



May 4, 2017

Mayor Ted Wheeler  
Commissioner Chloe Eudaly  
Commissioner Nick Fish  
Commissioner Amanda Fritz  
Commissioner Dan Saltzman  
Mike Abbaté, Director, Portland Parks and Recreation

**RE: Purchase of land adjacent to Washington High School Community Center site**

Dear Mayor Wheeler, City Commissioners, and Director Abbaté,

The Hosford-Abernethy Neighborhood District (HAND) board has endorsed the letter written by SE Uplift requesting action to purchase the 1.3 acre parcel that Portland Public Schools owns between SE Alder and SE Morrison on SE 14th (attached). The City of Portland has first right of refusal on that parcel, and we urge the City to purchase it.

Inner SE Portland has long been parks deficient, in part because parcels such as this are in such short supply. As the population and density in this part of the city continues to grow, the need for increased public open space will become ever more pressing. Since this parcel is adjacent to the site of the planned Washington High School Community Center, it is truly a unique opportunity. The City should not let it pass.

If at a future date it is decided that the city does not want to move ahead with using this parcel for a park or community center, there are many other potential uses for it, including city-run affordable housing, or swapping this parcel with another more in the heart of the Central Eastside for use as: a park, affordable housing, public services, an emergency evacuation area, etc. Regardless of its final use, having purchased this Washington High School parcel now will undoubtedly prove itself a financially wise investment for the city.

We therefore urge you to act now to purchase this parcel from PPS before this opportunity is gone forever.

Yours sincerely,

Susan E. Pearce  
Chair, Hosford-Abernethy Neighborhood District

cc: Southeast Uplift Board of Directors