

Hawthorne Blvd Business and Residents Concern About Safety In Public Spaces

**We feel that we are under siege due to the bad behaviors of individuals
hanging out on our private properties and public sidewalks.
We need more help from Portland city government and police.**

Blocking sidewalks for pedestrians and customers.



Behaviors: openly drinking alcohol, taking drugs, smoking marijuana.



Lying on business or resident doorways and sidewalks and behaving aggressively when asked to move along. Randomly yelling threats at adults and children alike.

hiding his bike
with his two
children and the
street people
began to harass
them. They told his
kids to go kill
themselves... he is
a lawyer and plans
to take this all the
way to hold them
accountable. He
mentioned wa



Defecating and leaving trash behind on our properties.



RECENT INCIDENTS IN ONE SQUARE BLOCK AREA

Residence: car stolen from

Drug dealing in parking lot

Condo 4-plex: trespass in below-grade driveway; drug and alcohol use; human waste; trash; theft.

Residence: drunk man passed out in gutter.

Sidewalk: loitering, camping; blocking passage; open drug and alcohol use, trash, indecent exposure, threatening behavior, public urination, other inappropriate behaviors. Up to 2-3 dozen

Ben & Jerry's: trespassing (night); disturbing customers, theft, trash.

Graffiti on apt. building and home garage

Homeowners hassled and confronted by loiterers; threatened with knife.

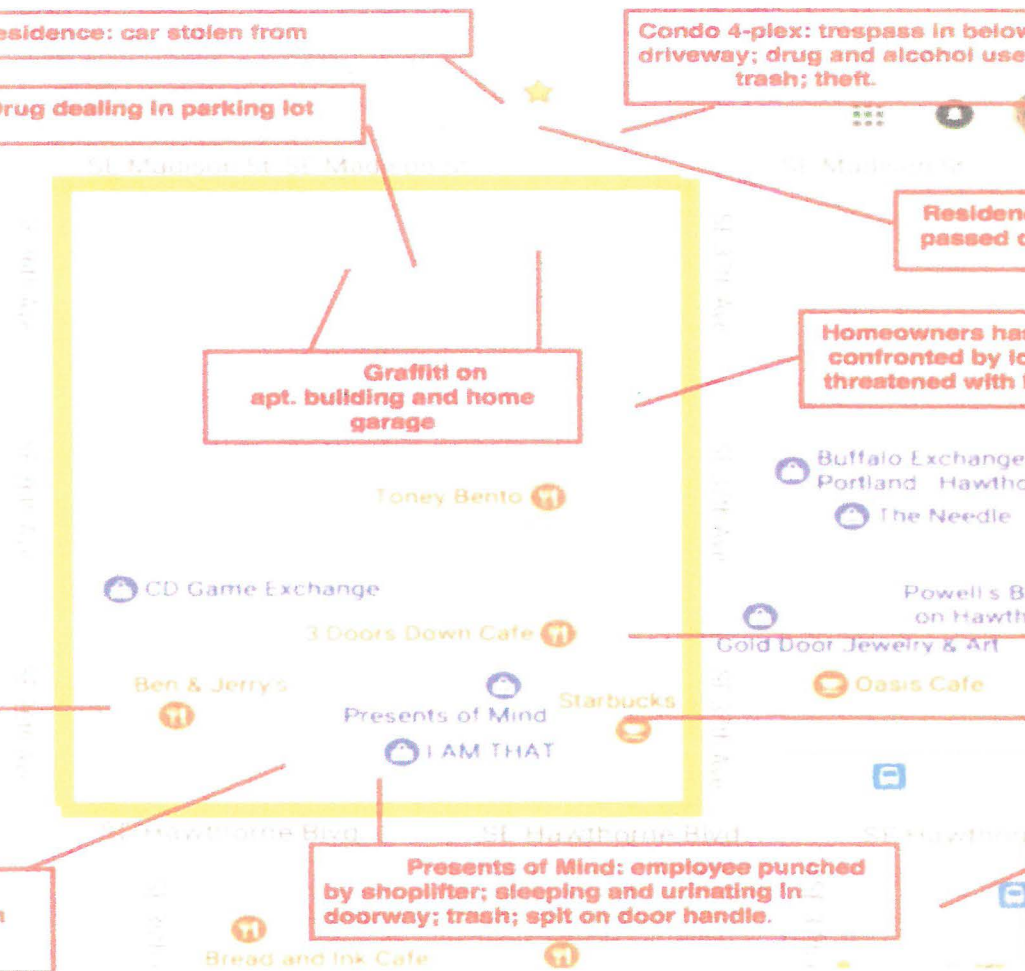
3 Doors Down Cafe: man urinating on sidewalk next door pulled knife on Cafe employee and neighbor; sleeping in doorway; disturbing customers; trash and urine; threatening employees.

