

MATERIALS IN SUPPORT OF JOE WALSH COMMUNICATION

THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF ILLEGAL CAMPING

PORTLAND CITY COUNCIL

DECEMBER 13, 2017

- **PHOTOGRAPHS FROM SUNNYSIDE ELEMENTARY AND LAURELHURST PARK**
- **TESTIMONIALS FROM SUNNYSIDE AND LAURELHURST NEIGHBORS**
- **PROPOSED ORDINANCE**



The shirtless man insisted he had 'every right' to be camped out next to the 5th grade relocatable classrooms, charging his laptop using school electricity, making coffee with camp stove, smoking his bong (pictured), entertaining guests, etc. The man on the right told me to give him a blow job.

Sunnyside Environmental School
August 2017

← Excrement & used
drug needles
NE 42nd & Senate
9/14/17



September 18, 2017

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I am writing this letter to express my concern about the lack of safety in Portland. I have been a resident of SE Portland for all 28 years of my life, and in the past few years, I have noticed a definite decline in the safety and cleanliness of our dear city. I would like to share some experiences that I think help highlight this.

Last month, on 38th and Hawthorne, my friend witnessed a man on the sidewalk sticking a needle into a large abscess in his arm (the abscess was near the cubital vein, so we assumed that it was an infection that stemmed from injecting drugs). The man was attempting to drain the fluid from the abscess. He proceeded to drop the fluid from the needle onto the sidewalk, along with the blood that was dripping from the puncture site. Many people, including a few children, were walking by and saw all of this.

I live on SE 20th and Woodward St. Two new houses were just build right across the street from me. While these houses were under construction, there was of course a Honey Bucket for the construction workers to use. Nearly every night, multiple unauthorized campers would come by to use the Honey Bucket not for a bathroom, but as a place to come and inject drugs. I know this because my neighbors and I called the police multiple times (people would often go in together, and not emerge from inside for hours at a time). When the unauthorized campers weren't inside the Honey Bucket, they were either sitting on the sidewalk, or trespassing in the homes that were under construction, often times yelling or fighting with each other. There would almost always be used hypodermic needles left on the sidewalk. An AirBnB is right next door. One morning, one of the AirBnB guests (along with his small child) was outside witnessing what I just described and said to me, "My God, does this always happen?" My response was "It has very sadly become normal for many neighborhoods in this city."

Biohazards, crime, and threats have become all too common. I don't think I need to explain how frustrating this has become for the citizens of Portland. I was recently told that there are tons of unauthorized campers right outside of Sunnyside Elementary School. Parents are now afraid to even walk by the camps with their children due to the threats that others have received from the campers. We *desperately* need the police to enforce existing laws in parks and other public places. I loved growing up in this city. I loved the small town feel Portland has, and I always felt safe – especially in my SE neighborhoods. I don't anymore. At this point, I would not feel safe raising children here, and I would not recommend moving here to anyone, anymore.

I appreciate you taking the time to hear my concerns, and I hope that you and the city officials can work to make Portland a safer place to live again.

Warm regards,

Ceilidh A. Nichols

are disappearing, number one among those reasons: a feeling of SAFETY and community.

PLEASE HELP US!!! Please restore our love of our community and neighborhoods. Please don't allow all the rampant theft, drug abuse, camping, public urination and defecation, blatant disrespect, bullying and intimidation to continue. Please ENFORCE existing LAWS. If someone is drunk or drinking, please don't just move them along to bother someone else. Please, have the COURAGE to TAKE A STAND. Tough love is compassionate because it sets a clear boundary and limit on unacceptable behavior. Every person living in Portland needs to be held to the same standard of public behavior, for the safety of everyone, especially our children. We are feeling helpless and defeated, and afraid.

Thanks for listening,

Jessica Oskin
971-235-8717

TO: Ted Wheeler, Mayor, City of Portland
Commissioner Nick Fish,
Commissioner Amanda Fritz
Commissioner Chloe Eudaly
Commissioner Dan Saltzman

FR: Harley Leiber
233 SE 22nd Ave
Portland, Oregon 97214

RE: Public Safety and Public Health Crisis Relating to Urban Campers.

Date: 09/15/2017

I am writing to express my concern regarding the existing and growing problem of unauthorized campers who chose to use our cities sidewalks, parks, and green spaces to live in on a short term or long term basis. We have referred to this behavior by various names in the past, and, as citizens attempted to bring attention to the behavior by various means.

I have lived and owned my home located at 233 SE 22nd (corner of 22nd and Pine) since 1995. On a regular basis today, homes, long neglected are being restored and remodeled. Apartments are being built to accommodate the influx persons moving in as well. As a long time resident I have watched my neighborhood evolve and grow into a vital and vibrant community over that period of time.

In the last few years, however ,those gains have been tempered with an increasingly lawless element that has been attracted to this neighborhood as well. These folks chose to live on the sidewalks and in the parks and bushes. They seem to move about, pushed from one area to the other, moving like a roving band to avoid detection and avoid attracting attention. Others flagrantly defy requests to leave or move and often these confrontations have the potential for, at minimum verbal abuse and at worst, violence.

I have personally witnessed representatives of this group using drugs, defecating and urinating openly, in public, and in full view of others. I have seen fights break out over "turf" related to specific areas in the neighborhood which are preferred because of there remoteness i.e., in bushes, alleyways, and underdeveloped city owned land. The area around SE 12 and Stark adjacent to, and within the city owned 4.5 acre parcel of land, is one very obvious example. The use of drugs in this area is rampant. It is not uncommon to find anywhere from 6-10 needles on the sidewalks during my morning walks with the dog.

Recently I witnessed a member of this group defecating on the asphalt playground at Buckman Elementary School. Hundreds of children attend this public school. No attempt was made, by the offender, to pick up the human waste and dispose of it. He simply walked away. Now, I have a dog. My dog does essentially the same thing. The difference is I bag it, pick it up and dispose of it. It is the least we can ask of these individuals to do if we are not going to provide an alternative (porto potties stations etc.,)

The number and variety and location of tents, tarps, canvas or plastic covered frames, and hovels, combined with the pets and personal possessions and garbage generated by these individuals has grown dramatically over the past two years. It is not uncommon, in Buckman, to see massive, filthy piles of garbage and cast off clothing secreted and co mingled with wood and cardboard on sidewalks. The people have simply left this stuff there and moved on. It then becomes a breeding ground for vermin. The rat population in and around Buckman has grown exponentially over the last three years. I attribute this to the food waste and debris generated by this population. It is unacceptable.

I retired from SAIF Corporation in 2007. Prior to that I worked for Oregon Judicial Department in various managerial capacities (Criminal Court Manager for the 4th Judicial District, Supervising State Pretrial Release Officer for Marion County Courts, 3rd Judicial District, Program Director for the Intensive DUII Program, 4th Judicial District) and Multnomah County (Director of Community Corrections from 1983 to 1990 and Community Service Program Administrator 1977 to 1983). In addition I was the Executive Director for TASC of Oregon from 1994-1998, the largest, non residential drug and alcohol treatment program in Oregon at that time. So, I am very familiar with offender behavior, what works and what doesn't, as well as the latest treatment modalities for substance and alcohol abuse.

The population living illegally on the streets of Portland poses an ongoing public safety and public health risk not only to each other but, more importantly, to all of us law abiding citizen. That is a fact. The drug use among this population combined with severe mental health problems and extensive past and/or current convictions for a multitude of Type 1 and Type 2 LEDS crimes resulting in local jail sentences, prison sentences and probation best identifies the majority of the people choosing this unlawful lifestyle . It is no longer acceptable to simply turn a blind eye to this problem and hope that city and county efforts to increase shelter space or affordable housing will ameliorate the problem. Additional housing options will not in and of itself, solve the immediate problem. And, sadly, even if enough space were provided most would not avail themselves of it for any number of reasons.

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I live with my grandma on the corner of NE 34th and Halsey, in the house she has lived in for 59 years.

My dad and his siblings grew up in this house. When I was a boy I spent nearly every day at this house after school, in addition to living here for several years. My childhood was very similar to my dad's; playing with neighbor kids, running freely through the neighborhood, riding bikes, without a concern in the world.

Last year, after 15 years away from Portland, I was overjoyed to move with my wife and six-year old daughter in with my grandma - finally home again.

Very quickly I was shocked to see what has happened to my city and my neighborhood. I was filled with incredible sadness to discover what was happening in front of my house - much of it 20 feet from my front steps (not hyperbole).

- **Drug dealing** - Emboldened dealers not even trying to conceal their activities
- **Drug house RV** - People inside, door open, shooting up visibly from the sidewalk
- **Drug use** - People shooting up on the sidewalk
- **Used needles** - Dropped in the street and grass - over 400 picked up along Halsey St. alone in a short period of time, nearly stepped on one today (photo attached)
- **Prostitution** - Using folding chairs stolen from my front porch
- **Dog fights** - Menacing pit bulls that bit someone then ran loose through my yard
- **Feces on the street** - People using my sidewalk as a toilet and not cleaning up
- **Pets eating human feces** - Dogs being walked, eating human excrement before they can be stopped by their owners (not making this up)
- **Aggressive behavior** - People screaming at passersby
- **Fights** - Campers fighting amongst each other
- **Threatening w/ guns** - Camper pulled a gun and threatened a neighbor when he was asked to leave
- **Trespassing** - On my property and my neighbors'
- **Break-ins** - People breaking into my neighbors' houses and threatening the owners when told to leave
- **Camping** - Continuous camping on the I-84 freeway bank and elsewhere, despite much reporting
- **Trash** - Halsey Street becomes a landfill, sometimes waist-high, blowing through yards
- **Fires** - An out of control cooking fire in the middle of Halsey Street under a tree during this dry summer, which easily could have started the whole neighborhood on fire
- **Danger to children** - A young boy innocently skipping around the block, mother unaware that he went right by a different drug RV, where people were later arrested

[For context, we live on the south side of I-84. Halsey Street dead-ends into 33rd Avenue as 33rd crosses I-84 one block to the west of us.]

Here are just a few of our experiences in the short time we've lived here.

Daughter won't play in yard - My daughter, now seven years old, doesn't like to go outside because of what she sees. I won't let her play in our yard, as we don't have a fence.

Harassment - My wife was harassed and followed by a menacing person on a bike while she walked to the bus one morning. She is now afraid to walk in our neighborhood.

Vigilante justice - My neighbor, after his backyard eclipse party, said he took his "taser over there and made them [campers] all leave." They then followed him home, came in his fenced backyard, and threatened him. He grabbed one of them by the neck. They then left.

Can't walk daughter to Grant Park - I walked with my daughter to Grant Park regularly this summer. But mid-summer, campers took over the sidewalk that connects the dead-end of Halsey to 33rd. They set up a large camp covering all the empty space in the area.

They were aggressive and intimidating. They yelled and swore at me when I walked by alone. After that I was not willing to take my daughter through there.

Even if I wanted to, they completely blocked the sidewalk. To walk through, you had to go on the grass, which is littered with used needles - very dangerous.

It took several weeks of reporting, via One Point of Contact, for authorities to make them move. And they did move... literally across the street. Some of them moved as little as 2 feet, through a fence onto the freeway bank.

Now we've been reporting their new location on the west side of 33rd for at least three weeks, with no response. And when they are moved again, do you have any guesses as to where they'll go? I do.

I could go on. But to me, the most telling story is this.

Can't teach a child to ride - My dad taught me to ride my bike on Halsey Street. The dead end makes it a perfect place to practice, since there is never any traffic. Now that I'm teaching my daughter to ride her bike, my heart wants to share the experience of teaching her on our street.

But there are needles, and aggressive people, mounds of trash; and human excrement, in the street. It's not a pleasant, let alone a safe or nurturing place for a child to learn how to ride a bike.

What has the city I love and take so much pride in come to - if a father can't even teach his daughter to ride her bike on their own street?

So where do I take her to practice? To my cousin's house, in Battle Ground, Washington.

Is my generation the last to experience the joy of riding a bike carefree through our beautiful neighborhoods? My soul hopes not.

Mayor Wheeler, please make public safety the city's number one priority.

Public safety is the **MOST CRITICAL, MOST IMPORTANT** function of a city. Public safety is the foundation of all civic life. Without public safety, there can be no recreation; there can be no business; there can be no education; there can be nothing at all.

It's time for action, no more talk. We cannot wait any longer.

Please allocate resources and enforce the rule of law.

If you don't, vigilantes will. In fact, they already are. And we know that won't end well.

