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and an all-out war being waged in Mexico due to drug trafficking, heroin has once again flooded the market on the West Coast. Homeless advocates and service providers are thought to be behind the entire operation.

"We can't control the drug use in this community until organizations stop working with addicts. We simply can't do our jobs. Businesses will starve to death," a police spokesman said. "It's getting out of control. We have to bleed them out."

The spokesman says that until we stop the flow of hundreds of tons of illegal drugs into the community, groups should refuse to work with people using drugs.

One source told Street Roots that the city has drafted plans to build a fence around Sisters Of The Road, and create one of the largest alcove abatement gates in the United States in response to helping people on the streets.

Street Roots asked homeless providers, politicians and others about the idea of an injection site for heroin users downtown coupled with a housing specialist and drug counselor. One advocate replied, "Who are these naïve reporters who work with users and drug overdoses day in and day out? Another responded to the e-mail question by saying, "Don't," while a politician we won't name told us they actually wanted to get re-elected in the future, and declined to comment.

With the Resource Access Center, a one-stop shop, we-hope-you-don't-drop-until-we-have-a-solution, is coming on line in 2013. It's thought that providers like Sisters and Street Roots will no longer be needed at such a point, and will quietly go away, or eventually tire and have to move to Gresham where the city has successfully pushed poor people and minorities out of the urban core over the past two decades.

classist, a spokesperson for the city said, "Not at all. Poor people can still drink Coors and Bud Light until they kick the bucket, or until 2013 when we hope to either drive alcohol out of the community, or poor people, whichever comes first. With all of the other efforts going on, we're hoping for the best."

Asked if after more than three decades of this kind of quality of life enforcement was showing any signs of success, a spokesperson for the group said, "We've housed a lot of drunks in our day, and at

minorities faulty loans on houses they couldn't afford in the neighborhoods they once couldn't live. Dozens of business savvy venture capitalists got rich; the bankers got really rich and the real estate industry got really, really rich. Then the dream ended, and poor people and minorities got f\$cked, again.

The market collapsed on itself — sending an entire free market spinning out of control and kicking thousands of people who were spending money like it was 1999 into a free fall of poverty, and for some, homelessness.



Boozers

For the older hobo, and the we-just-don't-like-you-around crowd, one strategy is an alcohol ban on street drinking that will launch in Old Town/Chinatown over the summer. The city plans on banning certain types of alcohol from grocery stores with hopes of moving toward prohibition sometime in 2013.

"It didn't work in the '20s, but it's a new era," says a spokesperson for the Office of Not Your Neighborhood For Long (NYNFL). "We think that if people want to drink beer, they should have to pay for quality beer, like Oregon's own microbooze. The idea that a person who is low-income has access to the same alcohol selection, as say people in other parts of the city and state is disturbing."

Asked if the program was the least bit

least a quarter of them who are dealing with mental health problems are being well taken care of in the county jail. We think we're winning this war."

Recession residuals

Is the recession playing a part in the rise of the visibly homeless?

After more than \$54 billion dollars in federal cuts to low-income housing (real figure) since 1978, and facing one of the worst recession of our lifetime over the past three-years, the United States, including Portland has been hit hard.

After years of keeping poor people and minorities out of certain geographical areas by redlining, the banking and real estate industries in Portland, and around the country tried to make good by giving the next generation of poor people and

According to leading analysts with the National Chamber of Commerce, it's now thought that it was actually poor people's fault to begin with, and that many of the businesses, specifically in downtown urban cores, including Portland, are being forced to go out of business because poor and homeless people are to blame — for everything.

"If poor people would just be a little bit smarter and work a little bit harder none of this would be happening," says a young 20-something coming out of a grocery store with a 12-pack of Oregon microbooze, who refuses to give to panhandlers downtown because they'll just go get sauced. "I think it's pitiful that I can't enjoy my urban experience downtown anymore. It's all going to hell."

Seems like only yesterday (above) that downtown Portland had so much potential. Sigh.



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