Starbucks: door glass break and entry; sleeping on sidewalk and trash;

I Am That: door glass broken; sleeping and trash in doorway.

Presents of Mind: employee punched by shoplifter; sleeping and urinating in doorway; trash; spit on door handle.

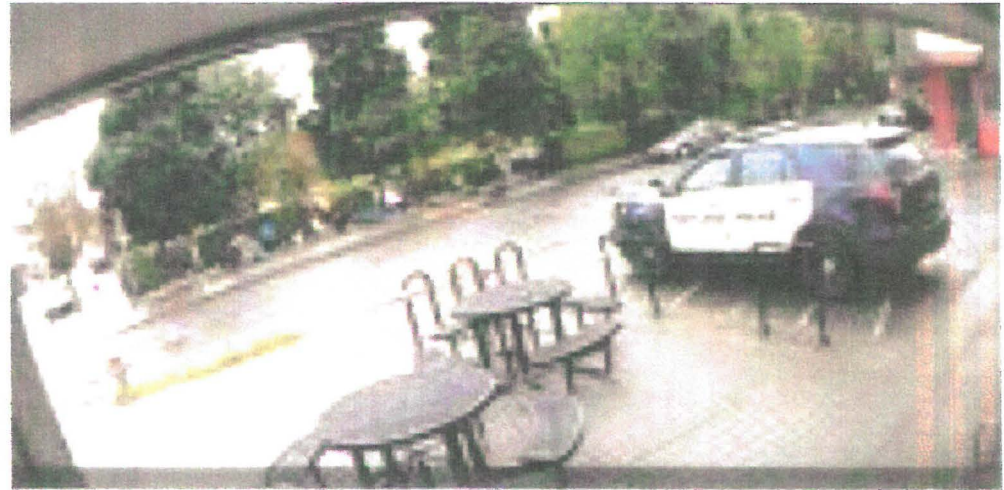
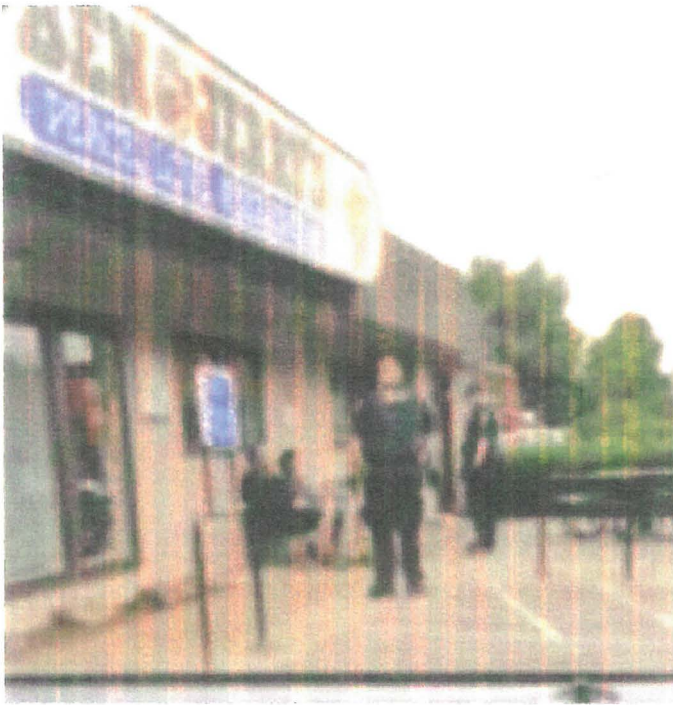
Bagdad Theater: customers assaulted, trash, loitering, disturbing customers seated outside.



What are we (businesses and residents) doing?

1. HBBA group has hired private security walking patrols. Cost \$10K YTD - estimate \$20K total for 2017.
2. Ben & Jerry's, Goodwill and US Bank (probably others) have hired private security. \$5K estimate YTD
3. Businesses incur extra expense for garbage and hosing down outdoor areas.
4. 35 HBBA and residents met with Central and SE Precinct officers May 2016. Smaller meetings with Commissioners Fritz and Fish staff and Mayor Wheeler's staff.

We understand the PDX Police have limited resources.



We support and work well with the police bureau.

Took 5 years for removal of bike shelter. Three years for Kalberer Company to get permission to removed hedge on corner.



Business Income Loss & local property values decreased.

Ben & Jerry's sales **down \$32K** in 2016 over 2015.

Ben & Jerry's January through June 2017 **down \$14K** over same period 2016. **Project \$60K+ down for remainder 2017.**

NOTE: Most of our employees are under 22 years old.

Many residents live here for the urban walkability and livability, but are thinking of moving because of being under siege; however, the situation has lowered their property values.

Hawthorne Businesses and Neighbors: Asks

Fast-track recruitment of new police officers and other community outreach personnel who can have a daily presence in our neighborhoods.

Our Message

Our community, and others around the city, are becoming too dangerous and unpredictable to safely live or run a business.

City leaders and bureaus need to step up staffing and coordination in order to respond to the increase of bad behaviors of people in public spaces.

My name is John Light, and I live in the Hawthorne neighborhood, in close proximity to SE Hawthorne and 36th street. As many in attendance know, this vibrant commercial and residential area has recently experienced an escalation of sidewalk misuse, public drug and alcohol use, trespassing on posted private property, culminating in both regular threats of violence as well as actual violence against anyone trying to stand in its way. Not surprisingly, vandalism and graffiti have also been on the rise, and more serious criminal activity has surely followed, including thefts and break-ins. This is all documented in videos, photos, police reports, and police statistics.

Our badly-understaffed police department has been remarkably supportive, and their efforts have surely helped. Yet we remain far from "problem solved".

Council members: neighborhoods and communities are not merely a collection of individuals who happen to live near each other. Our interactions with each other and with our local businesses are what make a community in the first place. When these interactions are threatened by badly-behaving individuals, the positive feedback loop becomes a death spiral.

We come before you to ask that you begin, immediately and unequivocally, implementing policies and procedures that **support Portland's communities, including ours**. Our communities cannot function under the current circumstances. Similar problems exist elsewhere in the city, and it will only get worse until you take action.

We have a number of recommendations, but due to time constraints, want to highlight the following requests:

- First, that you take a stand against anti-community, anti-neighborhood behavior: camping on sidewalks and in neighborhoods and other inappropriate uses of public space, public drinking and drug use, threatening and violent behavior, public urination and defecation, and so on.
- Second, that you fast-track recruitment of new police officers. Portland has among the fewest officers per capita of any city in the country, and is a problem that has festered for an astonishingly long time. Treat this shortage as the emergency it is.
- Third, because new police officers probably cannot come online fast enough to deal with the current crisis, examine ways to augment some police functions in the shorter term. The Community Service Officer program currently under discussion is a good example, but it needs to be put on a much faster track.
- We also ask that you take steps to improve response to the 911 and police non-emergency numbers--the latter, especially, is rarely answered and nearly useless, and even 911 calls are hit-and-miss.

These changes may take some thinking outside the box, and will be expensive, but this is where we are. There is no more important problem faced by our city at the moment than neighborhood and community disintegration. Let's give it the attention it deserves.

Thank you.

Hello City Council members, thank you for taking the time to hear our testimonies today. My name is Sarah Balzer, I own a business at 35th and Hawthorne, am a board member of the Hawthorne Blvd Business Association and am a home owner in the Richmond neighborhood.

Imagine walking down Hawthorne, beautiful 75 degree Sunny day, and you hear something from behind you. You can't quite make it out and then you look. You see a group of 10 to 15 kids ages anywhere from 16-30 hanging out on the sidewalk. And now you can make out what they're saying, "Hey, ya you, Cunt Bitch, give me your money! Hey you Bitch, I know you have money, cmon Bitch I'll give you something you'd like to suck on!" I take a photo and they then yell "I'm gonna follow you home and beat you up! Better watch out bitch." This was while I was seven months pregnant two months ago. Local businesses and employees have witnessed the travelers shooting up in the bushes, getting in knife fights, defecating on the sidewalk, yelling at senior citizens walking by and yelling at tourists visiting Portland.

We've been through this before. In 2013 a group of home owners and business owners got together and formed the Hawthorne Neighborhood Coalition. We brought these exact same issues to City Council. And City Council answered our pleas. They gave us a police walking patrol that split their days between downtown Portland and Hawthorne in the beginning of 2014. And guess what, it worked. And it didn't just work, it worked really well. You didn't find one complaint on the boulevard, everyone loved it, business owners, home owners, and tourists. Police only wrote 24 citations that year and everyone behaved themselves. It lasted through 2015 with a few cuts here and there but kept working, all the way until the leading officer of the patrol was honored by Vice President Joe Biden at the White House for how well it had worked!

Then 4 months after he was honored, the program was cut and again Hawthorne was left to fend for itself. 2016 saw the travelers starting to trickle back in, then 2017 hit and we had break in after break in, window smashing after window smashing and sure enough the travelers were back. Hawthorne Businesses banded together, took money out of their own pockets and hired a security patrol. But here's the thing, they're not police. So they can't write tickets, so although they may make a dent they're nowhere near as effective as a police officer. And until the police actually start writing tickets for these crimes the travelers will have complete reign over Hawthorne. That's to defecate in bushes, camp in the neighborhood, shoot up, drug deal from their parked cars, drink in public, harass tourists for money, all the while killing our safe historic district.

We've hit a point in time where we are completely out of options. We've removed bike overhangs, removed bushes, watered down sidewalks, hired day and night security and still the travelers take advantage of our historic neighborhood. We are here to beg you to do something, act, save Hawthorne. Because it's only going to get worse.

Here's a folder of letters written by local residents and businesses describing how they've witnessed threats of rape, break-ins, vandalism, harassment, trash, hurt business, the list is endless. Also in that folder is a letter of support from the HBBA for a police walking patrol as well as a request to change Hawthorne to a High Pedestrian Zone which would make it illegal for anyone to loiter within 8ft of a property line without the permission of the property owners themselves.

We came here asking for help, and are providing real solutions that history has proven works. Please don't pass up this opportunity to help your community. We strongly urge you to return Police Walking Patrols to the Hawthorne Community. Thank you.

Dear Portland City Council Members,

I am writing as the President of the Hawthorne Boulevard Business Association. Our group represents over 400 businesses on Hawthorne Blvd between 12th St. and 55th St. Our organization has observed, with great concern, a significant surge in criminal activity along the boulevard including verbal and physical harassment and intimidation of our patrons and community residents while walking along the sidewalk and side streets by individuals gathering in large numbers who are clearly intoxicated and often dealing drugs. We have noticed that these individuals will travel to our community in one or more recreational vehicles which park on the side streets and serve as a base of operations for their criminal activity. It is only a matter of time before someone is seriously injured.

We strongly believe that one key to successfully countering this behavior is to designate Hawthorne Boulevard, between 12th St. and 55th St., as a high pedestrian zone, and to simultaneously implement a daily walking police patrol of that same area. Please consider this letter as a formal request that you immediately implement these policies.

Thank you in advance for your prompt consideration and help in this matter.

Sincerely,

Hilda Stevens

To whom it may concern:

I operate the Jiffy Lube on the corner of SE Ceaser E Chavez and SE Hawthorne with my management team. Over the past 18 months I've had my store broken into once, countless graffiti on the building, finding meth pipes, needles and human feces behind my trash receptacle. We have to patrol our parking lot every morning and clean up needles and other items left behind. There is an awning on the side of the building where homeless people sleep under and try to steal power from an electrical that is on the outside of the building. I had to install a shut off switch for the outside outlet because the locked outlet kept getting broke at night. Asking the homeless people to leave when our store opens at 8 AM is very intimidating. Some people leave calmly and others get very disrespectful and threaten violence along with the curse words. I've seen pan handlers that get overly aggressive when people walking by don't give them any money. The amount of aggressive behavior has increased with the amount of transients in the area. Keeping our customers and employees safe is a major concern and becoming more challenging to manage. On several occasions in the past few month there has been verbal altercations between aggressive homeless people and employees when they are asked to leave our property due to the threatening behavior. I understand this is a very challenging problem and I wish I had a solution but I don't. I do know that this is a wonderful, unique and diverse area that is being negatively impacted by the amount of homeless that maintain their presence here.

