

# Preserve Neighborhood Livability

## Take Back 82nd

### SEPTEMBER 15<sup>th</sup> TOWN HALL MEETING ATTENDEE FEEDBACK SUMMARY

#### PROBLEMS

**What are the problems you've been seeing relating to prostitution along 82nd Avenue? Please provide specific locations (streets/cross streets or addresses), description of individuals, any times/dates of activity observed. What are they doing?**

- Women on street at nights in their "uniform" - tiny shorts and halters; we shine our car's bright lights on them. My wife was offered a ride while she walked alone down our street (79th) three blocks from 82nd. Remnants (condoms) left over on streets and neighbors' yards and driveways
- I live in the Mt. Tabor/Montavilla area. I run and ride my bike in between Glisan and division between 50th and 92nd Avenue. I see women alone on 82nd in between Stark and Division. It does not stop me from running or biking in the area.
- I have been approached coming out of a convenience store more than once at 79th and Glisan by a 'john' looking for a female companion. Both times I was with my 5 year old buying milk in the morning within 2 blocks of the school
- I live on the edge of Mt. Tabor/Montavilla. I ride my bike out Stark to the family homeless shelter where I work on 122nd. The problems on 82nd are not the result of prostitutes these past few months. They are part of a systematic disinvestment by Westside Portland. The problems on 82nd are garbage, fast cars, back/lack of businesses, etc. The prostitutes on 82nd and Stark are visible manifestations of bigger problems.
- Mostly drug-related. 1) A stolen car dumped around the corner from my house I reported. 2) A "stranded" truck on Rocky Butte- I reported. 3) Sunday 9/14 - I witnessed 2 young me walk out of the woods on Rocky Butte with a package in which they tried to hide from me - I reported. 4) My brother-in-law was approached by a sex worker while waiting in his truck
- We live on 83rd and Ash. "Dates" happen on our street within view of our windows. Hookers walk up and down 83rd , Ash and Stark dressed inappropriately. We find used condoms, needles and once a bag of marijuana on our property. The girls and their pimps park out front
- I live 2 houses off of 82nd Avenue. I am next to a real problem area. The parking lot of a vacant building (an abandoned car loan business). The parking lot is behind the building which means it is out of sight from 82nd. This is an ideal location for pickups and drop offs for johns. The lot is

not lit and the building has been vacant for months. Right up the street there is yet another vacant building that has also been so also all summer. These are not deterrents- they invite seedy activity.

- People who care more about business than people
- I live 2 houses off of 82nd on the eastside. My street is used as a drop off and pickup for johns. I have had people in my yard to hide from people who want to beat them up. One block from Plaid Pantry and a lot w/no business working in and out back to 82nd.
- The prostitutes are parking their vehicles two to three blocks away and walking to 82nd. We have children in our neighborhood and our children don't need to see that.
- The massive amounts of sex shops and strip clubs. It's ridiculous and way overwhelming. . Why are liquor stores, strip clubs and porn shops allowed to be in the same building? Shouldn't there be some kind of restriction for those licenses?
- I am with the Montavilla Food Patrol. I have walked from NE 82nd Avenue/Jonesmore down to SE 82nd/Main Street. I have watched drug buys, girls approached for prostitution on a Sunday afternoon on 82nd and Burnside. I saw 7 girls walking around, sitting at the bus-stops, leaving when the bus comes and returning when it goes.
- Minor-appearing girls at 82nd and Sandy
- All intersections of 82nd, areas near bus stops, areas that are not well-lit w/ ample parking, Mill Street and 82nd, Stark and 82nd, bars and sex shops. Lots of loitering on sidewalks, trolling cars all over.
- SE TaylorStreet between 82nd and 80th Ave- I am a 25-year resident. Increased traffic both car and foot- women being picked up and dropped off up and downour street in front of our house. Increased congestion on 82nd Avenue, neighborhood women and girls afraid to go walking. This is the worst it's ever been. Early evening seems to be the most active.
- Girls walking down the street between SE Foster and SE Flavel. I see a lot of people custered around the county line as well.
- Kings Row Motel at 82nd and Beech and the motel just north of the Kings Row.. The girls are usually walking between Sandy and Siskiyou. The drug dealer that lives on Beech goes back and forth between home and the motels, often has girls with him. His name is Willy and he's threatened neighbors who have seen him doing drug deals. He does his businesson the street because his disabled mother lives there. My neighbor observed a drug deal between a pimp, with prostitutes and and our neighborhood drug deal righoutside of his house. The dispatcher suggested he go outside and confront him. Fortunately, he did not. Please make sure the dispatchers are not suggesting this!
- I'm an insurance agent who owns an office at listed address above/ My office opened 2/02 until now. For the past 2 years, my income declined 30% due to increased sex shops and prostitution

