# PDX PitStops

### By: Katherine Kalpakis, BSW, CADCI, QMHA Homelessness and Urban Camping Impact Reduction Program, OMF, BIBS

#### Proposal

The purpose of this proposal is to request a six-month pilot program that would include purchasing mobile restroom facilities to be placed in strategic locations within the City of Portland; to directly address public health concerns related to the increased exposure of the public to human waste. Additionally, it will reduce costs associated with biohazard clean up, increase human dignity, and protect the safety and livability of Portland neighborhoods. This proposal purchases two mobile restroom trailers and contracts with Central City of Concern (CCC) and HoneyBucket to manage restroom use and appropriately dispose of waste(water).

#### Problem Statement

The City of Portland's One-Point-of-Contact system receives hundreds of citizen complaints a day, many of these are reports of human waste on sidewalks, in city parks and natural areas, and even on private property.

Neighborhoods in Southeast Portland have high populations of individuals experiencing homelessness. These neighborhoods also lack service providers who make restroom and sanitation facilities available to these individuals. Lack of restroom facilities compromises an already vulnerable homeless community, and threatens the health, safety, and livability of our neighborhoods. While long term solutions are necessary, the City must quickly address public health threats associated with lack of sanitation facilities for these populations.

#### Objectives

- Address public health hazards including public exposure to human waste
- Provide restroom and handwashing stations to homeless residents of Portland
- Reduce the costs of cleaning human waste off City Property

#### **Intended Benefits**

- Reduction of biohazard exposure
- Access to crucial sanitation services for homeless individuals
- Increasing livability for Portland communities
- Mitigation of future environmental impact

## The restroom trailers and CCC would provide:

- (3) Restroom stalls (one ADA compliant)
- Hot water and soap for handwashing
  - Bags for trash collection and disposal
- Sharps containers for discarded needles

Restrooms would be available Thursday through Monday from 7:00am to 3:00pm. These times are strategically chosen to offer facilities when service providers are closed are unavailable. The restroom trailers would be driven to a specific location every morning, cleaned on site, and then transported and stored at a lock facility daily. Staffing costs include having a social services attendant on site at all times to connect individuals to resources, and to ensure appropriate use of the facilities.

| DESCRIPTION                                     | COST      |
|---|-----------|
| (2) 16' 2 station restroom trailers             | \$76,000  |
| Central City Concern – Personnel/Operation Cost | \$48,325  |
| HoneyBucket Waste Water Disposal                | \$16,000  |
| (2)3000-Watt Industrial Generator               | \$2,878   |
| Generator Operating Cost (2)                    | \$1,300   |
| 10% Contingency                                 | \$14,450  |
| TOTAL   | \$158,953 |
| One Time Investment                             | \$78,872  |
| 6-Month Operating Cost                          | \$80,081  |



#### Proposed Site(s)

*Industrial Inner SE* :Within the highlighted area, the most common location for individuals to use restroom facilities is the Buckman Field port-o-potty and the port-o-potty under the Hawthorne bridge. Both facilities lie outside the highlighted area on the map below and are approximately 0.8-mile walk depending on your location in the neighborhood. Individuals reported that if unable to make it to these facilities they preferred using portable containers, and disposing of the container along the street or in business dumpsters or sewers. Some respondents reported accessing restrooms inside St. Francis Dining Hall and City Team Ministries but cited limited hours for bathrooms at both facilities. Individuals reported some access to the bathroom at Jackson's Shell Gas Station.

After review and analysis of restrooms in industrial inner SE, we have determined the most strategic placement location of a mobile restroom trailer would be within the highlighted yellow area in the map below.



Portland Bathroom Audit – SE Industrial



*Lents*: Within the Lents neighborhood, there are currently only two privately-owned bathroom facilities. Individuals must use natural areas, and public and private property as restrooms. The only service provider with bathroom facilities is currently inoperable due to fire.

After review and analysis of restrooms in the Lents neighborhood, we have determined the most strategic placement location of a mobile restroom trailer would be within the highlighted yellow area in the map below.

