



**NORTHEAST COALITION  
OF NEIGHBORHOODS**

Mayor Ted Wheeler  
1221 SW 4th Ave # 340  
Portland, OR 97204

July 29, 2018

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

As a partner in the 2017/18 Clean Start PDX pilot for NE, the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods (NECN) has been pleased to see the program recognized by your office. In just over a year the Clean Start PDX program has become a shining example of a public private partnership that effectively and economically addresses a pressing city problem—waste created in NE including by those who are houseless—and which provides meaningful employment and a path from houselessness for the workers. NECN asks that we find a way for this program to continue through next fiscal year.

In the 11-month pilot in Northeast Portland over 55,000 bags of trash and 3,400 needles were removed from the Lloyd and Eliot neighborhoods, two of our member neighborhoods that are most heavily impacted by the growth and spread of those who are houseless. This program is making a substantial difference in the quality of life for housed, houseless and business neighbors alike, particularly in NE where limited resources such as shelters are available.

NECN and our member neighborhoods appreciate your support to make the pilot program a reality. We ask that your office help us secure the needed gap funding of \$90,000 to continue this program next year and help find a sustainable long-term funding solution. NECN recognizes the need to not only continue this program, but expand it to the Sullivan's Gulch neighborhood as soon as possible.

The waste created by our houseless neighbors, who lack resources to appropriately deal with their waste, is not a problem confined to the central city and industrial areas. As a bicycle commuter who rides through Sullivan's Gulch, Irvington, and Lloyd daily I can personally attest that waste from camps is a problem that is spreading out from corridor areas. Now more than ever we need the vital service provided by Clean Start PDX to equitably support residents and businesses in NE as well the central city.

It is both imperative and equitable that this program is continued in NE so that the cleanup of trash and needles does not fall disproportionately to the residents and small businesses of the Lloyd and Eliot neighborhoods. We thank you for considering our request to support vital work of Clean Start PDX in NE which promotes the health, safety and livability of our NE neighbors.

Sincerely,

Mariah Dula  
President of the Board  
Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods