



Downtown Service Consolidation Public Involvement Summary

The county is considering a 76,000 square foot lease offer in the Lincoln Building (421 SW Oak St.) for the McCoy Building's Health Department, including the Westside Health Center and associated uses. The Lincoln Building currently houses programs of the Department of County Human Services and some administrative offices of the Health Department in 100,000 square feet. This lease agreement would also give the county a purchase option for the entire Lincoln Building. If the county decided to exercise that option and to purchase the building, it would also allow the Mead building occupants to move and both the Mead and McCoy Buildings to be sold.

The public involvement process began the week of February, 12, 2007. A team was assembled to create and implement a public involvement plan and included representatives from:

- Chair's Office
- Commissioner Rojo de Steffey's Office
- Multnomah County Department of Community Justice
- Multnomah County Facilities & Property Management
- Multnomah County Health Department
- Multnomah County Department of Human Services
- Multnomah County Public Affairs Office

Strategies for public outreach included:

- one-to-one discussions with community and business leaders
- contact with community groups and surrounding businesses
- dissemination of flyers
- information posted on the county website
- public open house
- media release
- comments accepted via email, fax, telephone or through written comment forms
- meetings and tours of the Lincoln Building conducted with union representatives and key department staff
- two brown bag Q & A sessions for employees with the county Chair

Contact was made with the following:

- Citizens Crime Commission
- Downtown Neighborhood Association
- Housing Authority of Portland
- Local Public Safety Coordinating Council
- Mayor Potter and Portland City Commissioners
- Multnomah County District Attorney Mike Schrunk
- Multnomah County Sheriff's Office
- Old Town/Chinatown Neighborhood Association
- Portland Business Alliance

- Portland Development Commission
- Portland Office of Neighborhood Involvement Crime Prevention
- Portland Police Central Precinct Commander Reese
- Portland Police Chief Sizer
- Public Safety Action Council
- Representatives of downtown real estate and development concerns
- Surrounding businesses and property owners
- TriMet and TriMet Police
- Union leadership: Local 88, FOPPO, and ONA

Summary of Community Response

Community leaders and other stakeholders responded with statements of support and generally expressed no concerns about the project. One nearby business voiced concern stemming from their previous proximity to a liquor store and the resulting “people hanging around.” A community group raised the issue of providing a smoking area to keep the sidewalks more passable. Another business hoped that the relocation of Community Justice would yield more security on the street. Questions were raised about the funding for this project, given other county priorities such as mental health services, Wapato and the downtown Courthouse.

Attachments

- A. Fact Sheet
- B. Media Release
- C. Comment Form



Proposed Lincoln Building Purchase McCoy and Mead Buildings Relocation

Multnomah County needs to replace the McCoy (426 SW Stark St.) and Mead (421 SW Fifth Ave.) Buildings in downtown Portland due to high maintenance and operating costs, inefficient space and the cost of deferred maintenance.

The county is currently considering a 76,000 square feet lease offer with owners of the Lincoln Building (421 SW Oak St.) for the McCoy Building's Health Department, including the Westside Health Center and associated uses. The Lincoln Building currently houses programs of the Department of County Human Services and some administrative offices of the Health Department in 100,000 square feet.

The county is also considering a purchase option for the Lincoln Building, allowing Mead building occupants to move and both the Mead and McCoy Buildings to be sold. Under this option, the county will maintain the same overall operating costs, while investing in a building that is on the transit mall and easily accessible. When deferred maintenance issues are factored in, this move will provide enhanced public services and will save public funds over the next twenty years.

The Lincoln Building is located just one block north of the McCoy and Mead Buildings. The McCoy houses the county's Health Department, including administrative staff and clinic operations. The Mead Building houses Department of Community Justice parole and probation staff and services. Both departments have been in the downtown core for about two decades. Co-locating department programs offers comprehensive services for clients and patients and opportunities for streamlining services and reducing costs.

Public Open House

March 7, 2007

5:00 pm to 6:30 pm

McCoy Building

426 SW Stark Street

10th Floor

Portland, Oregon 97204

Board of County Commissioners Meeting

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners will hear public testimony at a Board meeting in the next month. The date will be announced by public notice.



MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON

March 1, 2007

Contact: Rhys Scholes, 503-988-5273

Open house planned for March 7

Event will focus on Multnomah County's proposal to purchase building, consolidate downtown services

Multnomah County invites community input on a proposal to consolidate most of the county's downtown services in a single location. The county is considering the purchase of the Lincoln Building (421 SW Oak Street) and subsequent sale of the Mead Building (421 SW Fifth Ave.) and McCoy Building (426 SW Stark St.) The Lincoln Building is located just one block north of the Mead and McCoy Buildings.

The Lincoln Building currently houses the Department of County Human Services and some Health Department administrative offices. The Mead Building is occupied by the Department of Community Justice. The Health Department's administrative offices and downtown health clinics are located at the McCoy Building.

The Board of County Commissioners originally considered leasing space at the Lincoln Building for Health Department functions, but owing to the high cost of tenant improvements associated with medical uses, indicated that a further expansion in the Lincoln Building should be owned. An owned building would allow further consolidation with the relocation of the Department of Community Justice programs located in the Mead Building.

According to Multnomah County Chair Ted Wheeler, "Greater cooperation and flexibility among county programs will serve clients and patients more effectively and invest scarce public resources more efficiently. This proposal meets both of those goals."

The Open House will be held:
Wednesday, March 7, 2007
5:00 pm to 6:30 pm
McCoy Building
426 SW Stark Street
10th Floor
Portland, Oregon 97204

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