

Communication from Public

Name: Patricia O'Toole
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Council File No: 22-4118-S14

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Council Members: I write in support of the subject Resolution, particularly with respect to Item 17, 1270 Alfred St. (Preuss Post Office) - Public Safety. The Preuss Post Office is an extremely busy location, with a lot of vehicle and foot traffic at least six days/week. The encampment was located on the sidewalk in front of the post office (and then moved to the rear of the post office). In both locations, it created a hazardous situation for vehicles entering the post office parking lot, for neighborhood residents walking to and from the post office, and for the occupants of the encampment itself. Some occupants of the encampment posed a threat to passers-by, physically accosting some and verbally threatening others. All of the occupants posed a health threat as well, as there are/were no public restroom facilities available to them, so they used the nearby landscaping instead. Petty crime increased in the neighborhood as the encampment grew. The occupants were observed with an ever-increasing supply of stolen bicycles, and they tapped into DWP light standards to power the electric grinders they were using to remove locks from those bicycles (and presumably to charge their cell phones and power other equipment in their encampment). I am sympathetic to the plight of homeless people, but this very large and growing encampment was neither safe nor sanitary for the occupants or for the post office's staff, customers and neighbors. I urge you to approve the Resolution. Thank you.
Patricia O'Toole