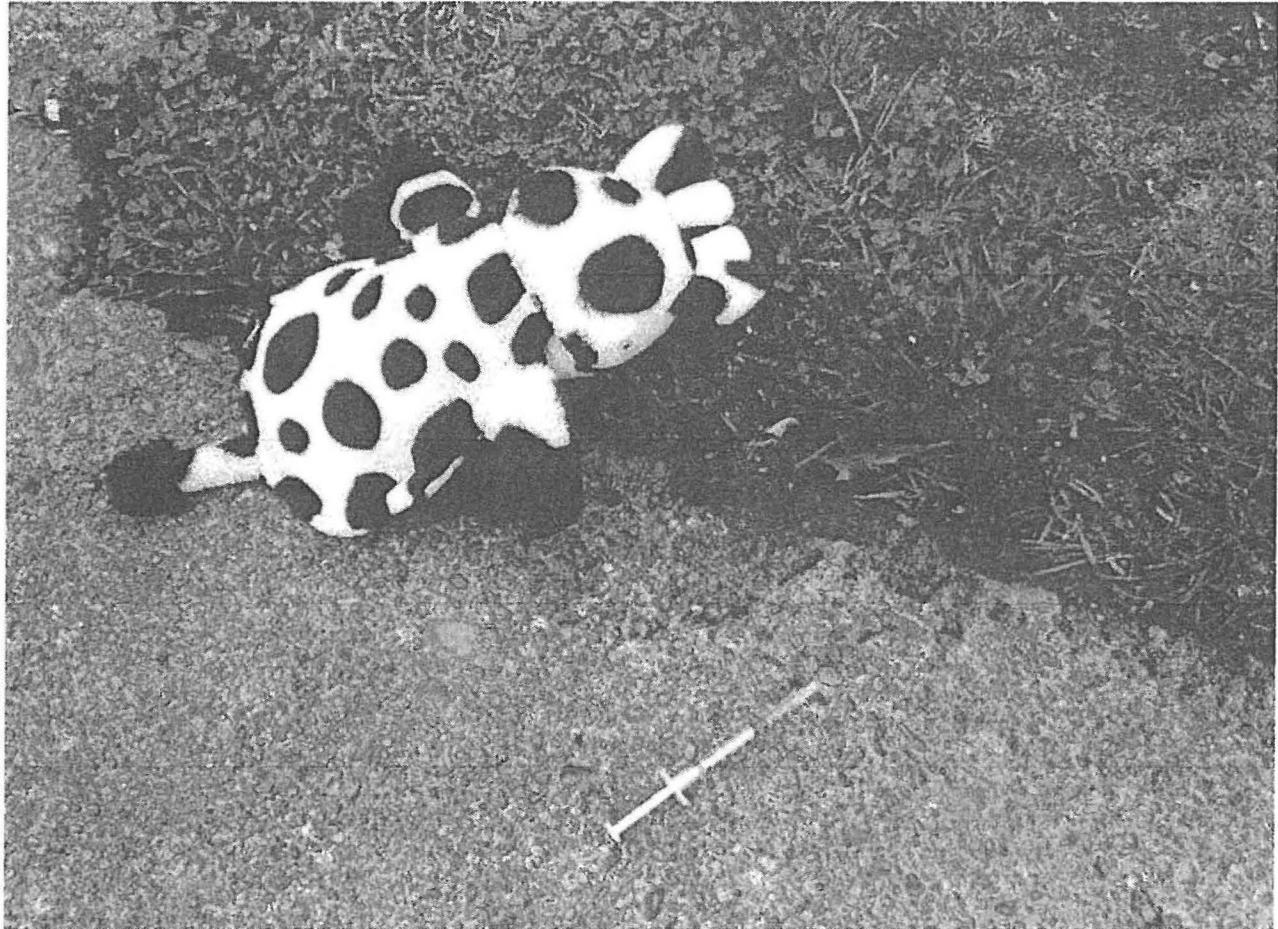
Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

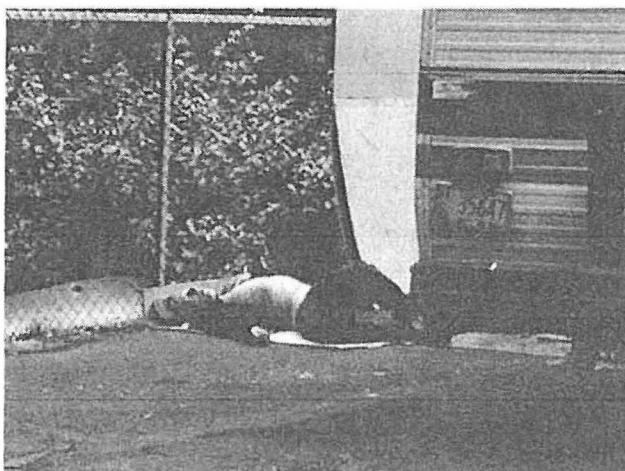


Isaac Smith
3422 NE Halsey Street

PHOTOS



Used syringe found next to child's stuffed animal. Will my child step on the needle? Or maybe my neighbor's dog?



Man found passed out



Used syringe found next to 8 others on Tuesday 9/19/17 at 2:12 PM. I almost stepped on this one by accident.



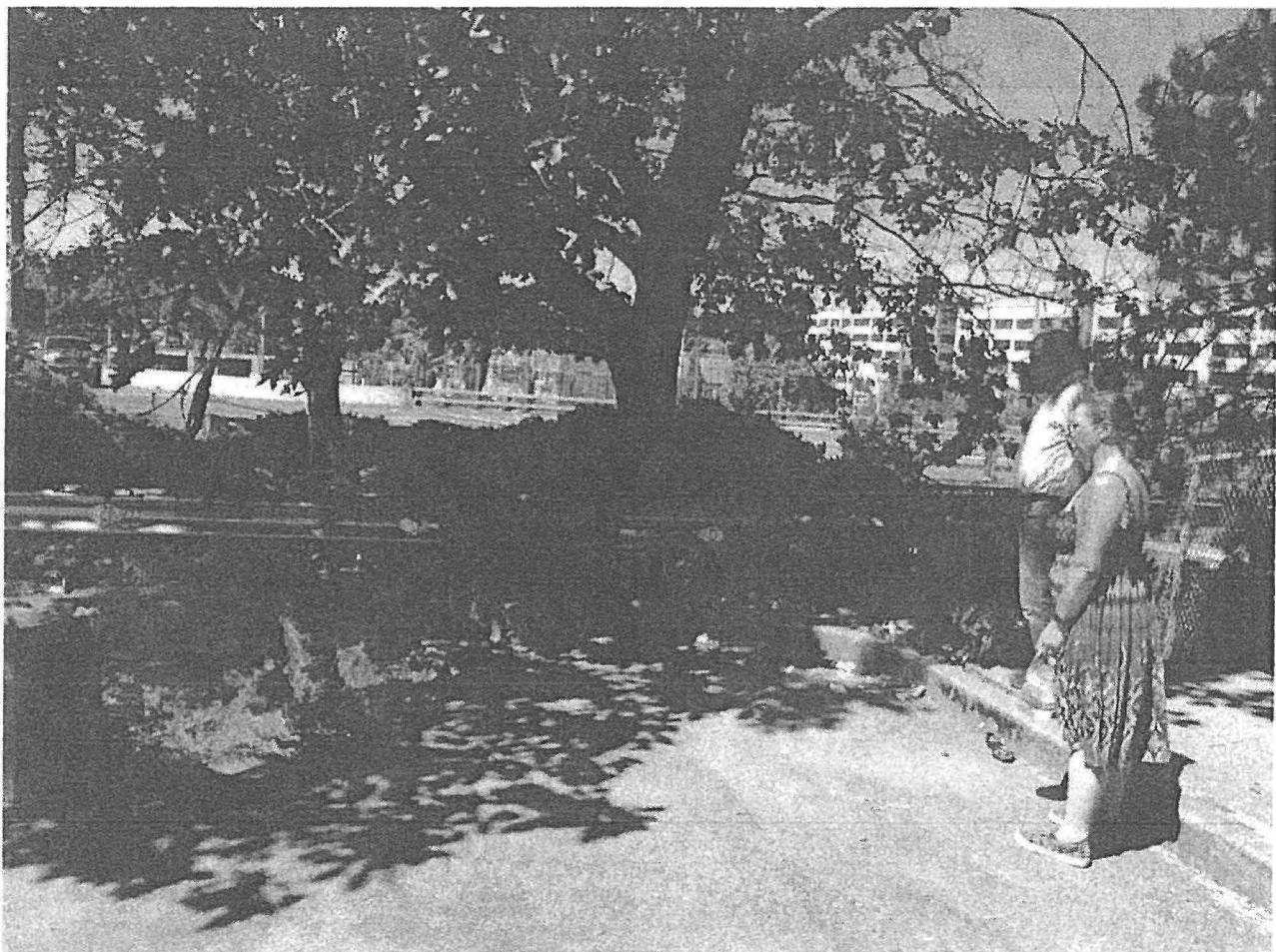
Campers completely taking over street, sidewalk, public and private property



Campers blocking sidewalk - used needles litter the grass, making it impossible to safely walk through.



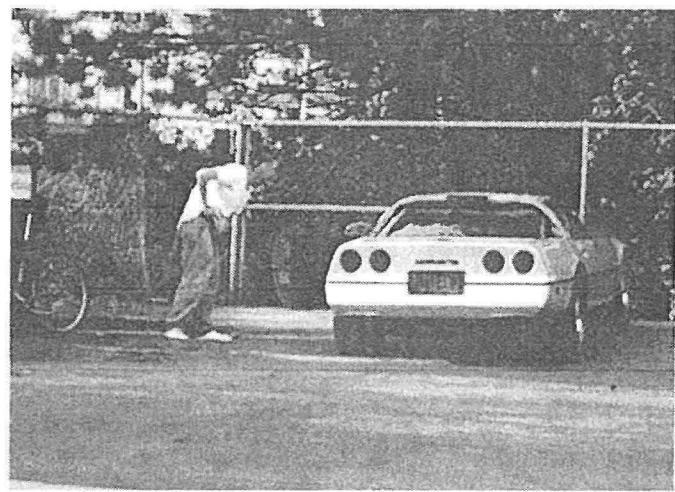
More public property being seized by campers hanging belongings



July 24, 2017, Fire started in an extremely dry summer by woman pictured - cooking fire in middle of street, flames licked the branches, singed the tree. Fire dept. investigator said "it's not illegal to accidentally start a fire." Really? That's the city's position? Is it legal to start fires in the middle of a public street now?



Woman defecating on Halsey Street



One of many, many drug deals

Mayor Ted Wheeler
1221 SW 4th Ave Room 340
Portland, OR 97204
mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

Current City Policy is making Portland a magnet for "Lifestyle Vagrancy," lawlessness, and crime. **I support the Proposed Safe Zone Ordinance as presented by the Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association Safety Committee. We need to give law enforcement the tools necessary to make Portland's public spaces safe again for ALL users.**

The following statement is nearly identical to a City Council Testimony I delivered October 28, 2015 – sadly, not much had changed since that time. My name is Fritz Junker. I'm 41 years-old, own a downtown business, and have lived in a condo three blocks South of City Hall with my wife since 2007. In Summer of 2015, my wife was assaulted by a vagrant near our home, and this changed our perspective on how safe our city is. For the last several years, we've watched with great frustration as our city has been allowed to become a destination for "lifestyle vagrancy", increasing drug activity, limitless street camping, aggressive pan-handling, rampant littering, and other illegal and disruptive behavior that directly affects the safety and quality of life of residents Downtown, and city-wide. Sadly, Portland is no longer a place where people can use public spaces without anxiety or fear. City efforts to temporarily displace this activity or label it as the bi-product of an "affordable housing" crisis are short-sighted, misleading, and will not resolve the serious public safety issues we face. An appropriately staffed Police force and stronger ordinances are the only solution to this problem. Rule of law must again prevail before other solutions are implemented.

In 2015, during my wife's morning commute on SW Clay Street, she was attacked in her car by a half-naked, drug-crazed vagrant. He reached into her car through the sunroof and grabbed her by the hair. Terrified and screaming, her only escape was to step on the gas. During my wedding reception weekend that same Summer, a panhandler spit on one of my guests while she was touring the SW Park blocks. He was displeased with not receiving any change. Today, my wife and I are constantly and aggressively confronted by the unauthorized campers using the Keller Fountain Park and South Park Blocks near our home as a place to hang out and do drugs – one even recently set a fire in the shrubbery to cook heroin which resulted in a 9-1-1 response. We and our neighbors no longer feel comfortable walking along the waterfront in broad daylight, because of the sheer density of aggressive individuals loitering and using drugs in those areas. These are but a few examples of our observations, and many friends and neighbors are having similar experiences. "*The next New York Times Article about Portland isn't going to be about how great our food and wine are,*" as quoted from a past Oregonian article. While watching a standup comic from NYC at the Helium Club this past weekend, he jokingly commended our city on our "farm-to-needle" attitude. We've let this go too far.

Compassion that is misdirected helps no one. I'm happy to support efforts that provide housing and social services for those in our community who are legitimately in need. But blindly throwing millions of taxpayer dollars at publicly-subsidized housing will absolutely not resolve the homeless situation, nor the public safety issues now facing our city. You will not suddenly find my wife's attacker living happily in a studio apartment and shopping for rugs and lamps at local artisanal shops.

Some in this years-long debate want to make people like me who are fed up with the lawless behavior of these unsheltered populations to feel heartless. I am not heartless. I know there are people here in Portland who need social service and deserve compassion. But as a city, we need distinguish between those who need help, and others who choose this lifestyle, constantly make poor choices, and abuse our good will.

We walk downtown every day. And what I continue observe are masses of street kids, drug-users, and lifestyle vagrants who flock here in greater numbers every year to take advantage of Portland's liberal policies and ordinances. They inundate our woefully understaffed Police force with increasingly brazen and illicit behavior, and extract dollars, services, and compassion from resident populations of the homeless and mentally ill who really need it. These individuals seek out an unsheltered free ride in Portland, and by the Police Bureau's own account are 'nonresponsive' and do not want help, housing, or other services.

Ben Franklin wisely stated that "your rights end where my nose begins." The first and foremost duty of elected officials is to provide safety and rule of law for constituents. We must study and understand these nuanced unsheltered populations if we are to provide support and care for those who legitimately need help and, conversely, send a strong message to those who choose an unsheltered lifestyle that Portland is not the place for them to panhandle and fund their anarchic lifestyle. Our streets and public spaces must be restored as lawful environments so that ALL residents of the City of Portland can enjoy them equally, without fear or concern for their safety.

I speak today on behalf of a quickly growing number of vote-wielding Portlanders who are very frustrated and share this view. I put my trust in you as Mayor with my vote, and I appreciate your willingness to serve in this difficult time. Please consider the following practical solutions, and engage me for help if you wish:

- Properly staff our police force at FBI-recommended levels and pace staffing with population growth.
- Commission a study by neutral 3rd party of the nuanced demographics of Portland's unsheltered populations in order to inform social services and/or law enforcement response (the study should not be conducted by those who serve these populations).
- Increase funding for efforts like the DNA's "Real Change, Not Spare Change" campaign to illustrate how supporting panhandlers puts everyone in danger.
- Renegotiate Pacific Patrol Services contract to facilitate clearing of disruptive homeless camps and individuals within 24 hours - not 2 weeks.

Respectfully,

Fritz Jünker
Southwest Downtown Portland Resident
1500 SW 5th Avenue, Unit 601
Portland, OR 97201
(503) 866-4600
fritz@fjportland.com
my facebook page: "Keep Portland Weird, But Safe"

To Whom It May Concern.

I am a 25 year resident of the PowellHurst neighborhood my home located near 122nd and 119th and Clinton St. it has been a safe and enjoyable place to live until approx. 7 years ago when the housing market and economy started to struggle as one of the less fortunate people in society I fully understand what having a disability is all about, but it is the choices you make on how to deal with matters that change the outcome, my hand was crushed by a car in 2008 I currently suffer on a daily basis with constant pain and struggle to keep a steady job, but do I turn to drugs? Do I go and steal from my friends and neighbors? Give up and beg for money? No, because the choices I make will directly affect me, my Wife, Son, Granddaughter and everyone I come in contact with. This is why I am writing this plea to you about the choices you are making for our city.

Back to seven years ago when we noticed the occasional camper and displaced resident popping up in our area, it was upsetting but accepted. That is, until the problem became overwhelming and unmanageable. The crime rate steadily increased, drug use was very obvious, the constant dumping of trash, the disrespect for the community and generally disregarding the laws that are set in place to discourage this behavior and protect the tax paying citizens of this community. I personally have had several situations that range from the burglarizing of my home, stealing my utilities, casing my property, illegally using my garbage services, verbal confrontations and numerous other uncomfortable situations. We have tried following the guidelines and steps given by officials, with minimal results. This is only compounded by the Portland Police Dept. having little actual authority to enforce these very laws that are specifically designed to discourage these acts. How can we feel safe if our own police do not have the ability (or incentive) to address the problem in accordance to the law?

I believe there is a lot of buck passing (no one in particular wanting to personally handle the situation.) and moving the problem around from office to office. This seems to be somehow bypassing upper scale neighborhoods. We here in outer SE are paying to build and maintain shelters and low income housing in our area. Why do they target just us? You do not see shelters in Eastmoreland, Lake Oswego or the Gresham area. This is just adding insult to injury when you expect us to pay for the services that help the same people that in turn steal, deface our neighborhoods and lower our property value. We have worked hard our whole lives to buy and build a comfortable place to live and be functioning members of society. You expect nothing less from us so why is it ok for so many others to live by different standards? Not to mention we cannot afford to solve our own problems, yet you continue to invite others from across the country to come here and indulge in all the free government assistance that "we" (you) so graciously offer. I am not a highly educated person, but I strongly believe if we continue down this path there will be no more middle class, because we cannot shoulder the financial and emotional weight of this problem alone. If nothing else comes out of this, I would at least expect an honest and permanent solution that does not include more burden on our (the middle class) part as we did not create this problem and should not have to solve it. We are compassionate, giving, caring, sharing members of society and believe everyone needs help from time to time (including us) and this is one of those times. Please think carefully and act wisely on

this matter as we have elected you to do exactly that. Everyone has the right to feel safe in their homes and neighborhoods and we (the neighbors of SE Portland) elected you to manage the whole city, not just the neighborhoods that suit political needs. You are obligated to come to a solution by duty of your office.

Sincerely,

Gary Rambeau
2736 SE 121st Ave., Portland, OR 97266.
Powellhurst neighborhood

Dear Mayor and City officials,

I am the co-owner of a local small business, the Cartlandia food cart pod, at 8145 SE 82nd Blvd. which is home to 32 small businesses. We took a chance on SE 82nd to build a family-friendly gathering space in an area of town with few such places. We continue to be besieged by encampments, graffiti, trash, needles, theft and derelict cars. We have experienced a serious outbreak of infectious Shigella dysentery last year tied directly to encampments along the Springwater Corridor Trail. Here is the report-

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6531a5.htm>. We have done our best to try to keep our business running and keep the Springwater Trail cleaned up during the onslaught of camping that started about two years ago. We try to report and deal with the situations as they come up and not bother the City officials. We pick up trash and needles, clean graffiti and report, report, report. We have been reporting campsites, graffiti, trash, and derelict cars for months with virtually no action taken. We report to at least five different agencies depending on the problem and there is no coordination of these reports and requests for action. Right now we feel overwhelmed with graffiti, campers, abandoned cars, discarded needles, trash and finally a dangerous situation with FIRE this weekend. I am writing to ask your assistance and cooperation to help us keep our business open and to address the chronic problems and blight we are constantly fighting to keep our area livable and a family-friendly gathering place for the neighborhood. Please have the City coordinate efforts and work together to help the besieged residents and business owners.

1. For the past month, up to 30 people camped under the bridge along Johnson Creek at SE 82nd and SE Harney in a "No Trespassing" area marked by ODOT. After weeks of reporting, ODOT finally took action last week to evict people. However the broken fences and access points were not repaired. There is large amount of trash, graffiti, and people are returning and camping there again (see photos below) . We will continue to contact ODOT about this area. We request assistance with trash removal and graffiti removal. We have been in touch with Johnson Creek Watershed Council to advise them of the serious nature of this encampment that perils the health of the Creek. They act at times to clean the Creek but do not clean this area.

Over the past week, we have continued to have dangerous situations develop - with more campers in the actual street (SE Harney), loose dogs, and a man starting a fire near the dry brush of Springwater Corridor trail and local houses. We are asking for your attention to this area and request your advice and coordinated assistance to help us with dealing with the ongoing problems. We feel as a city that we are held hostage to the vagrancies of a few hundred people who do not follow the laws and who live day-to-day and face virtually no consequences for their actions. The residents and business owners spend much of their day reporting and picking up after these individuals. We feel we are under a state of siege.

2. **DANGEROUS FIRE** - The man who lives out of the derelict truck (Truck License plate 802-EBV) abandoned along SE Harney and Springwater corridor Trail is the one who started the fire on Saturday- burning refuse in a tire right next to a very dry grassy area. Fire Department came and police but no action was taken other than to give him a warning. In the past there was a large fire that burned near here about two years ago and burned fences and nearly took out houses.

.... This is a dangerous situation and we are asking for PROMPT action to remove this vehicle and others. The truck is not working and needs to be towed. Is it not possible that the city official can act when an incident like this happens. Please empower them to remove immediately this type of dangerous vehicle and person so that they do not cause more harm and require more resources from the City for next serious problem. The city needs a threshold for action and not just abandoning residents and business owners to this chaos.

3. Chronic parking of **derelict vehicles** located right behind Cartlandia at SE Harney and SE 82nd Ave. This is an area that is important for parking for our business and the other car business in the neighborhood....and is now attracting more derelict cars and campers. These abandoned cars have been there since June and we have reported many times but no response. According to the TRACKIT system all are still open/

These are the TRACKIT numbers that have been assigned to reporting these abandoned vehicles since JUNE - with no action taken.

1210616

1215771

1221242

1249516

1249521

1249524

1262512

Can you please advise what more we can do to get these problem abandoned cars and truck removed promptly from the City Streets. They are used for illicit activities.

4. **RISK TO PUBLIC HELATH FROM DISEASE OUTBREAKS.** I am a physician and the problems with sanitation and risks to public health from outdoor camping are compelling and serious . People should not be living in situations that are such a risk to their own health and which place the entire community at risk. Human encampments along the Springwater Corridor Trail and Johnson Creek Watershed that are a health and safety threat. Please recall that last year there was a document SHIGELLA DYSENTERY outbreak linked directly to the encampments along Springwater Trail and Johnson Creek. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6531a5.htm>. This outbreak was reported by the Center for Disease Control in their national newsletter MMWR. There are recent outbreaks of fatal hepatitis A in other cities. Please address the serious nature of the public health risk from outdoor encampments.

5. Large amounts of Trash left on the Springwater Corridor Trail (see photo below) . Chronic problem. We do try to clean up most of the trash but our dumpsters are filled to overflowing and it costs us extra every time we have to clean up after people who leave the trash. We are cleaning up needles and other infectious waste daily. We have to clean in and behind dry grass between the trail and the fence that runs along the Springwater Corridor Trail as people hide there for drug dealing, drug usage and prostitution and leave large piles of trash

6. Large graffiti under the bridge at SE Harney and SE 82nd which continues to attract others to camp there. Large amounts of trash left adjacent to the Johnson Creek by campers that is a risk to the health of the Creek.

Again all of these have been reported multiple times. Please help us make our City livable again

Thank you

Carol L. Otis MD

www.sportsdoctor.com

Sept 19, 2017

Mayor Ted Wheeler
1221 SW 4th Ave
Room 340
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mister Mayor,

This July, a family of residents who have lived in Loveleigh for over 30 years lost their home to fire. The fire completely gutted their home and required 9 fire trucks to fight. To reduce fuel for the fire, the firefighters broke open windows and threw many of the family's belongings onto the yard. In the days following the fire, the family--with their home lost and their life upended--became the target of roving thieves. Based on eyewitness reports, these thieves appeared to be living in their pickup truck like so many others have been amongst the dead-end streets of Loveleigh. The thieves proceeded to steal the family's belongings off the yard, broke into their garage, and got into what was left of the house, hunting for items to sell for drugs. They even left behind their camper top so they could fit more swag into the bed of the truck. This same group came back for three straight days but left before the police could arrive. On the third day, the father of the family was actually at the property and attempted to prevent the thieves from stealing what few possessions he had left. The thieves assaulted him and left.

Illegal campers have been a constant problem in the Loveleigh neighborhood for the past year. I urge you to take action to help make our neighborhoods safer, especially those with dead end streets.

Regards,



Ryan McCarthy
7615 N Williams Ave

September 18, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to voice my concern and growing frustration regarding the unauthorized campers and threatening people who have a now constant presence throughout my neighborhood—Sullivan's Gulch.

I live on NE Multnomah Street with my husband and our two young children. We bought our home back in 2013 and I can say with absolute certainty that we feel much less safe now than when we first moved in. A day in the life of someone living on NE Multnomah Street will likely see a “revolving door” of unauthorized campers either setting up camp (tents or rundown vehicles parked curbside), countless threatening individuals going through recycling, lurking around parked cars and even walking up onto homeowners’ porches. With them, these unauthorized campers and threatening people often bring unpredictable/ unleashed dogs, drugs (I’ve lost track of how many used needle I’ve seen sitting around), trash and debris that is never properly disposed of, human waste and public intoxication that often leads to unsavory fights or confrontations (amongst themselves as well as with neighborhood residents). That is just the tip of the ice burg...

On August 15, 2016 a fire was started on a vacant property on NE Multnomah Street... this fire was connected to the variety of encampments just down into the gulch. That fire was terrifying for many of us—leaving us to feel extremely threatened and anxious. Thankfully no homes were damaged and no one was injured. That was pure luck and due to how quickly a few of us saw the flames/smoke and called 911. Even this summer, we had several fires (one even being a mere 10 or so feet from last summer’s location) in our immediate neighborhood that are suspected to have been the result of unauthorized camping and/or arson. I feel strongly that the constant presence of unauthorized campers contributes significantly to this threat.

I have been approached numerous times by men and women who I feel are extremely threatening as I walk with my children around the neighborhood... so much so, that now I often choose to drive even if walking would be faster. This is sad to me as one of the biggest reasons we chose to live in this area was for the walkability. I’m tired of being approached by people who are intoxicated and who follow me around until I go into a store, I’m tired of being yelled at by people who are clearly not of sound mind even though I’m simply gardening in my own yard. I’m tired of explaining to my children that they must watch where they step on sidewalks, near trees b/c there is often human waste to be careful of. I am sickened that I must raise my children to identify drug needles and to understand what that threat in order to preserve their safety and health.

Much of what I see and experience is on Multnomah Street between 21st and 28th. However, the entire neighborhood of Sullivan’s Gulch experiences this activity.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Heather Ashlock

To whom it may concern:

I am a social worker and parent of three boys ages 14, 11 and 7. I am aware and empathetic to the issues facing many of the people we encounter at parks or pass on the sidewalks in Portland but feel like it has gotten out of control. In our neighborhood, of most concern have been fires lit in the dumpsters over the summer in Sullivan's Gulch. The fires have been noticed and called into the fire department and extinguished.

At Sewallcrest Park in SE Portland, my sons have soccer practice there 4 nights a week. There are large groups of people loitering at the park each evening. They seem to be dismantling bikes, smoking pot, drinking and fighting and swearing. This past Tuesday at about 5pm, a couple appeared to be having sex right near the sidewalk in front of everyone but they were too high to care about having any privacy. The group has no consideration to the soccer practice going on. Last week, the group of men discovered how to turn the sprinklers on the boys and kept doing so despite the coaches asking them to stop. When being told they might want to move off the soccer field so they don't get kicked in the face (because they are lying down), they just stare at the boys or laugh. It's pretty intimidating. My kids ask me to walk them past the group because they are scared. We don't go to Laurelhurst Park anymore; We don't feel safe and I don't want my car broken into.

It's useless to call non- emergency, the hold times have been over 10 minutes the last few times I have called and have been told it's not a priority compared to the other crimes being committed at the time.

Thank you for your consideration to this serious matter.

Sincerely,
Ann Hannan
2003 NE Wasco St
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

This 4th of July we had plans to be out of town and we needed a dog sitter. We asked our friends Julie and Nathan to drive in from Forest Grove to watch the dog and try all the great nearby restaurants. They were excited for a mini city vacation and obliged.

One morning, Nathan and Julie were walking along Hawthorne to the lovely and uniquely Portland Tōv coffee. Out of nowhere, and with no instigation whatsoever, a man approached Julie and punched her in the face. Nathan was surprised and bewildered but nonetheless immediately inserted himself between the assailant and Julie. The man continued to attack Nathan, who did his best to defend himself while trying to ask why he was being attacked. After a few moments the man began laughing hysterically and ran away across the street.

Nathan and Julie called the police. A patrol car arrived on the scene around 25 minutes later. The officers were reluctant to file a report. The reason? "It would be a lot of paperwork" and they "weren't likely to find the man."

Nathan and Julie were left slightly scarred, as much by the police response as by the attacker.

I don't want to live in a city where our guests aren't safe walking to get coffee and the police quite literally don't care.

Regards,

Ben Whaley
1752 SE Taylor St

Joel & Valerie Fishman

300 NW 8th Ave #902
Portland, OR 97209
503 816 7729
joeyfishman@me.com

September 17, 2017

Mayor Ted Wheeler
1221 SW 4th Ave, Room 340
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

As supporters, we are writing to express our frustration regarding the ongoing vagrancy, violence and drug problems plaguing the North Park Blocks, Old Town, Pearl and almost every area in and around the city. Unfortunately, the problem is not getting better, and we are feeling increasingly unsafe. In our neighborhood specifically, we have experienced the following:

When: September 15, 2017

Where: North Park Blocks

What: Our dog ingested drug residue while sniffing around the grass in the North Park Blocks. Within the hour he went limp and had to be rushed to Dove Lewis. Thankfully he survived but is a little worse for the wear, and we now find ourselves with expensive and unnecessary veterinary bills.

When: June 13, 2017

Where: 8th Avenue and NW Davis

What: While walking to work, my wife Valerie was asked by a vagrant what time it was. When she looked down at her watch and then back up to give the time, the man exposed himself and began masturbating while chasing her.

When: Nightly

Where: 300 NW 8th Ave

What: Someone defecates in front of our garage, front and/or side access doors

When: Daily

Where: North Park Blocks / 8th Avenue sidewalk / NW Flanders between 3rd and NW Broadway

What: Excessive public intoxication, highly conspicuous drug use, aggressive behavior, human feces, extreme biohazards and sidewalk obstruction.

When: Too frequent to count

Where: North Park Blocks, Old Town

What: Multiple gunshots, discharging of firearms, other violence

Perhaps most frustrating is that we pay the highest property tax rates in the city while also incurring additional sums for private security and city mandated programs to clean up the neighborhood. We would be happy to continue paying the extra amounts if progress were made but given our nearly everyday experiences, we would be remiss if we weren't questioning how intelligently these resources are being spent.

Please take immediate steps to clean up our city. We feel increasingly threatened and unsafe in and around the neighborhood.

Sincerely yours,

Joel and Valerie Fishman

Hello,

I am the owner of the Ben & Jerry's on Hawthorne and would like to again express my concern about the behaviors of the people who hang out in our neighborhood. Many of the our long time customers and residents in the area have complained to us about seeing the drug use, needles, open alcoholic containers, garbage and loud behaviors of the people blocking the sidewalks in our area. One woman even wrote to say they saw a couple fornicating in the middle of the day just across from our shop as they were trying to enjoy their ice cream.

We have presented at two city council meetings and group of us are working with the mayor and police bureaus to ask for help.

Our message is that we don't feel safe and the police response, including the DA's office involvement, has become ineffective.

Our business is suffering and our staff is afraid to close at night. We need help.

Thank you,
Boo Rigney
Owner
Ben & Jerry's on Hawthorne

To whom it may concern:

I would like to sincerely thank this committee and the Mayor's Office for your attempts to address safety issues in inner Southeast Portland. At the same time that development and tourism are increasing, so too are threats to the livability of the area. I live in Sunnyside and love it here. But I am terribly alarmed that some of our wonderful neighbors are preparing to sell and move away due to stolen cars, items stolen off porches, verbal threats, feeling unsafe walking in the neighborhood.

To cite a few of my many unsafe and worrisome experiences:

While my 1 and a half year old grandchild was visiting, a disoriented woman was at the back of the driveways between our house and our neighbor's house, going through her purse, possibly using drugs. Our neighbors were not home. She went into our neighbor's yard, took a pair of boots off their porch and put them on. We went out to talk to her at that time, gave her a pair of shoes from our house and insisted she put our neighbor's shoes back. I called 211 to get some housing and services resources for her. I tracked her down on Hawthorne and gave her several addresses and phone numbers.

We have smelled marijuana wafting from groups gathered in Sunnyside Park, with children present in the adjacent playground. Same experience with the group often gathered across from Ben and Jerry's near Hawthorne. Same experience with the campers just below the Laurelhurst Park playground. (Sunnyside and Laurelhurst playgrounds are the place for children from many neighborhoods to gather and play.)

I do not feel safe walking alone in the neighborhood after dark, which is becoming increasingly more of each day as Fall approaches.

I am grateful that I have not experienced the verbal threats, public urination, needles on the Laurelhurst playground, theft, break-ins, flashing, and other things my neighbors have experienced. But I do not want anyone to experience these things.

Again, thank you for your help to restore the livability of our neighborhood. Please increase efforts to enforce existing laws and to keep our children, elderly, and all of us safe.

Sincerely,

Carol Poliak

1327 SE 32nd Place, Portland OR 97214

Cap823@hotmail.com

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I lived in the Buckman / Kern neighborhood and loved it very much. A few years ago things in my neighborhood changed dramatically. The neighborhood where I previously felt comfortable leaving my doors unlocked became very unsafe. One afternoon, while walking with my then 2-year-old to go to Oregon Park, we witnessed an individual sitting with a group of people shooting up.

This summer, I was at a park in Bend, OR chatting with another mom who had recently moved from the Hawthorne District. She just relocated to the Bend area because the child of another mom had stepped on a needle while playing in Piccolo Park.

I have since moved from my once lovely and amazing neighborhood where I truly thought I would live out my life and joyously raise my son. I now live in Oregon City and only go into downtown Portland when necessary and only for business.

Please, help make our City of Roses rosy again.

Sincerely,

Celeste LaChance

September 19, 2017

Dear Mayor Wheeler and City Commissioners,

I am a homeowner in SE Portland in the Ladd's Addition neighborhood. I write out of concern for the safety of our community and the value of our homes.

I moved to Portland from the Midwest in 2007 and purchased my home in Ladd's Addition in 2008. I love the city, but I am concerned about what seems to be an increase in crime since I arrived. Friends of mine in neighborhoods such as Mt. Tabor, Colonial Heights, Laurelhurst, and Brooklyn have experienced property crimes against their homes and cars. In 2012, my home was broken into by two young men. I was fortunate that I was not home at the time and a neighbor witnessed the crime in progress. My neighbor called the police and they were able to apprehend the men before they left my home. I was very lucky that my property was recovered and that my home was not damaged. The police officers told me those young men had committed several similar crimes in order to obtain items to sell to purchase drugs. I live alone and, immediately following the crime, it was a little unsettling to be in my own home.

Since then, in my neighborhood, I have had encounters with, and witnessed people who appear to be under the influence of drugs or suffering from mental illness. Likely both. I recognize that these are complicated issues that do not have easy solutions. But, I worry that my elected officials are not doing all that they can to get people the help they need and to enforce the laws and ordinances in place.

I have become familiar with the efforts of the Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association Safety Committee. As one way to address some of the issues that underlie my concerns, I support the proposal of the LNA Safety Committee to create "safe zones" around public areas frequently visited by minors. I encourage you to consider their proposal and continue to seek other solutions to these difficult problems that affect all of us in Portland and the surrounding area.

Thank you for your attention to my letter and to the proposal of my friends and neighbors in Laurelhurst.



Stacy R. Owen
2013 SE 20th Avenue
Portland, OR 97214
stacyrowen@hotmail.com
(517) 449-4510

Mayor Ted Wheeler
1221 SW 4th Ave Rm 340 Portland, OR 97204
mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov

Dear Mayor/City Commissioner,

We are writing out of extreme concern for the safety of Portland's children. Some of our public parks' playgrounds have become too dangerous for young children to play in due to the daily presence of syringes and drug use. This increased substance use in our parks and playgrounds, in turn, draws in associated crimes such as drug dealing, petty theft and burglaries of surrounding homes, and less frequently, but even more dangerous, shootings and stabbings on or near playgrounds.