on 82nd. Regular clients avoid coming to my business as they don't want to be associated or seen near the two adult businesses - PussyCats and G Spot. The girls stand and linger outside between 3-5pm and solicit/sell sex.

- I have been solicited by men driving by slowly in trucks (lewd remarks, etc.) on my way home from work, waiting for bus #72. It doesn't matter if I am in jeans or sweats, or several months pregnant- they assume that every woman (my female neighbors will tell you the same) is willing to prostitute herself. I'm thankful that I have self respect and know self-defense. But I fear that this is not the case for every woman who has to walk on 82nd.
- I, as a Montavilla resident, have been propositioned for work by pimps at the bus stop at Stark, next to McDonalds and been harassed by passing vehicles by men hollering at me as though I am working the streets. I have picked up a used condom at 86th and Burnside and seen a number of prostitutes working all over 82nd
- We see activity all over 82nd Ave. You can see a pimp on 82nd and Beech Street work his girls at the hotel at Beech and 82nd. We have numerous drop-offs and pick ups right in front of our home. Traffic is very heavy at 3am-4am. My husband gets up at those hours.
- One of my neighbors (75th/Alameda) won't drive down 82nd - he takes 39th - he has children. A friend who delivers newspapers has been hassled (and hustled) in his 3:00am route. One prostitute even tried to attack him. He's scared - they are very bold when the public/police are around. This happened between Madison High School and Prescott (near a number of sex shops)
- Hookups at businesses, homes, church parking lots - activities in plain view of families and kids. Drug paraphenelia, needles, condoms, littering all along 82nd Avenue as well as side streets.
- Too many sex shops. Don't spend much time in this neighborhood.
- last week at 5:30pm, a john was calling to a prostitute across the street at 82nd and Powell. 2) Last spring, took my daughter (5 years old) to Essex Park on Sunday morning at 10:30am to play. The Park Bureau maintenance crew member advised us to NEVER use the restroom in the park because of prostitution activity. He also pointed out the prostitute/john on the park bench waiting for him to leave so they could use the restroom for sex. 3) I see activity outside of my house periodically
- Police need tools and resources for prostituted women
- I work at 79th and Foster and live on 78th and Duke. I worry about the safety of the women but don't agree with criminalizing them.
- I have lived at this house for around 4 years. I am aware of locations and people involved in the sex trade. I do not support it. Neither do I support the Portland Business Alliance's efforts to criminalize these troubled people. Nor do I support the police association's efforts to profit from the increased criminalization of the poor and addicted.

- Used condoms tossed onto street (80th and Multnomah) Girls being picked up and/or dropped off at Multnomah Street, 81st, 80th and 79th.

### **SOLUTIONS**

**What do you think will help to curb prostitution on 82nd Avenue? Why? Please be specific- this is your opportunity to provide insight on how you think an approach would be successful.**