I have attached a few photos.

Thank you for your time.

The Jiffy Lube Management Team



Boo Rigney <boo.rigney@gmail.com>

Reminder - Hawthorne Businesses and Neighbors Portland City Council Meeting July 12 at 9:30am (1221 SW 4th Ave Room 320)

Hilda Stevens <hilda@bazipdx.com>
To: Boo Rigney <boo.rigney@gmail.com>

Wed, Jun 28, 2017 at 9:25 AM

Hi Boo,

Thanks for putting this slide show together. Here's a description of a few incidents that occurred at Bazi and at private residences that I'm familiar with and feel might be powerful in what we're trying to accomplish.

June 16 early afternoon

1510 SE 34th Ave - Hawthorne Condos

Police are called by both retailers and residents. A transient couple completely under the influence of a substance invaded private property and proceeded to harass employees and residents. One of the transient was extremely intoxicated and taken away by an ambulance.

Friday, June 23 - 11:38 PM

1522 SE 32nd Ave

Skinny white male enters Bazi as staff prepare to close for the night with a knife in hand and apparently on meth completely disillusioned and locks himself in bathroom. Terrified staff step away and call 9-1-1. While staff wait for police to arrive, man proceeds to rip the sink from bathroom and escapes before police arrives.

Fortunately no one was hurt. We do not have footage as there's no cameras in the bathrooms.

Monday, June 23rd around 11:30 AM

Corner of Hawthorne Blvd and SE 32nd Ave

Neighbors call 9-1-1 as a transient approaches another neighbor of color and begins yelling racial remarks. The transient gets closer and closer to neighbor and threatens to attack him. Police officers are dispatched, transient acts violent, and is clearly under the influence on an illegal substance.

Feel free to edit for the slide show.

Hilda

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Bazi Bierbrasserie

Dear Commissioners-

My name is Reese Prouty.....I own a store on Hawthorne & 36th called 8 Women. I have been open for 16 years...and for the last few years it has been a struggle. There are several factors that have complicated the ability to do a livable retail business these days....but one we should NOT have to consistently fight for & contend with is a safe neighborhood & business district for our customers, for all of us.

Over the years I have seen it get progressively worse. I have had so many bodies sleeping in my doorway that my mail cannot be delivered. The garbage I have hauled away after that camp-out, at times, has filled a couple of garbage cans. I have had a man set up in my doorway while I was STILL open & he had a single burner camp stove which he turned up full throttle so that the flames left a scorch mark my wood door. Had I not been inside (open sign in full view, a customer & a lights on) I suspect my door would have caught fire & given this persons stupidity I doubt he would have done much about putting it out. My windows have been broken, etched & spit on with all kinds of nasty stuff. My window sills are covered with cigarette burns from the overnights. I have cleaned up urine on the inside of my store because they used my mail slot as a urinal. We have all listened to yelling & screaming of their bad behavior on public streets. We watched as customers walk OUT INTO the street to avoid any close encounter with one of our 'wigged out - weed begging' street urchins who have taken over a sidewalk with all their trash & belongings covering the sidewalk.

The most maddening of the events that have happened.....I have an outlet way up over my front door that was for an a former sign (10 -12 ft overhead).....I came back to my store late one evening to find a 'party' of beer drinkers all in my doorway alcove. I asked them to pack up and leave. As they began packing I realized there was a electrical cord hanging down from over head with a splitter attached. There 3 cell phones plugged in AND A SPACE HEATER running on my electricity. And all the while as I was asking them to pack up & leave I had to endure the foul name calling & harassing behavior. I had called 911 because I was feeling outnumbered. Of course, by the time the police arrived these folks were long gone.

