viewpoints
- Many people had thoughtful questions and wanted to learn more
- Several common themes also emerged from community input:



Safety for Everyone

Community members have frequently mentioned safety in all forms:

- Safety for Safe Stay residents, neighbors, employees and visitors
- Importance of screening and application process
- Concerns about crime
- Differing opinions about what will make us safer



Differing Views on How to Address Homelessness

Many community members have said that they support community efforts to:

- Get people off the street and into permanent housing
- Connect people to vital services
- Treat people experiencing homelessness with dignity
- Reduce negative community impacts of unsheltered homelessness



Differing Views on How to Address Homelessness

Some community members have expressed concerns that a Safe Stay Community will:

- Lead to more unsanctioned camping downtown
- Encourage unhoused people from other communities to come to Vancouver
- Discourage people from visiting downtown
- Negatively impact businesses or property values
- Increase crime



Location-Specific Feedback

Community members have also shared differing views about the proposed location

- Some feel that a Safe Stay Community should not be located downtown, near businesses, near multifamily housing, within walking distance of Esther Short Park, near the Farmers Market, or within city limits
- Others feel that it would help support an inclusive community that connects people to services in an area where people are already living unsheltered



Site Design

A few community members have also expressed concerns about the design of a Safe Stay Community in the proposed location

- Concerns about parking and sidewalk access
- The need to maintain privacy for Safe Stay residents and neighbors
- Some have also asked for fencing and design options that they feel would better match with neighborhood character



Staff's Recommendation to the City Council

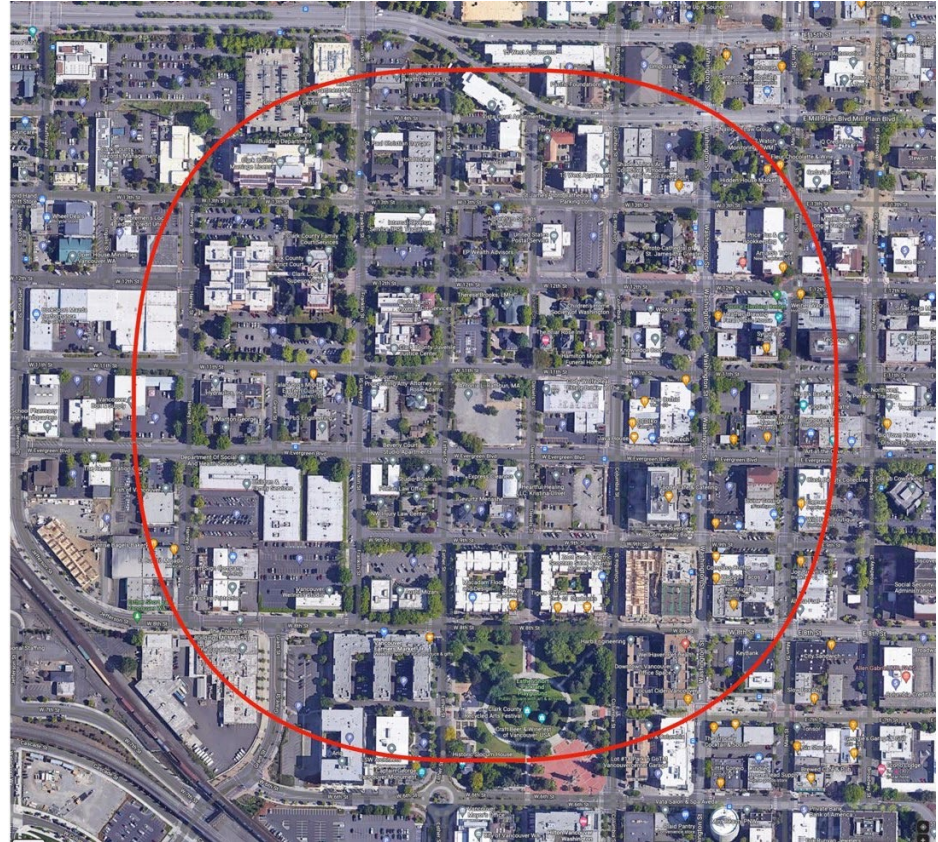
- Staff recommends that 415 W. 11th St. is an appropriate location for a Safe Stay Community
- This decision is based on a thorough evaluation of criteria established by the City Council:
 - Public transit access
 - Equity
 - Economic vulnerability
 - Local need



Addressing Neighborhood Concerns

If we move forward with this site:

