

Crime & Safety In The North Park Blocks

CONCERNED CITIZENS AND BUSINESSES

We are now experiencing an unprecedented influx of crime led by gangs of drug dealers as well as abnormally large numbers of mentally ill and drug addled vagrants threatening our safety.

This is not an indictment of the homeless community, instead an attempt to shine a light on a growing and vibrant criminal element who are smart and organized - taking advantage of the truly indigent and needy.

We have reached a tipping point as
a City and we need immediate
action...

1. Safety

- It is common-place to be harassed and physically threatened as you walk through our once vibrant neighborhoods.
- There is open drug dealing, drinking, drug use, fights and other disturbances.
- Inebriated individuals often collapse on the sidewalks.
- Thieves brazenly cut the locks off bicycles in broad daylight, and break into cars right outside our windows.
- We can no longer advise visitors to walk a few blocks from their downtown hotel to our businesses or allow our children to play in the park, for fear of their safety.

2. Sanitation

- We are finding human feces, used (potentially infected) drug needles, bottles filled with urine and used tampons in our doorways and in our parking lots.
- The park and streets are filling with trash, and there is a noticeable stench in the area.
- People are freely having sex in wide open areas - in our doorways of our buildings and on makeshift beds they have created on the street and in the park.

Park & Davis









3. Financial losses

- The residents of this neighborhood have made substantial investments in their homes and businesses, and pay considerable taxes to the city of Portland.
- This situation negatively impacts the value of our holdings and is already affecting the foot traffic into our business establishments, driving our customers away.
- This directly affects the city coffers - for without our prosperity, there is less money to effectively run the city.

R2C Group Entryway - Park and Davis



R2C Group Entryway - Park & Davis



4. Threat to Portland's reputation

- Portland was on its way to becoming a premier city to visit and to live. However it is now an embarrassment to bring out-of-town visitors to the downtown area - especially our parks. Visitors particularly this summer - are shocked at the condition of our once fine city.
- There are two hotels under construction on the North Park Blocks. Imagine the impact of visitors seeing a city that now resembles a third-world country? The viability of these projects could well depend on solving this problem.
- The situation is reaching a point where residents and neighborhood businesses will have to consider relocating for the safety and health of their families, employees and customers.
- Bad press is coming. The next NY Times article may not focus on our fine food and wine, but instead the disgusting stench and lack of safety in our city.
- Once the reputation of our city is impugned, it will be very difficult to get it back. We must act soon!

Immediate Requests:

- Create near term housing for truly needy - repurpose Wapato Facility as a pilot program
- Allow Police to enforce existing laws in our parks and on our streets (no camping and sanitation)
- Create “Drug Impact Area” of ½ mile radius around North Park Blocks and work to eliminate drug dealing in Park
- Schedule a Citywide Town Hall forum - to discuss long term solutions

In Park at Burnside



In Park near Burnside



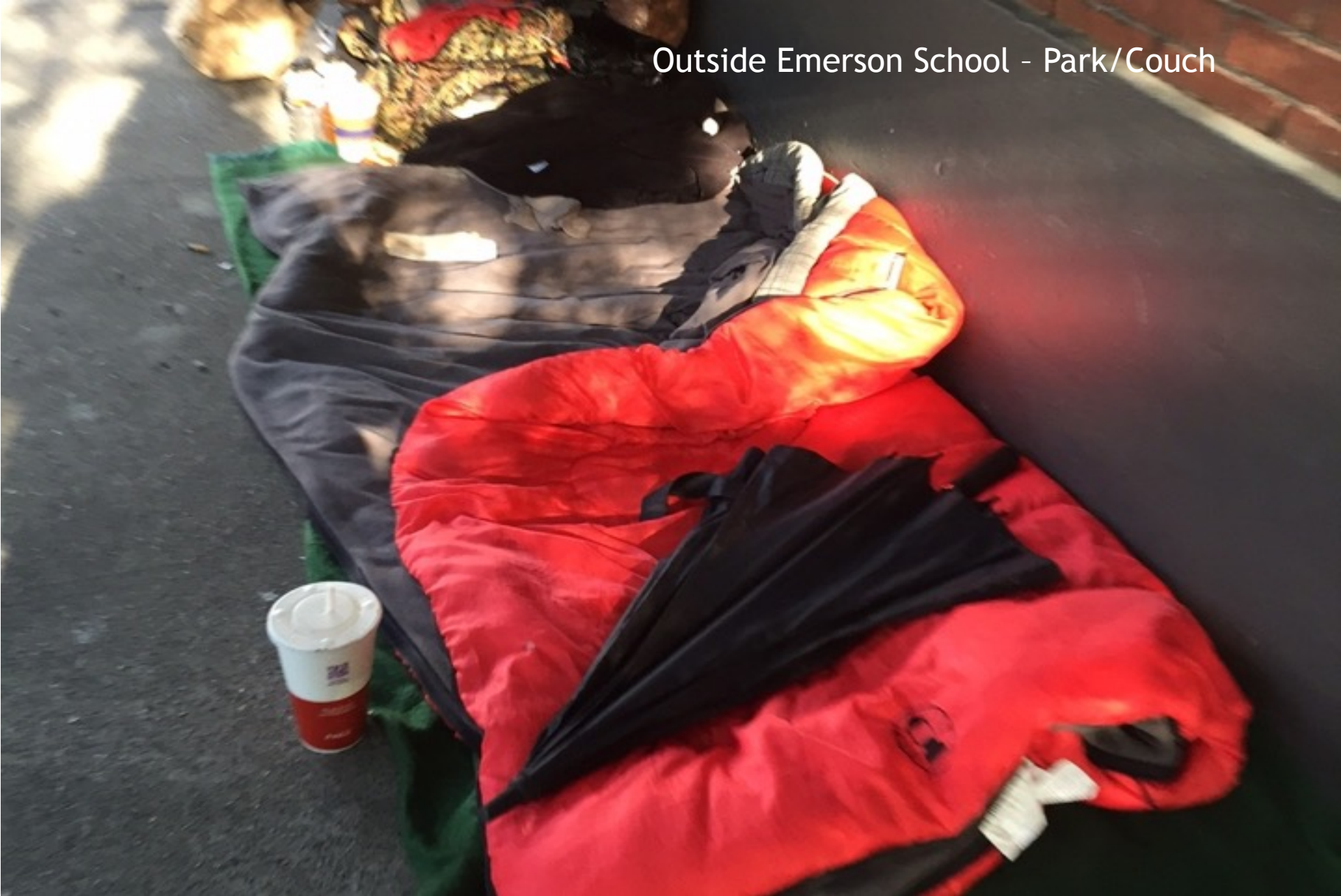
In Park near Burnside







Outside Emerson School - Park/Couch





Park &
Everett

Playground outside of Emerson School





Heroin Addicts shooting up in Park







Known Drug Dealer - Flanders & Park