I pointed out to the officer who arrived that prior to this encounter, as I was walking back to my store, I had SEEN a patrol car drive by.....and ignored what was happening on our street. I have a NO TRESPASS agreement with the police. I was furious that it seems to mean very little. I also pointed out that practically every doorway around us (at the time I could easily point to 5 or 6) was filled with a population of bodies in varying degrees of slumber or drunk mode. And yet, the officers drove right on by....what is the point of the 'agreement'. His response was that 'not very many business have the agreement so it tends to get overlooked.' I made it my mission to get as many businesses as I could, signed up.

On 6/3/2016 I sent 4 complete packages of all the signed agreements to Mayor Hales, Mayoral candidate Wheeler, the chief of police & the SE precinct chief & the no trespass 'coordinator'... telling of our issues & urging for more help. I NEVER HEARD FROM ANYONE,.....NOT ONE RESPONSE. ..that alone I find disheartening. To date, I believe only 4 of the 30 odd signed agreements have gone thru the finalization process...over a year has gone by.

The day after the event in my doorway....I found a cart in our parking lot that had been with one of the characters in my doorway the night before. INSIDE his stolen shopping cart (FRED MEYERS) was 2 hacksaws, 2-3 glass cutter, a bag of various types of wide markers which typically are used for 'tagging'...and the biggest set of BOLT CUTTERS I had ever seen. I again called the police- at that time we still had our occasional 'police foot patrol'....they arrived almost immediately & knew who I was describing.

Today we have very little help, limited response, no patrols at all..... WE ARE OUTNUMBERED by a large & constantly growing population of 'people behaving badly' & they do not suffer any consequences. We the businesses & neighbors take the entire BRUNT of it all! THIS CANNOT CONTINUE.....

Very, very, very sincerely—*Reese Prouty —8 WOMEN—3614 SE Hawthorne Blvd. --503 235-8878*

email from Jarrett Altman, Neighborhood Works Realty, resident near Hawthorne Blvd.
June 27, 2017

Question: what is the impact of the transient issue on neighborhood real estate prices?

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Well, that's hard to quantify, although in an abstract way, it's definitely affecting home values. Houses sit longer and have had price reductions when they are too close to all the mayhem. For example, Ron's old house on 38th and Main has dropped by \$50k recently and I think it's in part at least due to being on that corner and constantly having to pick up trash and move people along. My neighbors on the corner of Salmon and 38th found someone "relieving" themselves in their yard right outside of their 9 year old daughter's window. We've had countless things stolen off our porches and just the other day, an edger stolen out of our back yard shed. People are getting more brazen and property crimes are increasing, or so it seems. I have a lot of clients who want to be more off the beaten path for that reason.

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Boo Rigney <boo.rigney@gmail.com>

Portland City Council and Mayor meeting July 12th - please show up!

Barb Cantonwine <barbhpnw@gmail.com>

Tue, Jul 4, 2017 at 4:51 PM

To: boo.rigney@gmail.com

Our business, Healthy Pets Northwest is definitely being affected by the transient problem on Hawthorne Blvd. We have been in the Hawthorne area for 18 years and have seen a substantial increase in problems caused by transients as well as criminal activity.

We had our wooden front door kicked in 6 weeks ago and a small amount of coins taken. The replacement steel door will cost us close to \$8,000.00.

Transients sleep in the alley behind our building. I personally have picked up hundreds of the small white caps that come on the wine cartons that seem to be their drink of choice. Due to the amount of wine they drink, they then urinate on the wall on the side of the building. The trash and recycle bins are gone through regularly, garbage and broken glass is scattered all around. I'm certain that with the restaurant (Castagna) in the building, the trash bins are searched for leftover food and alcohol.

I have attached pictures of the problems I have discussed. I will be out of town, returning on July 12th so will be unable to attend the meeting.

