

Good Morning,

I am speaking to you now to address the issue of criminal activity being allowed to happen, with near impunity, in our neighborhoods. Over the past three months, the Sunnyside neighborhood experienced what many other neighborhoods have been experiencing for quite a long time now. A camp was set up on SE Belmont and 32nd, partly on PGE property and partly on city property. Before you sigh and think, oh another complaint about the homeless, please understand that this is not a homeless issue. There are many homeless living in Sunnyside, living in cars, tents, and sometimes just under a tarp. We as a community ^{feel} for these people, have gotten to know many of them, and do what we can for them.

This is not about them. This is about criminals, using the disguise of homelessness, to wreak havoc on our neighborhood. We, as a community, learned that the city of Portland, for all practical purposes, does not distinguish, nor recognize that there are two distinct groups of people living on our streets. One that deserves our compassion, help, and support, and one that deserves our vigilance, and strict enforcement of our laws. By not recognizing these two distinct groups, we allow the genuinely homeless to be stereotyped as criminals, and allow them to be victims of those criminals as well.

It took over two months for our community, through constant phone calls to multiple agencies, media outlets, and outreach organizations to remove this criminal enterprise from our streets. It should not be that difficult. When \$3000 bicycles are being dropped off and disassembled on the sidewalk, vehicles with either no license plates, or registration tags that have been expired for 3 years are present, it should not take an entire community to hold meetings, make dozens of phone calls, and several on air news reports to get the city to act.

We as community members, should not have to keep track of five different incident numbers from five different offices to get the city to understand the problem. Oregon revised code allows for immediate impoundment of vehicles that are operated without license plates, yet we are told that a certain dollar amount of tickets needs to be met before the vehicle will be towed. For several days, the sidewalk was completely blocked, along with a canopy erected over it to keep the disassembled bicycle parts dry. This is a direct violation of the American with disabilities act. DO we, as community members, need to file suit with the ADA now every time this happens?

The amount of resources that went into this criminal camp, both by the community, and by the city, is unnecessary, and unacceptable. The police responded a half dozen times, the fire department two times, PGE security countless times.

What can be done? I propose that the city recognize that there are camps of criminals that, when identified, need to be held accountable for their actions through timely enforcement of current laws. I propose that criminal camps, once identified, be given a single reference number that can be used by the police, the office of neighborhood involvement, PGE, Burrough of environmental services, and other city offices involved in these issues to make it easier for communities to more effectively engage the city to deal with criminal activity.

From: **gary bucholtz** <garybucholtz@gmail.com>
Date: Monday, October 31, 2016
Subject: Communication
To: karla.moore-love@portlandoregon.gov

11/23 4

Good afternoon,

If available, I would like to schedule time to speak at the council meeting regarding criminal activity at a homeless camp on SE 32 and Belmont, and the issue of s verbal city agencies refusing to enforce the law. An email was sent to The Mayor and Commissioner Novik regarding this issue.

Thanks,

Gary Bucholtz
503-784-2734

Sent from my iPhone

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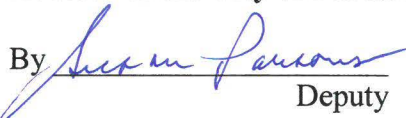
Request of Gary Bucholtz to address Council regarding criminal activity at
a homeless camp and law enforcement (Communication)

NOV 23 2016

PLACED ON FILE

Filed NOV 15 2016

MARY HULL CABALLERO
Auditor of the City of Portland

By 
Deputy

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Novick		
Hales		