Portland Parks and Recreation staff find syringes daily in the parks and playgrounds along with human feces and trash. While adults know to be cautious around needles, children, especially toddlers, are naturally curious. If they see an object on the ground, especially something shiny like a needle, they pick it up to explore the novel object. This can happen so quickly, that even the most vigilant parent may not be able to prevent it in time. Because of their naturally curious behavior, children are at higher risk for a needle stick injury than adults are. Anyone, adult or child, who has a needle stick injury from an unknown source is at risk of acquiring HIV, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C. We do not want a sentinel event to occur to a young child to prompt the city into action. One accidental stick from a used needle could change a child's life forever.

Tents and cars provide a hidden location for people to use substances and some of these camps are surrounding the perimeter of public playgrounds where syringes are found. Individuals under the influence of substances, especially heroine and methamphetamines, may behave unpredictably, and it is common to see agitated individuals on these affected playgrounds. Therefore, we are asking for an immediate and preventative approach to keeping young children safe while the City continues to work on the challenges of addiction and homelessness. We are requesting an immediate enactment of a City ordinance creating "Safe Zones" for Portland children. The ordinance should not only ban tent and car camping at all Portland schools, daycares, and playgrounds, but also define a perimeter that will buffer our children's play from illegal and dangerous behavior.

In closing, helping those in need and ensuring public safety should not be mutually exclusive goals. Creating and enforcing Safe Zones can ultimately save money towards

costly clean ups which should then be directed towards shelters, addiction treatment, and mental health facilities. To quote Nelson Mandela: "Safety and security don't just happen, they are the result of collective consensus and public investment. We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear."

Thank you for your consideration in keeping our Portland children safe.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Coates
Portland resident

Mayor Ted Wheeler
1221 SW 4th Ave Rm 340
Portland, OR 97204
mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov

Dear Mayor/City Commissioner,

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Thank you for your consideration in keeping our Portland children safe.

Sincerely,

Rene Chambers

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

My name is Shimran George, and I am a resident of the Hosford-Abernethy/Richmond neighborhood. In my five years in the neighborhood, I have seen our green city go from fairly clean to mounds of garbage plaguing our sidewalks. I've found mounds of trash thrown in my recycling regularly, my car rummaged through with my stuff thrown over my driveway and my bike stolen. I've seen Sewallcrest Park go from one of the most idyllic urban neighborhood parks one can imagine, to an illegal encampment and open-air bike chop shop. While no city is perfect at addressing these issues, I think I'd rather move to a city where I have some modicum of confidence that the laws are enforced, and said city is interested in attracting talent who want to live in clean, safe neighborhoods. After living in New York City, I can say with a greater degree of confidence that I feel safer and less vulnerable there than I do here. I've invested good money into my house with plans for renovation, but oftentimes question whether it's a wise decision as my neighborhood's livability slowly deteriorates and a city government that seems incompetent in dealing with these issues.

The slogan we all know is: "Keep Portland Weird." But I would argue that we should tweak it to: "Keep Portland Different." The ways in which this city is special to me and so many others, is not in our blind rejection of what is normal and commonplace, but rather our ability to be ordinary people living ordinary lives, yet think about problems a little differently. Just because we are different, doesn't mean we cannot be like everyone else in finding crime and the takeover our public resources as repulsive and a problem that needs a solution, along with proper enforcement of laws. It is the perception that the city, out of obsequious sensitivity, or in the spirit of "keeping it weird", and at the expense of the livability of neighborhood residents, does not enforce laws and ultimately signals an "anything goes" mentality in regards to petty crime, trash, drugs, and illegal camping.

No city that fails to address quality of life issues for honest, hardworking citizens is going to become great. No city that fails to act as crime runs rampant and illegal camping takes over our public infrastructure can possibly be described as effective or well-managed. These issues plague many other cities, but perhaps Portland, the city that has been brave enough to innovate and tackle problems in a unique fashion, can do better still. We tore down highways when others were building them, built an urban growth boundary, and led the nation in what it was like to have a real, livable city that could be radically different and effective in protecting that quality of life. Rather than tacitly accepting the status quo and creating an environment for people to operate without consequences, let us look to actively rehabilitate people to make them functioning members of society. Let us be the city that aggressively pursues education and allows our weakest and most vulnerable members of society a means of social advancement, and, as a consequence be contributors, rather than detractors and ultimately contribute to the tax base--a good city is one that knows how to manage human capital. Ultimately, our civic

greatness lies in our ability to be ambitious in solving problems, not pathologically ignoring them as most people perceive the city government to be doing.

I understand as mayor you'd like your tenure to be defined by issues other than this one, but I imagine you have quickly realized that as mayor you don't find the issues to tackle, but rather they find you. While I gather some of this mess is from your predecessor, it will be on your efficacy in addressing these issues that myself and so many other like-minded people will be judging you in the next election season.

Thank you for reading this letter.

Regards,
Shimran B. George

September 19, 2017

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to hear the concerns of engaged Portlanders. I am writing in support of the efforts of the Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association Safety Committee. Although I do not live in Laurelhurst, I applaud the efforts of this group to make the entire city of Portland safer, more liveable, and more humane for those without a social safety net. I live in Ladd's Addition, and I hope you will consider the efforts of the Laurelhurst group to be representative of the many Portlanders who are feeling frustrated about the safety and rapidly declining liveability of our city.

I have several concerns about how the city is addressing the issue of illegal camping and criminal behavior associated with these encampments. One overriding concern for me is public health. As a public health professional, I have concerns about spread of infectious diseases and unsanitary conditions when people are allowed to camp illegally anywhere in the city, and to use the sidewalks and parks as a toilet.

The outbreak of Hepatitis C occurring in San Diego is an example of what can happen if illegal campers are allowed to continue camping illegally. If efforts to find these illegal campers appropriate facilities and housing fall short, no one has access to the general hygienic practices that keep us all safe – handwashing, using toilets instead of sidewalks and streets, needle exchange programs, and more. If you are unfamiliar with the situation in San Diego, you can learn more here:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/to-your-health/wp/2017/09/13/to-fight-deadly-hepatitis-outbreak-san-diego-begins-power-washing-streets-with-bleach/>.

It is a sad state of affairs when the streets and sidewalks are so contaminated by feces and other bodily fluids that power washing with bleach is the only solution available to contain an outbreak of a deadly virus. It would not be at all surprising to me if a similar situation arose in Portland. I'm surprised it hasn't already.

Another concern I have surrounds how the city is being run by advocacy, not policy. I believe Portland now is a city run by advocacy, not sound policy. Those advocates with the loudest voices are heard. At Portland City Council meetings, the loudest advocates consistently are those who advocate for illegal campers – even when those campers are committing crimes and criminally and aggressively harrassing people. I do not think advocacy should trump good policy.

For example, **Housing First** policy would be a good place to start. It's wonderful to have advocates for those currently in horribly stressful situations and those without adequate housing. However, these individuals should not drive every policy decision. Currently, it appears as if they are driving every decision around potential solutions.

I'm full-time employed (fortunately for me), so I don't have the time or the luxury of attending city council meetings. As far as I'm concerned, the current situation of illegal camping and rising criminal behavior in Portland is an all hands on deck type of situation, yet the council debates whether people living in semi-permanent encampments should have the right to vote in neighborhood association meetings.

While this is an important issue, it should not displace SERIOUS, GOAL-DRIVEN conversations about finding affordable housing for more individuals, creating the safety net of drug treatment and rehabilitation (beyond 30 days inpatient then returned to the streets), and the job support, parenting classes, life skills, and every other resource we must expand to solve this problem. It also should not displace SERIOUS, GOAL-DRIVEN conversations about how and why such aggressive criminal behavior is allowed to exist in Portland.

One of the largest and most pressing concerns I have is around this issue is how illegal camping is driving the serious and dangerous criminal behavior mentioned above. As one example, I recently met some work colleagues at 5pm on a Monday evening at Picnic House in downtown Portland. Within 30 minutes of being seated at a sidewalk table, we were verbally and aggressively harassed by a man clearly in distress. This individual, who was shirtless, shoeless, and visibly dirty approached our sidewalk table and asked for money. When we said no, he completely decompensated, screaming, lunging, menacing and calling us every expletive you can imagine. He also spoke about nonsensical topics, such as how we (our group at the table) were killing all the elders and in cohorts with Russia. There is no doubt this person needs mental health treatment and support immediately.

As I mentioned, the man obviously was in terrible mental and physical distress. He yelled about needing medical care for his stab wound and proceeded to show it to us. It truly appeared as if he had been stabbed near his shoulder blade; he exhibited a gaping, very "clean," deep cut wound. I am troubled this person isn't receiving adequate support from social services, and troubled he remaining on the street to suffer, while simultaneously harassing others. This is unacceptable and unfair to all involved.

The restaurant staff had to intervene, and when we left the table to go inside the restaurant, he ate our food. He then proceeded to try to break into my co-worker's car, which was parked in front of the restaurant. Again, the restaurant staff intervened, and he was "scared away" from the car. We did not care about the food, as he clearly needed it, but the entire situation needs immediate attention. One co-worker was visiting from out of town and mentioned how her *three block walk* from her hotel to the restaurant was incredibly scary, stressful, and like nothing she'd ever experienced in this realm. She was harassed multiple times verbally for money, and likely, simply because she is a small female and looks like an "easy target." This occurred at 5:15 pm on a weekday evening!

I also walk my dogs in SE Portland. While I have been fortunate not to have been seriously harrassed (aside from the usual pan handling) or physically harmed, I find it entirely unpleasant to walk my dogs, winding through a tent encampment reeking of urine and feces, with used needles in plain sight. This is walking *on side walks*. These encampments are permanent, and I have walked through them multiple times in multiple areas. Simply having the police chase these illegal campers from location to location is not a solution.

How do we get your (and city council's) attention? The population without homes has increased by 10% by some counts, in the last two years. This is not a problem that will solve itself.

I am completely on board with spending all available resources to solve the lack of affordable housing issue. I always vote for increases in taxes, bonds, and every other way to help provide financial resources to address this issue. It seems it is all for naught. I would gladly give more if I thought it would help solve the problem.

But to get back to the issue at hand, what most of us are talking about is aggressive, potentially very mentally ill, often criminal behavior. The city is becoming unlivable for many who simply want to take a walk or eat at an outdoor/sidewalk cafe table. I agree, this is a "first world" problem, and people often are overly upset about very minor issues associated with urban living, but this is not a minor issue.

It is unsafe. Those who are yelling at passersby, aggressive, and possibly dangerous, need to be removed from our communities. One of my neighbors experienced a man throwing rocks at her. Why? She had no idea, but she had to literally "run for her life."

I am liberal to the point of being a socialist. I often joke with my friends and colleagues that if I spoke Finnish, and if Finland weren't at the 60th parallel, I would gladly move there, pay 70+% in taxes, and ensure all of fellow citizens, regardless of mental illness and drug addiction or other life hardships, have a roof over their head and a meaningful life... even if they have never held and will never hold a job in their life. I am that much in favor of support for all.

I honestly believe that when you have "lost" people like me, people willing to pay nearly anything to solve the problem (assuming lack of resources is the overriding issue), you have lost everything. I am a compassionate, kind person, but I am at my breaking point over how unliveable this city has become. I've lived here for nearly 15 years, and for the first time ever, I am not liking Portland living at all. I'm tired of being harrassed, I'm tired of the public health dangers associated with illegal camping (we've been lucky so far, but San Diego should be a wake up call). I'm tired of the overt, aggressive, criminal behaviors driving Portlanders to avoid taking a walk out of fear.

I grew up just outside of Detroit, and worked in downtown Detroit for several years. I feel more harassed and unsafe here in Portland than I ever felt in Detroit. The state of criminal behavior, illegal camping, and lack of response from the city (police, social services, and any other support system which should be in place by now) is a very serious situation. It drives away tourists, it harms business, it makes people think twice before moving here, and it makes us all miserable.

I appreciate your time and consideration. I am rooting for the City of Portland to get through this. Please, please, *please* think creatively. Think outside of the box. Make a long term housing plan for those without homes due to addiction and mental health issues, and for those who want, but simply can't afford a modest apartment. We have to stop thinking in months. We need a decade long vision (at a minimum) that is realistic, progressive, and well-financed. We need solid policy, and we need to listen to advocates, but govern through effective and compassionate policy.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Dixon
Ladd's Addition Resident

Mayor Ted Wheeler
1221 SW 4th Ave, Room 340
Portland, OR 97204

September 17, 2017

Dear Mayor Wheeler, LNA Board, and Friends of Laurelhurst,

I volunteer with Friends of Laurelhurst Park (FLP), becoming Co-Leader in 2015. Working with Parks staff, FLP have donated 12 to 45 drop-in volunteers once or twice a month for 13 years. Our group wants you to be aware of a critical problem. We need your help.