- Increased presence! If not cops, then residents; but if it is dangerous, pimps and prostitutes stabbing each other how can residents safely make a presence? More bright lights! Target businesses that allow activity to occur; reinstate the PFZ - it sends a message that this activity will not be allowed. Involve churches - there are quite a number of them on Glisan Street.
- The PFZ is NOT the right solution. Leakage should be a real concern. As soon as the PFZ comes back, people engaged in drugs/prostitution will move farther east or west. Any money that would be spent on the PFZ should be spent on social services for the people involved. Also, money should go to programs that don't cram religion down the throats of the people they are trying to help.
- Would like to see business owners be more active in who is on the property and what they are up to. The owners need to call the police when this happens and at least approach the person and ask them to leave the premises.
- "Portland" can invest in East Portland. Fill potholes, slow down traffic by installing stoplights so pedestrians can walk across the street. Change zoning so we have neighborhood shopping like Montavilla not creating Wal-Marts. Listen to our neighborhood associations, don't make us fight for Mt Tabor Park. invest in additional neighborhoods than "Lents". There are a lot of neighborhoods out here, stop ignoring them, we may not all be Belmonts, Hawthornes and Pearls but we are neighborhoodds. Fund affordable housing and shelters! There is poverty not being funded by the 10 year plan to end homelessness.
- Provide appropriate resources for sex workers and take against the pimps and johns. In the schools, provide school programs to enrich the lives of young women. Empower them to make appropriate choices for life.
- Better lighting (streets) in affected neighborhoods and reinstate the "crime" page in the Oregonian to include johns, DUIs etc.
- Get new businesses into vacant buildings. Clean up tagging and parking lots. Make 82nd more appealing to the public- put some money into beautifying the area altogether . I think 102nd is getting a makeover- why isn't 82nd? We could use new street lights, flowers, banners, make the street more appealing with art projects that use kids. Get local artists involved, like the photo show that happened over the city this summer. Make the neighborhood look more like a neighborhood rather than car lots and strip malls. I think we need to invite a top-rate grocer to open a 82nd Ave store - like New Seasons, Trader Joes. We need to encourage and demand a neighborhood that is family-centric. We need a new national administration to REALLY address poverty in this country.

- Provide real, practical alternatives not legal but caring programs to house, clothe, feed and re-educate the women and men who are victims. Also provide arts programs like the Pearl District to improve the neighborhood
- Close the sex houses up close to Fremont, close to the small Patel hotel as well. Try to get business into the vacant buildings
- Tow the damn vehicle away!
- Target the businesses. They are not "legit" - that is ridiculous to even think that. "Good" businesses need to make it difficult for these 'bad' ones.
- Crack down on businesses that contribute to this problem. Heavy prosecution of johns and pimps - tow johns' cars. Emotional help for those caught in prostitution - need to fund programs that help. Oregonian needs to publish names of johns.
- Continue the foot patrols, notifying the police and support what the community decides to do.
- Be aware that many of the girls are minors or began as minors. Arrest the johns and pimps and remove the demand. Treat the girls as prostituted, not prostitutes.
- Programs/non-profits - supporting the prostitutes and their needs. Not increasing the police action/involvement. We do not need more laws or more people in jail, whether for the sex worker, johns or pimps.
- Physically clean up the sidewalks and streets, biz owners not in compliance should be fined, bring more friendly business to 82nd, need more school clubs, mentors, etc., move foot patrols in neighborhoods, inform neighbors, residents and biz owners on how they can help, all crime must be reported. Need active caring owners and residents.
- Becoming educated on other realistic and effective alternatives towards solving this problem.
- Heightened police presence and clean up of the street of people and garbage. There needs to be available services for the people arrested. There needs to be continued funding. And if the problem is reduced, then the law enforcement and social resources need to continue, not be cut back or eliminated because to the city and law enforcement, the problem on 82nd is 'solved'.
- Prostitution stings to get the pimps arrested. Social services for the prostitutes.
- restore prostitution free zone immediately to prevent the direct solicitation/pimp recruitment. At least 5-10 mile radius from school. 2) Inspect any front business on a regular basis which harbors prostitution including modelling. Tax for adult-type businesses or limit the business hours.
- Prosecuting johns first

