

nwnews

Program coordinator Brenda Myers agrees that transportation is a major hurdle for reaching more youth.

"The challenges of doing this work is feeling like I'm not able to reach all of the folks that I want to reach in Clackamas County," Myers, 27, says, "sometimes because of geographic location and transportation, sometimes because of resistance from parents."

For those youth she is able to reach, Myers says the rewards are obvious.

"I see success on a daily basis with the work that we're doing," Myers says, "to see and hear that they are feeling safe and having fun.... Seeing that mission carried out on a daily [basis] is great."

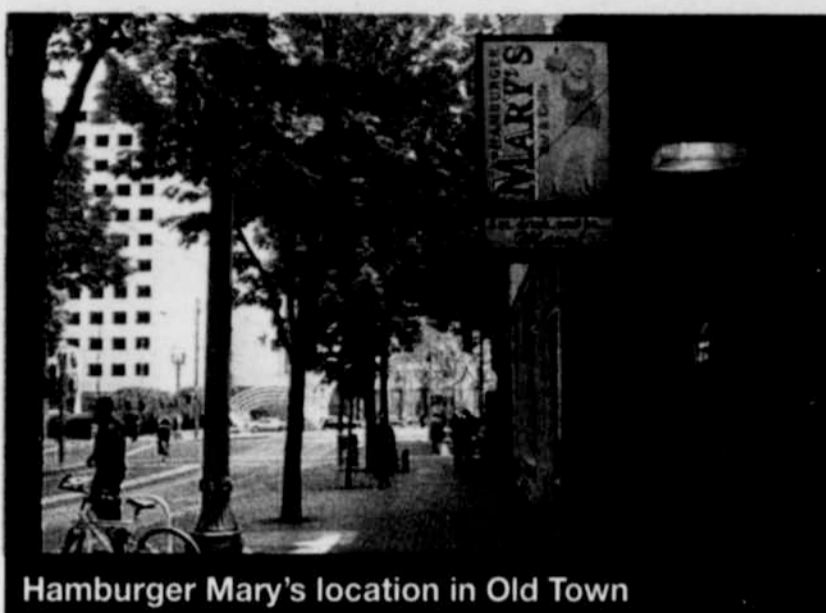
Friends of The Living Room Second Annual Fundraiser; July 28, 7-9:30 p.m.; The Ainsworth House, 19130 Lot Whitcomb Drive, Oregon City; \$35 per ticket or \$250 for a table of eight; livingroomyouth.org.

--ERIN ROOK

Increased Fear for Safety in Old Town Prompts Area Business, Police Response

Following a public plea for a broader police presence in Old Town and Chinatown by as many as six area businesses, the Portland Police Bureau says it will do everything in its power to increase a greater sense of safety in the area. The question on the lips of these proprietors, though, is "when?"

Ian Cooke, owner of Hamburger Mary's (19 NW Fifth Ave.), alerted the media in late June to incidences occurring outside of his business that were leading to decreased patronage of his restaurant and fearful employees. These issues included drug dealing, and verbal threats toward his customers. Cooke stated in a letter—sent to the Western headquarters of the Salvation Army—that his business' proximity next door to the Salvation Army Female Emergency Shelter



Hamburger Mary's location in Old Town

(SAFES) had a lot to do with it. Since that initial frustration from Cooke with regard to his perception that SAFES management was sweeping the problem under the rug, Cooke's concerns reached Office of Neighborhood Involvement crime prevention program coordinator Mike Boyer. Boyer found many Old Town businesses were complaining about the same thing: not enough cops, too much crime.

"I've been here for 10 months now, and we've watched this neighborhood go downhill fast," explains Cooke, who had to alter his restaurant's hours after it was discovered an employee was robbed following a late-night shift. "Not only did this neighborhood go downhill, but we also watched drug dealers, prostitution and crime take over the streets."

On Monday, July 11, Boyer and Cooke helped organize a neighborhood meeting with representatives from Old Town business' Upper Playground, Anthem Records, Casey's Bar, Macdonald Center, David Gold—owner of the Goldsmith Blocks—and SAFES. Also in attendance was a representative from the District Attorney's office, Central City Concern, Clean and Safe and the Portland Police Bureau. Reportedly, however, the meeting did not go well.

"It was the biggest waste of time," Cooke says. "The tone wasn't, 'Oh my god, these are pressing issues,' the tone was, 'This meeting wasn't organized.' There wasn't anyone at that meeting who could have made a decision, implemented a policy or changed anything that was currently happening. That to

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