- Public camping will be banned within 1,000 feet of the Safe Stay Community
- The ban will be enforced by VPD and HART



Addressing Neighborhood Concerns

- Safe Stay Communities act as more eyes and ears in the neighborhood
- Prioritize unsheltered neighbors in the immediate vicinity first, and then other unsheltered Vancouver residents, for entry
- Sites managers provide stabilizing supports and services to their residents
- Aligns with City's work towards a more equitable, accessible, and inclusive community

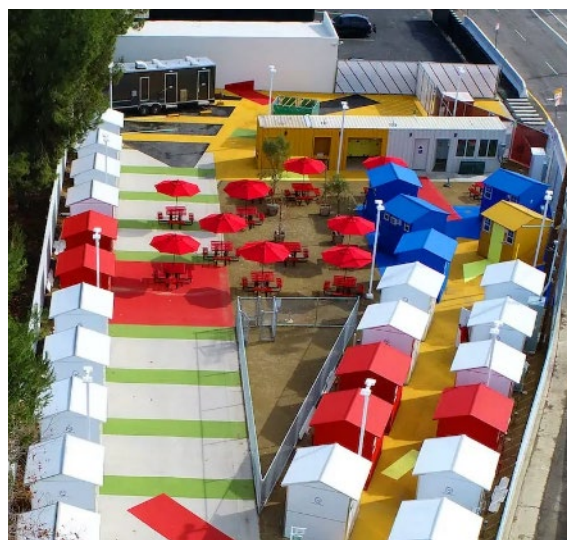
What Happens Next?

A draft site plan will be finalized to include:

- Shelter locations
- Common spaces
- A parking area
- Lighting
- Fencing and design options







What Happens Next?

A resource guide will be available to neighbors with relevant links and contact information for:

- Outsiders Inn
- HART
- District One Neighborhood Police Officer
- Talkin' Trash

A Safe Stay Community in Your Neighborhood: Resources for Neighbors



Vancouver is facing an increase in the number of people who are living unsheltered in our community. As one strategy to address this challenge, the City is planning to provide Safe Stay Communities in several neighborhoods in Vancouver. The plan calls for up to three sites in the next year. A Safe Stay Community has been identified in or near your neighborhood, located on City-owned property at 4915 E. Fourth Plain Blvd. This document is designed to help answer your questions and provide you with some resources to address concerns that may come up around the Safe Stay Community.

Background

- There is broad concern about homelessness in Vancouver. Many of us see some of our most vulnerable residents living unsheltered, enduring extreme weather situations and needing support and stabilization as they seek a path forward for their lives.
- There are a variety of reasons why people might find themselves living unsheltered. Some people are experiencing homelessness because of a lack of affordable housing or employment security, while others struggle with mental illness, substance abuse, or a long-term disability.
- In addition to concern for the safety and dignity of people living unsheltered, there are also concerns about the impact that homelessness is having on livability in our community. The City shares community concerns about safety, trash, hygiene, waste and fire hazards and is working to address these needs.
- The City is partnering with Clark County, local service providers, neighborhoods and community leaders to continue to address the crisis of homelessness in our community.
- To address the immediate challenges of homelessness, the City is pursuing three approaches at the same time:
 1. Establish Safe Stay Communities for the most vulnerable
 2. Expand permanent shelter capacity
 3. Increase the supply of income-based housing
- When selecting a Safe Stay Community location, the City considers the following guidelines:
 - Dispersing Safe Stay Communities equitably throughout the city
 - Access to public transit
 - Potential impacts on residential areas with heightened economic vulnerability
- Public camping is not allowed within 1,000 feet of a Safe Stay Community.
- The City's first Safe Stay Community opened in December 2021, at 11400 N.E. 51st Circle in northeast Vancouver. Since its opening, the community has successfully provided its residents with referrals for permanent housing, job placement support and access to critical health and treatment services necessary to exit homelessness.
- For more information about all the Safe Stay Communities in Vancouver, visit www.cityofvancouver.us/safe-stay-community
- For Frequently Asked Questions related to Homelessness in Vancouver, visit www.cityofvancouver.us/homelessnessFAQs
- If you would like to volunteer, donate clothing or help provide food or meals for Safe Stay residents, please contact the onsite service provider, **Living Hope Church**, using the contact information on the next page.

Potential Timeline



November

- November 7: City Council discusses
- If approved, construction begins



December

- Site preparation and construction continue



January

- Community Open House
- Safe Stay Community opens in mid-January 2023

Council Discussion

- Questions and/or Feedback?