- Mandate all johns to work to clean up 82nd! Put them in vests with a "J" and have them clean up all of the condoms. Make the penalty strict for those caught with underage girls
- We need to put the band back on 82nd Avenue. I want to be contacted on how to petition places like Honeysuckles to leave our neighborhood. We need more classes and more information for us citizens on how to turn in the johns and pimps. I think we need strict laws on the pimps and johns. Again can we also focus on cleaning up the sex shops. I want to be a volunteer to get sex shops out of town.
- Arrest and prosecute "johns". Get tough with busienss that give tacit approval for prostitution on their premises. Provide social services to help women and men get out of prostitution.
- Too many sex businesses - esp concentrated on 82nd. Close them down! De-criminalize prostitution for women. Provide services for prostitutes who want to get help in getting out. Treatment programs, therapy, shelters, job training, mentors. Recruit ex-prostitutes as mentors. Clean up streets- regular trash clean up. Look into undiagnosed disabilities of prostitutes, such as fetal alcohol, mental health. Invite organizations working on these issues to fcome and speak and help us create groups to help. - check out PEERS (from British Columbia)
- More police enforcement as outlined by Commander Crebs. 2) More social services for prostitutes 3) streetscape plan for all of 82nd to create wider sidewalks for more families to walk, more positive businesses, more sidewalk cafes, etc.
- Survey situation 2) Change laws so women are 'detained' for their own safety and deprogram them to testify against the pimps 3) fund homes for women
- Continue to ban unconstitutional PFZs, decriminalize prostitution and make it safer. Don't confuse prostitution with child abuse - it lets the real perpetrators off the hook- rapists and molesters!
- Community-based support services, neighborhood watches that engage these folks face-to-face and work with a city funded networking of community services to help them. What the heck does the office of neighborhood involvement do if not this? Most problems inlife are oragnizational in nature. Somebody needs to organize this.
- Prostitution free zone. Once a girl is a known prostitute, make an ordinance so that she has a curfew to be on the streets. Same as parks curfews like dusk to dawn - or so she is no longer able to frequent 82nd Avenue.

**QUESTIONS ASKED DURING SESSION:**

What can we do about three businesses that share a parking lot (liquor store, porn shop and strip club)

How easy is it to get a job with a prostitution arrest on your record?

What is being done to fund ongoing program and help after jail that specifically targets helping women who have been prostitutes? Project 57 has \$3 million for beds in jail cells.

Would the business association support a levy or tax to help revitalize businesses in Montavill and Madison South?

What mental health, alcohol and drug treatment and social services are available to these girls? Are you working with the county who provides these services?

If we want to get involved and in proactive ways, who should we speak to or is there a web page/email for us to go to?

Does it do any good to call in license numbers?

What can you do when you see prostitutes and johns in the act?

What are the consequences to the john?

What is your opinion of legalized prostitution in the Netherlands and Germany?

How do we as a citizen report a suspected pimp?

Is it possible to establish prostitution hot line so community residents can call when they see prostitution acts or prostitutes so that police and social services can intervene immediately?

What is being done to focus on the men soliciting these women?

What should women do who are being followed by johns while walking down 82nd?

is there a typical profile of johns, and if so, are there any preventative measures for their actions?

How will you know if the current plan is working?

Will the City of Portland make a commitment to make "East Portland" better?

What kinds of programs are there for educating johns on the consequences of their behavior on the prostitutes?

How is a "No Tolerance" policy or approach being applied to johns? What can be done to have a greater impact?

Do you plan to find funding to create these programs?

How much will \$500k buy - does the court system have the resources?

What power does the city/community have to influence the business marqueees?

Has crime increased in this area- besides the obvious prostitutes?

Why aren't the residents of the community represented on the stage tonight?

How did you select tonight's panelists over other agencies?

What happened with the development of the "Avenue of Roses"? I thought it was going to be done by 2009

Who solicits high school girls at school? How?

Can I take pictures of pimps, johns and prostitutes?

Why not publicize the johns and put their names in the paper and pictures, too?

What resources are there that target prostituted women specifically?

Why don't we restore the PFZ to at least 5-10 mile radius from schools?

Why don't we charge high license fees or tax prior to granting business licenses to those sex shops?

How do we get the state to spend funds to beautify 82nd so we can appeal to businesses more?

What are you going to do about strip clubs which also fuel the desire for the purchasing of prostitution and they also promote it

Do you think that if the pimps were put on the hot seat that it might slow down or stop prostitution?

Why do married men go to prostitutes?

What support would your organization like? A wish list? How can we support you?

If it cost \$3 million to help male drug addicts and prostitution is a more complex problem, why is only \$500k being offered to help women?

Will we hear from Rosie Sizer tonight?

Is/are there john schools or rehab centers that are mandatory when they are caught?

Is there a sex-worker union in Portland? Does it have a position on neighborhood/82nd Ave crime?

Can parents/citizens help patrol schools to defend prospective recruits?

