

[It is not known if this letter was ever received or read. Buell has since moved on.]

To: Catherine Buell
Executive Director,
St. Elizabeth East
From: Tom Hebert
Date: January 8, 2016

A Peace Corps Neighborhood House

As a returned Peace Corps Volunteer, Nigeria 1962-1964, for decades I have been working to get Peace Corps to move its headquarters, or any part of it, from downtown into the real city. But now with a progressive Peace Corps director in Carrie Hessler-Radelet who would really like a Peace Corps presence out of downtown, it seems appropriate to propose a Peace Corps-related but non-profit settlement house in Ward 8, perhaps within St. Elizabeth East (RISE).

Typically, settlement houses offer a locally developed mix of services and programs including job training and employment programs, early childhood education, afterschool (3-6 PM) youth programs, arts education and performances, computer labs, mental health and home care, housing, and senior centers. Settlement houses also offer opportunities for community service: holding forums on local concerns, registering voters, and providing information about citywide issues.

Today, the settlement house movement is truly international with several thousand settlement houses open and serving all over the world including well over 400 in this country. Global as they are, these settlement houses are surely Peace Corps country.

But before we go further, the small team, including settlement advisors and under the leadership of Glenn Blumhorst, president of the National Peace Corps Association, which is working to bring Peace Corps House to fruition, believes it wise to ask someone, *in confidence*, and with your experience in Washington, for a reality check.

So, if pursued with a proper sensibility and resources, in a positive way does this possible Peace Corp House interest you? Do you believe it could find essential footing in local government and the community? Or, are we barking up the wrong tree?

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

Tom Hebert Consulting
Policy/Planning/Development
72274 Billy Road
Pendleton, OR 97801
(541) 377-1518
tlhmavrick@gmail.com