The situation with the houseless campers is a critical problem this year, and with the opioid epidemic, it is becoming very unsafe for our volunteers, not to mention the other people using the park. Volunteers now work around human urine and feces and uncertain debris left in shrub beds and around work areas. We are concerned about the health problems of these campers, and what we might be exposed to. We found 31 needles last week at our Sept. 13 work party at Laurelhurst Annex.

When we were working on Sept. 13, a group of 3- 4th graders came to the soccer field. To play safely, they first had to line up across the field and walk the length of the field doing a search for dog feces and syringes. They did find some needles. Kids were proud of their trophy syringes, and adults cleaned up the problems. Proud, but yikes.

At the same time, young families were playing on the playground equipment. Around the Dance Studio, next to the playground, we found 7 of the 31 syringes. We were looking for them, so could remove them safely. We were glad we did look for them and remove them. As we finished, the Dance Studio class let out. The participants seemed around 3 or 4 years old, many with smaller siblings.

I will tell you that the situation with the houseless folks that live around the park, and on the parking strip is very discouraging. It is harder to convince volunteers to come out to work. It is discouraging to lose the daily staff help for plants. They are busy cleaning up messes made by inconsiderate, uncaring folks who live in and by the park, setting "campfires," using the shrub beds for bathrooms, and believing they have every right to do so. Watering, weed removal, pruning, all work done normally by staff is secondary to security problems. We have decided not to do planting for the short term. This year, with staffing budget concerns and lack of staff support, I have considered "handing in my trowel".

Don't get me wrong, I love the folks who work at Laurelhurst Park. I even like some of the folks who live there. But not around the kids. Not around the babies, especially. And not around my volunteers. Please, give us a break and find a way to make a safe zone for the 8-year-old soccer players, and 2-year-old swingers and sliders, and 15 to 75-year-old park volunteers, all people who love their park. A Safe Zone would be nice.

Please, just a safe zone around the park. Thanks for your help and consideration for this community's future and for respecting our City volunteers.

Sincerely,

Peggy Glascock
Friends of Laurelhurst Park Co-Leader

Cc: City Commissioners Amanda Fritz, Cloe Eudaly, Nick Fish, Dan Saltzman
Mike Abbaté, Park Director
Board, Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association
Friends of Laurelhurst Park
Laurelhurst Safety Committee

+Gail and Wyatt Christensen

2532 NE Multnomah Street
Portland, OR 97232
Phone: (480) 381-1188

E-Mail: gmcazlaw@gmail.com

September 18, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

My husband and I live on NE Multnomah Street in Sullivan's Gulch. ZEK owns a warehouse at 2506 NE Multnomah Street, two doors down from my home. The property owners continuously allow illegal campers in the warehouse and on the property. There is human feces and garbage along the sidewalk so we cannot allow our grandchildren to play in the area and even have to cross the street to avoid this section of land when walking down the street.

We have complained to the property owner and have been told that he "does not wish to fence the property at this time." We have complained to the city to no avail. These illegal tenants of ZEK have stolen my water. I have had to outfit the hose bib with a keyed lock. They have set fire to the property and to the surrounding properties four times in the last year. They leave garbage and anti theft devises from Fred Meyer all over the neighborhood. They scatter my garbage all about my yard and street on garbage collection days. They have broken into my vehicle parked in my driveway numerous times. They have broken the glass out of our car windows and have vandalized our property.

Illegal residents of this property knock on my door regularly to beg for cash. They have knocked on my door asking to use my phone and once to call police because there was a fight on the property. They walk past my house loudly arguing with people who are not there. They yell nonsense at my family and me. We are fearful of allowing our grandchildren even to play on the front porch while supervised because we never know what they may be exposed to.

Please, please enforce the laws already in place to prevent camping in the city. Please force property owners to do what they are able to prevent illegal occupation of abandoned buildings. This situation is a blight on our communities. I actively warn family and friends who want to visit Portland that it is shockingly filthy and dangerous due to the current city administration allowing camping on the sidewalks, in city parks and along freeways and other roads, and allowing the open and unchallenged use of illicit drugs in our public places. This is a disgrace!

Sincerely,



Gail Christensen

To Mayor Wheeler:

When I first moved here about twenty ears ago, I used to remark and brag to out-of-towners that I believed that a woman could walk anywhere in Portland safely.

I can no longer say that. My sister and her infant baby were placed in danger here. While visiting me in Portland with her infant son, I was showing her downtown. As we walked by some people sitting on the sidewalk, one of them stood up and for a step or two walked alongside my sister, then suddenly tried to yank the blanket that her infant son was resting on while being held against her shoulder. It could have easily ended up with my nephew falling to the sidewalk. She was visiting from Madison, WI, and this did not leave a positive impression of the city on her. Surely she will tell people back there.

Incidents like this used to be rare, but I have read about several “snatchings” similar to this just in our little neighborhood. People have to be on their guard now, when walking around Portland.

Another incident involved a young couple resting under my bedroom window, apparently going through their apparent stolen items (electronic items still in packaging) and mentioning getting high. I politely asked them to leave through the window, but they got very agitated, said they had the right to be there, said they would come back, smash my windows and beat the s*** out of me. I called the police, whether they came or not, I don't know, but the couple had moved on.

I have also suffered from the usual “quality of life” crimes so common here now – my car has been broken into, my storage space broken into, my Halloween decorations stolen, my Christmas decorations stolen, twice I've had disoriented people crawl over my patio fence. I've had packages stolen from my porch. Someone cut the cable lock and stole my bike off my porch as well.

One of the more disconcerting things is the lack of police response. I do understand that you are possibly adding police officers, and that calls have to be prioritized because of the lack of officers.

I used to see cars patrolling through my corner at SE 30th and SE Stark, sometimes twice a day. It gave me a reassuring feeling. The police were nearby in case they were needed. Now it is very rare to see one pass through that intersection. And all of the incidents I have recorded here have happened within feet of that intersection.

Another time, three men were beating on one man and were ripping his clothes on my corner, all four were apparently drunk and or high or didn't seem to be the least concerned about getting in any trouble. I've heard similar "shouting matches" on the street where the belligerent one will outright say, "Go ahead and call the police – they won't come anyway!" Because they know it to be true.

What really concerns me is the number of armed and non-armed daylight break-ins and home invasions that have happened in this area. I feel very vulnerable leaving my house in the morning, because who knows, has someone been watching my house just waiting for the right time to break-in after I leave for work? Not unrealistic knowing how often this happens here.

The other worry is mentally unstable or high drug addicts wandering into my house while I'm there, or sleeping. There have been so many incidents like this in my neighborhood that it's a regular thought when I go to bed and lock-up.

This is just a small sampling of incidents that have happened to me in just our little fifteen-by-nine block Sunnyside neighborhood. Thank you for listening to my concerns.

Gregory Podolec

Dear Mayor/City Commissioner,

I am a Portland senior citizen, writing out of extreme concern for the safety of Portland's children and seniors. Some of our public parks' playgrounds have become too dangerous for young children to play in due to the daily presence of syringes and drug use. This increased substance use in our parks and playgrounds, in turn, draws in associated crimes such as drug dealing, petty theft and burglaries of surrounding homes, and less frequently, but even more dangerous, shootings and stabbings on or near playgrounds. putting seniors at risk.

When I moved into the Sunnyside neighborhood two years ago I was thrilled to use the park as an extension of my outdoor recreation space. Since then illegal encampments began to spring up. They are inhabited not by drug users and thieves who shouted insults and were often fighting and blocking the sidewalk. Many a bicycle and other items reported stolen on [nextdoor.net](#) showed up in a pile of possessions by someone camping on the streets around the park. Soon I was too intimidated by the abuses I witnessed to use the park or to visit friends who lived adjacent to the park, when I had to walk by a hostile encampment.

Portland Parks and Recreation staff find syringes daily in the parks and playgrounds along with human feces and trash. While adults know to be cautious around needles, children, especially toddlers, are naturally curious and at higher risk for acquiring HIV, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C. We do not want a sentinel event to occur to a young child to prompt the city into action. One accidental stick from a used needle could change a child's life forever.

Tents and cars provide a hidden location for people to use substances and some of these camps are surrounding the perimeter of public playgrounds where syringes are found. Individuals under the influence of substances, especially heroine and methamphetamines, may behave unpredictably, and it is common to see agitated

individuals on these affected playgrounds. Therefore, we are asking for an immediate and preventative approach to keeping young children safe while the City continues to work on the challenges of addiction and homelessness. We are requesting an immediate enactment of a City ordinance creating "Safe Zones" for Portland children. The ordinance should not only ban tent and car camping at all Portland schools, daycares, and playgrounds, but also define a perimeter that will buffer our children's play from illegal and dangerous behavior.

In closing, helping those in need and ensuring public safety should not be mutually exclusive goals. Creating and enforcing Safe Zones can ultimately save money towards costly clean ups which should then be directed towards shelters, addiction treatment, and mental health facilities. To quote Nelson Mandela: "Safety and security don't just happen, they are the result of collective consensus and public investment. We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear."

Thank you for your consideration in keeping our Portland children safe.

Sincerely,



Jan Camp
3505 SE Morrison St
Apt 6
Portland, OR 97214
503-758-4719
jan.camp@ymail.com

Dear Mayor:

My ten-year old son plays soccer at Sewallcrest Park at SE Market and 31st. There are dozens of men (and their belongings, alcohol, etc.) right at the very edge of the field, just on the other side of the sidelines. Every time a kid runs out of bounds they run into a transient or their stuff. When one of the kids has to use the restroom, the coach stops the practice and escorts that kid to the bathroom because he doesn't think it's safe to let a kid walk to the bathroom and back. Tonight there was a police officer removing one of the transients at the end of practice (I don't know why) - quite a sight for a bunch of gawking 10 year olds.

This is a secondhand story, but my good friend's older son also practices at Sewallcrest Park (he's 13) and last week the coaches had to call the Police because the transients figured out how to turn on the underground sprinkler system and repeatedly turned on the sprinklers while the kids were trying to practice and refused to stop....

It really is making the City much less family-friendly, and at some point the City is going to have to decide if they're more interested in having families in this community, or more interested in letting transients do whatever they want wherever they want...

Anonymous City Employee

Dear Mayor,

Many have worked, worked and worked for months on improving the safety of Laurelhurst Park. As a result of all their efforts there have been very visible improvements around the park. PBOT, Portland Police Bureau(PPB) and our park workers have been amazing partners in addressing the issues associated with illegal campers in Laurelhurst Park. They all deserve a big round of applause for their responsiveness, diligence and work efforts. Our park has not looked this good in a very long time. The PBOT signs banning overnight parking around the park have proven very effective when coupled with consistent enforcement from the PPB. The park workers continue to monitor and alleviate safety and health problems at the park, including used syringes, litter and human feces. The park neighbors have remained vigilant and continue to report. Yet, children prior to using the soccer field in Laurelhurst Park Annex, still have to "sweep" the field to clear of "dog poop and needles". Last week the Friends of Laurlehurst Park found 31 used syringes in the park annex while pruning shrubs. The problem is that while all our efforts might have been an improvement to our park, they have not addressed the underlying issues adversely affecting safety, health and livability. Affordable housing, drug addiction and an ineffective mental health system must be addressed. We cannot do that part, it must come from city leadership. I recognize it will be a very difficult process that will be very time consuming. However, we cannot have our children at risk while long term solutions are being sought. Clearly the health and safety of our children is still threatened. The "Safe Zone Ordinance" will ban camping close to park, playgrounds, athletic fields and provide a buffer from the effects of underlying societal problems. "The Safe Zone Ordinance" must be passed. We can no longer gamble with our children's health and safety.

TJ Browning

Dear Mayor Wheeler and City Commissioners,

Hello, my name is Annie Mack and I am a mother of 2 young children in Laurelhurst and a physician at Providence practicing both pediatrics and internal medicine. I want to share my experiences and discuss concerns regarding criminal activity, threatening behavior, and IV drug use citywide and especially at Portland playgrounds.