Is Tri-Met involved in the conversation?

Are all of these programs and efforts available to the male victims of the sex trade?

You have only talked about girls- what about boys?

Where are we with criminalizing the pimps/johns only- not the women as a proposal?

What was the research that Mayor Potter spoke of, and is it public knowledge?

Why are prostitutes and pimps so brazen to work in daylight in front of a park full of families? No fear of arrest?

Why does the city want to increase the number of prostitutes in our community by this action (revoking PFZ)?

How do pimps get identified?

Do the pimps go to jail, then to court?

If pimps are prosecuted, then goes back again, what punishment is there for him?

Is it true that 82nd is quieter because the girls are now moving to 122nd?

Why not redirect a large portion of the \$3 million of police overtime to Council for Prostitution Alternatives?

Do the crime stats online from the Portland Police Bureau include john and pimp arrests under "prostitution"? If not, then what category is used?

Has any thought been given to the legalization and regulation of prostitution as it is in parts of Nevada?

Would legalization reduce diseases?

Is Portland Police Bureau forming a task force to address this issue?

What are you going to charge a prostitute if they get caught in the Prostitution Free Zone?

How does the prostitution on the west side (excluding the downtown area) compare to the 82nd Ave problem?

Have any studies been done to link adult entertainment/sex trade stores and prostitution? Does prostitution occur around these businesses?

How does the city plan to fund rehabilitation programs for drug addicts, chronic violent offenders and prostitutes?

How does the city plan to coordinate these efforts with the community?

What is the business community doing to fund community rehab programs?  
Where is the research? Where are the resources that Jeri just referred to?

What can I do as a homeowner/citizen to help stop this issue in my neighborhood?

Why is it so hard to enforce a law? Prostitution is a law in this state, isn't it?

Why stop a process without having a back up plan in place?

Why can we expand these efforts across the city?

Is there any organization going after porn - how can we have less sex shops?

Where is the "pimp" and "john" package similar to the 'prostitute' package?

Are there any organizations that you are aware of that can empower those women to be successful?

Can you focus on surrounding areas near 82nd, in addition to 82nd?

What prostitution reduction programs have been effective elsewhere? If there are some, let's use them.

Are there any studies or numbers that link sex shops to prostitution?

Where we can go/who can we contact to volunteer to help the prostitute in recovery?

What specific way would you suggest that Portland help women in long-term poverty issues?

How do we bring more good, legitimate community-based businesses to 82nd, Stark and Sandy?

How do we make the city a drug and prostitute-free zone?

Can we get witness protection for prostitutes who help turn in their pimps?

How about publishing the names of arrested johns in the newspaper?

What can be done with prostitutes walking? What about the drugs that they have on their person?

Can I approach a prostitute and tell her to leave?

Is a "red light" district within the metro area being considered a method of control, containment?

What about young males who prostitute themselves? Are they absent from this area?

Is there any way to know about diseases are being treated related to prostitution?

Can't we ban porn shops?

Why are there differences in services between women trafficked from overseas and women who are born in the US?

Why was the PFZ lifted before we had any other alternative solutions?

Does anyone have any plans to clean up the MAX station at 82nd Avenue ?

Please explain the needle exchange at Se 82nd and Ash St?

What are the services for children?

How are churches contributing to the solution?

Has anyone asked to current sex workers for their perspective about the entire process?

Does criminalization truly help these people working in the sex industry?

What can we do socially to promote healthy sexuality?

Isn't there something that city officials can do to come up with an "Al Capone" solution to the numerous sex shops on 82nd (ie fire code, health violations, etc.)

What are the measurable indicators of success and whose responsibility is it to measure their change?

Why were there not tols to curb prostitution on 82nd when the PFZ expired?

What has it taken a year to have this conversation?

Would "traffic calming" design features for side streets be considered?

What happened that City Council let the PFZ expire without a replacement plan?

What is the plan to 'treat' johns?

Why didn't the City Council have town hall meetings to bring forth answers and ideas from the citizens before the PFZ was dropped?

Are there services for male prostitutes? Transgendered?

What about sex shops? Don't these contribute to the problem?

What percentage of streetwalkers do you estimate don't want to stop what they are doing?