I first became involved with the Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association (LNA) Safety Committee after my husband discovered 2 syringes in front of the bathrooms at the Laurelhurst Park Playground while he had my 2 children with him. After the syringe incident, my concern escalated for both my own and other children's safety and I decided to become involved in the LNA Safety Committee only to discover that this is a common occurrence at the Park. Volunteer members and Parks and Rec staff reported regular occurrences of needles in the park and playground along with human feces and trash. As a mother and pediatrician, I know that while adults know to be cautious around needles, children (especially toddlers) are naturally curious. If they see an object on the ground, especially something shiny like a needle, they pick it up to explore the novel object. This can happen so quickly that even the most diligent parent may not be able to prevent it no matter how closely they are watching their child, especially if there is another child under their care. As a doctor, I know the very real risk of acquiring HIV, Hepatitis B, and/or Hepatitis C from a needlestick injury. This risk is even higher amongst those who use IV drugs and share needles. There is also the risk of an accidental heroin injection occurring to a child who may find a loaded syringe. We have a picture that a neighbor took of a loaded syringe (substance unknown but heroin is highly likely) found on the playground. An adult dose of heroin would be a lethal dose to a child. One accidental stick from a used syringe could change that child's life forever.

My other concern is regarding aggressive, illegal, and threatening behavior especially from individuals who are under the influence of substances. In the course of 5 weeks in April and May 2017, our neighborhood experienced a stabbing, shooting, and 2 lockdowns. There has been a spike in burglaries and petty crime as well. This is a completely different neighborhood and city now compared to 2 years ago before the tent camping ban was temporarily lifted by Charlie Hales. There is a strong correlation with IV drug use and criminal activity. It is clear that there are heroin addicts stealing bikes and running "bike chop shops" to generate money to fuel their addiction -- one such individual was just recently at Laurelhurst Park Playground blatantly breaking down bikes. In fact, my daughter just started at Laurelhurst Elementary School kindergarten and there have already been reports of 2 bike thefts with locks professionally cut. There has been an individual (without a child) photographed casing the bike corral at the school. And yes, I may be making assumptions and jumping to conclusions, but it absolutely terrifies me that a potential criminal on drugs is on school property that is not a locked facility. My sense of security has been completely shattered this last year. And yes, I could give up on Portland and move my family, start all over with a new medical practice and panel of patients. But I am hopeful that our City's new leadership

will improve enforcement of the current laws and public safety over the course of the next year.

With great effort from our LNA Safety Committee and City Officials, we have made some strides on the Laurelhurst Park Playground. The tents have diminished in number with the new "no camping" signage put up there and better enforcement of this ordinance. But I know many other playgrounds and areas where children gather in this city are still struggling. I encourage the same level of commitment from the City to address substance use, threatening behaviors, and unauthorized camping on ALL City playgrounds, schools, and neighborhoods where children reside.

We need a proactive approach to prevent unauthorized camping in our neighborhoods and playgrounds rather than a reactive approach. We are spending extraordinary amounts of precious city funds for regular clean ups that could have been spent elsewhere on housing, drug treatment facilities, and mental health facilities. We do not want to wait until a 3 year old picks up a syringe, gets stuck, and acquires a lifelong chronic disease (or worse dies from an inadvertent heroin overdose) to prompt the city into action.

We need to start thinking outside the box. Helping the homeless and ensuring public safety should not be mutually exclusive goals. To quote Nelson Mandela : "Safety and security don't just happen, they are the result of collective consensus and public investment. We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear."

Thank you very much for listening.

Annie Mack MD

Mayor Ted Wheeler,

I moved to Portland in 2004 because after having only visited one time. Why? I fell in love with the vibe, the beautiful scenery, the accessible city life and restaurant scene, easy access to the great outdoors. And the list goes on. The city has inflated since then. The growth needs to be managed. Times have been tough. The effects need to be managed. Illegal drug use has become more flagrant. That issue needs to be managed. Crime has become more commonplace. That needs to be addressed.

I see signs of this deterioration of Portland's livability every day. I see mounds of trash on the public spaces from unauthorized camping. I see encampments with trash all over our green spaces. I take my daughter to the park and I worry as we navigate around people twitching and acting erratically; whether from drugs or unmanaged mental illness. Just weeks ago, a neighbor woman was jogging fairly in an area we walk during broad daylight and was punched for no reason by a man who had assaulted numerous other people. Why is criminal behavior from the same people not addressed satisfactorily? What would have happened if I'd been walking by that location with my daughter?

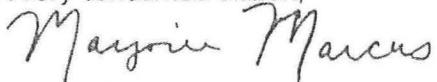
A couple of years ago, I left my car doors unlocked. I found my car had been rifled through and fortunately the only thing of value I had stolen was a car wash debit card. But I found a drug syringe. It was a bit disturbing to say the least. I have to worry all the time about what will happen if my car door is unlocked. It happens to people in my neighborhood *all the time*. Just last week, my neighbor (across the street) had a few minor things stolen by somebody who slept in their car overnight. They were unnerved to find the trespasser in their car. Within the past month, there was a person carjacked at gunpoint right next to my kindergartener's elementary school. My other neighbors across the street had somebody break in through an upstairs window a couple of years ago. My neighbors four houses down had their bikes stolen from their *locked* garage.

We installed a Ring doorbell and a motion sensor light. Yet we still have people inspecting the contents of our cars every single night and we still don't feel safe.

One Sunday morning, I was driving up to an open spot in the Pearl by the 24 hour fitness. My 5 year old daughter was in the car. There was an unauthorized encampment spilling into the street. It was a full blown blue tarp propped up by numerous items (shopping cart, etc). It was 15-20 feet in length and blocked access for exiting the car. I could not park there because I would not feel safe trying to get my daughter out of the car and into somebody's unauthorized camping space. It was also an eye sore for our city. Why can we not provide shelter for those who need it and prevent people from camping in our shared public spaces?

I love that Portland has heart and compassion, but the people of our city are frustrated by the lack of responsiveness. The city has turned a blind eye to the majority of its citizens. The city can still assist those who are down on their luck without allowing the parks, streets, and public spaces to become overrun with camping, littering, drug use, and other criminal activity. If it takes funding to assist those who truly need it, I am behind it. I am not in support of tolerating criminal behavior, violence, and illegal drug use. I also think we need to examine whether the influx of campers is coming from elsewhere and how to address that issue. There are many people who believe that other cities are paying for people to re-locate their problems to our city, only adding to the city's burden. I'm not saying we shouldn't help *anybody* who comes from another city. I'm just saying that this needs to be examined and solutions identified. Mayor Ted Wheeler, we are asking you to really step up your efforts to help tackle these issues.

A very concerned citizen,



Marjorie Marcus
Irvington Neighborhood

Jeff Merrick

Portland, Oregon 97209
merrick@jeffmerrick.com

September 18, 2017

Mayor Ted Wheeler
Hand Delivered

Re: Safe Zones proposed by Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association.

Dear Mayor Wheeler

Homeless children; passed-out adults; trash; toughs dismantling bikes; people down on their luck; mental illness; addiction; able-bodied homesteaders taking advantage of official leniency; human feces; drug needles; neighborhood crime . . . Permitting such squalor and suffering is not compassionate, and it is not moral. Housing and homelessness is THE moral issue of our time. In the 1960s, it was Civil Rights and the Vietnam War. In 2017, it is the heartbreaking humanitarian crises in which we live. Some days, when I encounter third-world conditions in Portland, I do not know whether to cry, scream, move away or fight. Today, I'm fighting for the city I love.

We know the issues and solutions. Some cities, such as Medicine Hat, Alberta, have ended chronic homelessness. The strategy is to engage, triage, and move people toward help, self-sufficiency, or jail if they have warrants for their arrest. The failed and immoral strategy is to leave people alone in "campsites," where girls and boys will turn tricks in rainy tents for drug money and remain imprisoned by addiction and where people disproportionately become victims of crime.

The first step to ending chronic homelessness is prevention: keep people in their homes and prioritize youth homelessness.

Next, we must engage people living outdoors, both to identify their needs and ensure safety. We must move people living outside towards effective organizations such as Central City Concern. Moving squatters supports homeowners, renters and parents to feel secure in their homes, parks, and schoolyards. No parent should worry their child or dog will find the needle or feces before they see it. No child walking home from school should be confronted by a someone suffering a psychotic break or worse. **We must ensure children have safe places to experience childhood joy and growth without fear and hypervigilance.**

The Safe Zone ordinance serves the dual purposes of (1) safeguarding critical infrastructure for raising positive children and (2) provides opportunities to engage our outdoor neighbors and help them navigate towards a better future.

Sincerely,
/s Jeff Merrick

September 20, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

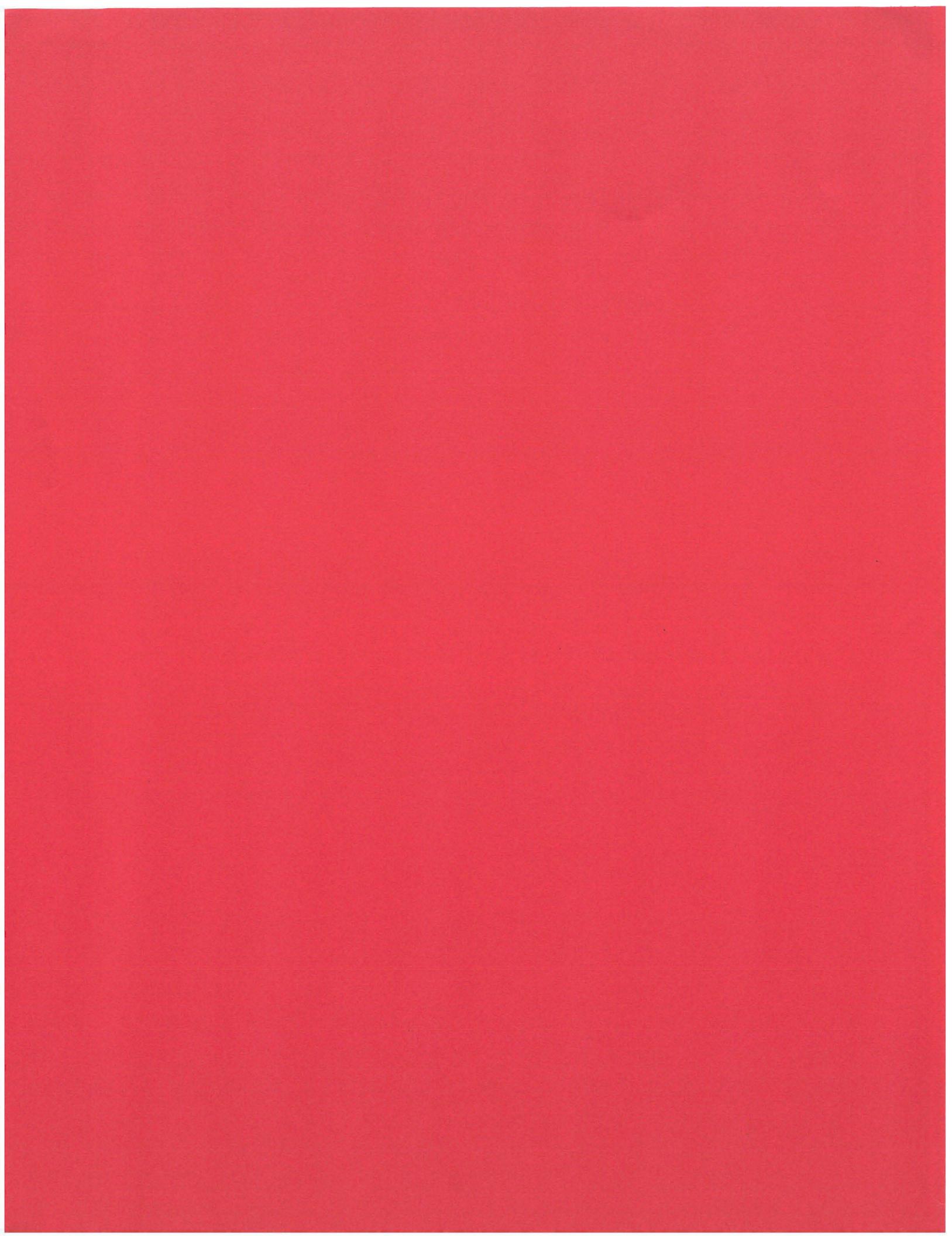
We are long-time residents of Portland, and we've lived as homeowners in Ladd's Addition for the past 12 years. In the last two years we've experienced so many unsafe and unsanitary conditions in this walkable, family-friendly neighborhood that our family is considering leaving Ladd's, and potentially Multnomah County, as we feel completely unprotected by Portland Police or Ordinances.

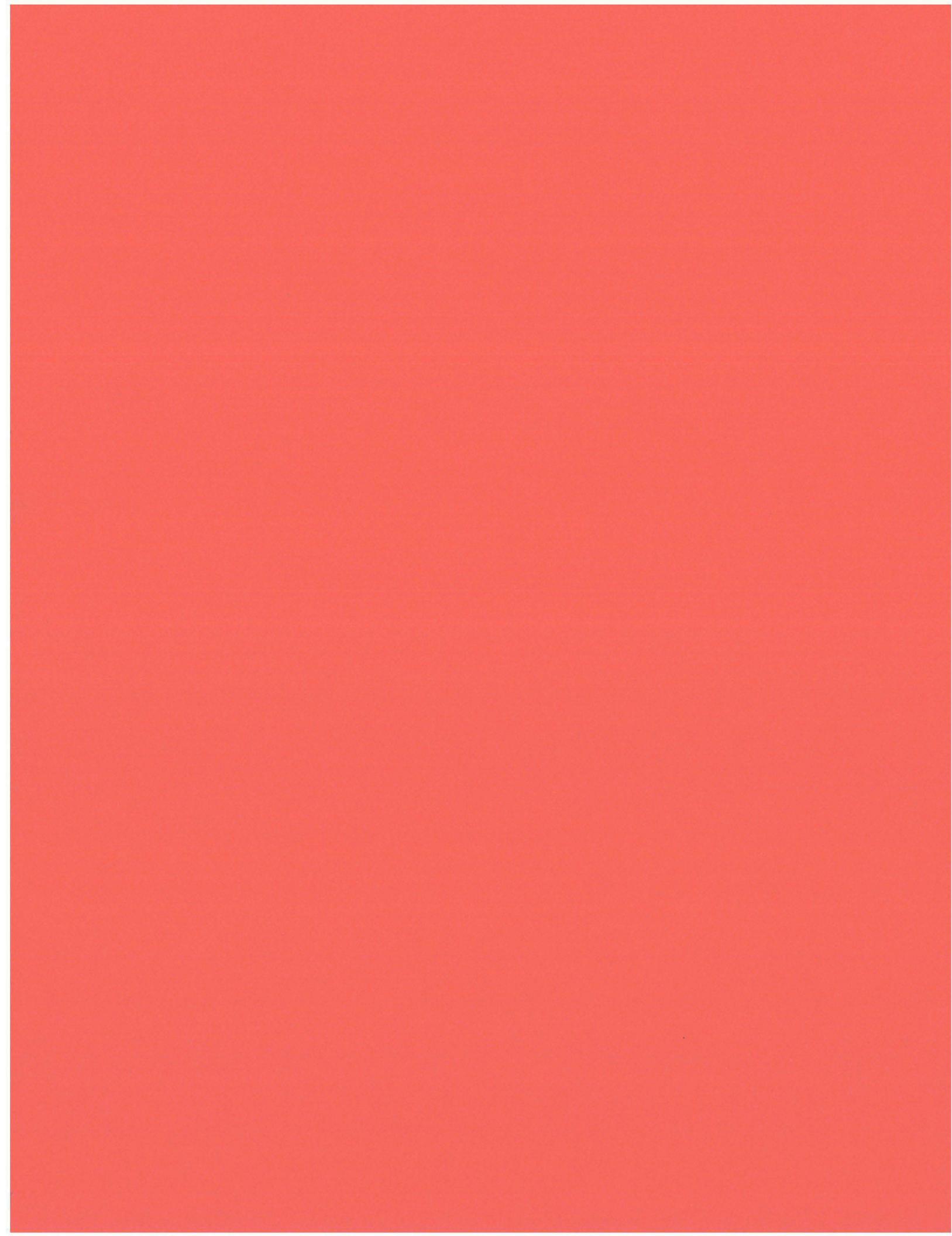
Here are several of the events of the last few weeks that we have experienced:

- On September 19, at 10:30am, on Larch Ave in front of a neighbor's home, I watched a man shoot a needle between his knuckles, wash the needle in a puddle, and put it back into his pocket. I crossed the street to protect myself and stared him down to be sure he was seen. He walked on.
- In multiple locations in August 2017, piles of human waste sat in parking strips and beneath trees on city streets. I reported one pile, on the corner of SE Ladd and SE Palm, to Portland Police. I received no response and the pile sat uncleaned. Many neighbors clean up these piles, but apartments owners who aren't local tend to leave them. This is a separate issue beyond the "Water Bandit" who was arrested in August in Ladd's.
- Unauthorized overnight campers are often observed in the playing field at Abernethy Elementary School, and also in the Gazebo on the school property. The Gazebo is used by students during the school day for outdoor learning, the School Kitchen Garden program, and kindergarten snacktime. Items left by the campers are unsanitary, messy and inappropriate for a school setting.

We implore you to deal with this crisis in Portland. Our livable city has become a place I do not feel comfortable raising my family.

Thank you,
Hanna and Matt Newell
1925 SE Larch Ave
Portland





PROPOSED SAFE ZONE ORDINANCE SUMMARY SHEET
Presented by the Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association Safety Committee
July 12, 2017

In brief, the proposed Safe Zone Ordinance addresses the following:

- Authorizes the City to designate "safe zones" around public areas frequented by minors (i.e., athletic fields, playgrounds, parks, beaches, recreational facilities or community rooms).
- Purpose is to:
 - (1) protect minors from unlawful and inappropriate behavior - specifically, use, possession and distribution of drugs; public urination and defecation; and unauthorized camping.
 - (2) protect and preserve public assets that are harmed and degraded by the unlawful and inappropriate behavior described in (1).
- Establishes posting requirements for designated safe zones.
- Provides penalties for violation of ordinance consistent with current state law and city code (voluntary compliance, exclusion from designated safe zone(s), possible fine and arrest, and possible prosecution). Emphasis is on voluntary compliance, in the event that some do not comply, the ordinance provides for stronger penalties.
- Aims to strike a balance by not criminalizing those down on their luck, but preserving public assets and making them safe again, especially for children.

PROPOSED SAFE ZONE ORDINANCE 7/12/2017

Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association Safety Committee

ORDINANCE No. _____

Amend City Code Title 14 Public Order and Police to revise and update definitions and provisions in Section 14A.50.020 Camping Prohibited on Public Property and Public Rights of Way and add section 14A.50.025 authorizing designation of safe zones.

The City of Portland Ordains:

Section 1. The Council finds:

1. Unlawful and inappropriate behavior, including the use, possession or distribution of illegal substances; public urination or defecation; and unauthorized camping on public property and rights of way, in and adjacent to City parks, athletic fields, playgrounds or recreational facilities (hereafter, referred to collectively as "Public Property") diminishes these precious assets, poses health and safety risks, creates environmental hazards, and deprives citizens of the full use and enjoyment of

urban setting.

2. Criminal acts and unauthorized camping on Public Property threaten property damage, personal injury, environmental hazards, and public health and safety, especially for children; such criminal acts and unauthorized camping can transform Public Property into an unwelcoming, unattractive, and unsafe public space requiring increased public expenditures for public safety, repair and maintenance.
3. The laws intended to preserve and protect Public Property and public rights of way for the benefit of all are effective only if those who use such areas obey the law. The current criminal and civil penalties for violating the law are frequently inadequate alone to deter illegal behavior, prevent its recurrence or provide for the removal of the offender from Public Property.
4. Compliance with the law, including the Code of the City of Portland, will be enhanced by the administrative sanction of excluding from specified Public Property, anyone who violates the law. In addition, for repeat offenders or for more serious offenses, exclusion for extended periods of time, and possible criminal prosecution, will provide a necessary additional remedy to protect Public Property and the safety of those, especially children, who use and visit Public Property.

PROPOSED SAFE ZONE ORDINANCE 7/12/2017
Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association Safety Committee

5. It is the City's intent to authorize and designate "safe zones" within 1,000 feet of posted Public Property so that those using or visiting Public Property designated as a "safe zone" have a safe place to visit, recreate and play.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Council directs:

- a. Portland City Code Title 14 is amended as follows (added language is underlined, deleted language is shown with strikethrough (e.g. ~~strikethrough~~):

14A.50.020 Camping Prohibited on Public Property and Public Rights of Way.

A. Definitions as used in this Section:

1. "To camp" means to ~~set up, or to remain in or at a campsite, for the purpose of establishing or maintaining a temporary place to live~~ remain overnight, to erect a tent or other shelter, or to use sleeping equipment, a vehicle, or a trailer camper, for the purpose of or in such a way as will permit remaining overnight.
2. "Campsite" means any place where any bedding, sleeping bag, or other sleeping matter, or any stove or fire is placed, established, or maintained, whether or not such place incorporates the use of any tent, lean-to, shack, or any other structure, or any vehicle or part thereof.

B. It is unlawful for any person to camp in or upon any public property or public right of way, unless otherwise specifically authorized by this Code or by declaration by the Mayor in emergency circumstances.

C. The violation of this Section is punishable, upon conviction, by a fine of not more than \$100, or by criminal imprisonment for a period not to exceed 30 days or both. If violation of this section occurs in a posted safe zone designated under 14A.50.025, it may result in possible exclusion from specified Public Property and/or criminal prosecution and imprisonment.

14A.50.025 Safe Zones

A. The City may designate public areas in the City that are frequented by minors (i.e. athletic fields, playgrounds, parks, beaches, recreational facilities or community rooms) as a "safe zone" for the purpose of protecting said minors from unlawful and

PROPOSED SAFE ZONE ORDINANCE 7/12/2017

Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association Safety Committee

inappropriate behavior, including the use, possession or distribution of illegal substances; public urination or defecation; and unauthorized camping on public property and rights of way, in and adjacent to City parks, athletic fields, playgrounds or recreational facilities.

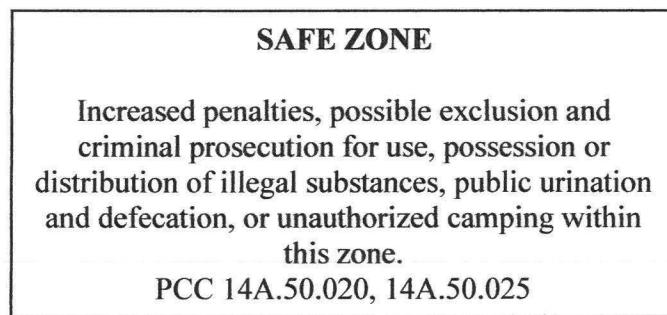
B. "Safe zone" means an athletic field, park, playground, beach, recreational facility or community room(s) designated as a safe zone by the City pursuant to this section.

C. This section shall apply to the athletic fields, parks, playgrounds, beaches, recreational facilities or community rooms set forth below which the City finds are frequented by minors and which are hereby designated safe zones within the City of Portland:

1. Laurelhurst Park
2. Delta Park
3. Peninsula Park
4. Peninsula Community Center

[Note: These are examples only. The actual parks and their property boundaries would need to be identified in an adopted ordinance.]

D. Each safe zone designated under this section shall be conspicuously marked with an informational sign stating the following:



E. Pursuant to this section and in conjunction with Chapter 20.12 of the PCC, a person who is found using, possessing or distributing illegal substances, urinating or defecating in public, or engaging in unauthorized camping in violation of 14A.50.020 within a designated safe zone or within 1,000 feet of the real property surrounding or adjacent to a designated safe zone may be found guilty of an aggravated offense subjected to increased penalties,

PROPOSED SAFE ZONE ORDINANCE 7/12/2017
Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association Safety Committee

exclusion from specified safe zone(s) pursuant to 20.12.265 and this section, subject to citation or arrest for unlawful possession of illegal substances, or citation or arrest for criminal trespass consistent with State law and this Code.

Passed by the Council,

Portland

Mayor Ted Wheeler

Prepared by:

Date Prepared:

Mary Hull Caballero
Auditor of the City of

By

Deputy

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Joseph Walsh <joe.walshpdx@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 03, 2017 9:16 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: 11/22 Testimony

13th of December

Confirming that Joseph Walsh wishes to testify on the *22nd of November*.

Topic - the impacts of illegal camping.

Thank you.

Joe Walsh

- 1 3 1 7 -

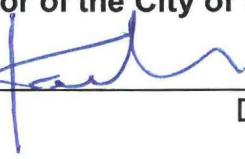
Request of Joseph Walsh to address Council regarding impacts of
illegal camping (Communication)

DEC 13 2017

PLACED ON FILE

Filed DEC 05 2017

MARY HULL CABALLERO
Auditor of the City of Portland

By 
Deputy

COMMISSIONERS VOTED
AS FOLLOWS:

	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Eudaly		
Wheeler		