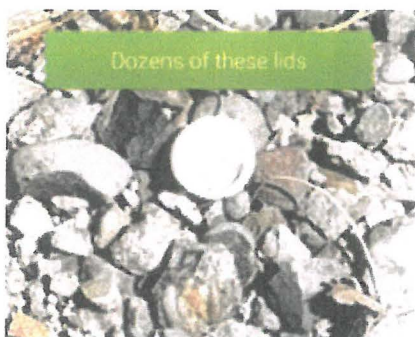
Barb Cantonwine, Pres.
Healthy Pets Northwest
1736 SE Hawthorne Blvd
Portland, OR
[503-867-1040](tel:503-867-1040) (cell)

6 attachments

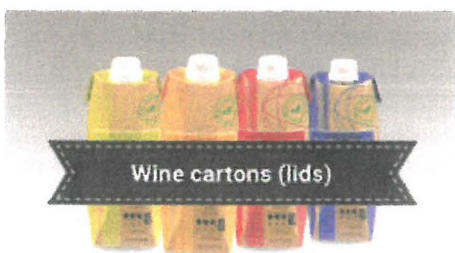
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Boo Rigney <boo.rigney@gmail.com>

Reminder - Hawthorne Businesses and Neighbors Portland City Council Meeting July 12 at 9:30am (1221 SW 4th Ave Room 320)

Pamela Coven <pam@imeldas.com>
To: Boo Rigney <boo.rigney@gmail.com>

Tue, Jun 27, 2017 at 11:20 AM

City Council,

I am a 23 year old Hawthorne Merchant and I am writing to you to express my concern and dismay at the chronic transient and criminal activity we are experiencing on Hawthorne. In the past year my business was broken into and we have had several run ins with the transient population from coming into the store and harassing my employees, to sitting in doorways of empty businesses and publicly drinking and using drugs. When we ask them to leave they just laugh in our face. When we call the police they rarely show up. There is also chronic graffiti on many store fronts and buildings thus effecting the appearance of the neighborhood.

Ive had many long time customers express personal safety concerns about walking and shopping on Hawthorne. Several customers have spoken to me about condescending comments some of these transients have made toward them. They feel threatened. As a consequence to this situation I am experiencing a decline in foot traffic and therefore sales. This is not a sustainable and it is time for the city to act in a way that protects the very communities that make Portland what it is, or at least what it once was. We have a strong heritage here on Hawthorne where the neighbors and the businesses have united to make our neighborhood great. The increase of criminal activity and the visual degradation of the properties defeats our efforts and will drive out the very community we need to hold onto.

If you value the contributions that businesses like mine have made to the community (we are a long time donator to PPS) and you don't want us to leave than its time to act! 20 years ago when we first started we had similar problems on Hawthorne but we united as a business community and "fought" back. Zero tolerance, a private security guard, and the Portland Police foot patrol united. This helped us to regain a safe and shop-able street therefore making the neighborhood a desired place to live , work and shop. We have hired a private security guard again and many businesses on the street have been a vigilantly trying to stop the bad behavior by calling the police as soon as we see a problem. What we dont have is the foot patrol and it is imperative that the city help us have a greater police presence to put an end to our ongoing problems which feel even greater and more threatening than they did 20 years ago. Our city, not just Hawthorne, is being seized by transients, homeless, the mentally ill and services and solutions seem insufficient. Please hear our pleads for help and act!

Sincerely,

Pamela Coven
In Step, Inc. dba
Imelda's Shoes and Louie's Shoes for Men
[Visit our Website](#) | [Join our Mailing List](#)

3426 SE Hawthorne BLVD | Portland, OR | 97214 |

(p)503.233.7476 (f)503.233.7075

[Quoted text hidden]

**Hawthorne Businesses presentation to city council meeting Wednesday
July 12th at 9:30am**

Albertson, Michael P <michael.albertson@usbank.com>
To: Boo Rigney <boo.rigney@gmail.com>

Mon, Jul 10, 2017 at 9:32 AM

I honestly have no idea how much money has been dumped into this issue. Those kinds of things don't trickle their way down to the branch level. I do know that we now pay \$5,000 a month to have security drive around our branch a couple times every evening. We have extensive landscaping coming to remove all shrubbery and ivy and to put in bark dust and new plants that won't hide that transients. We also are having a custom made cover to go over our stairwell to keep them out. That sounded to be very expensive. I think we've made about 15 service calls to our facility team to clean up garbage, feces, needles, vomit, to do repairs etc... I assume that's a couple hundred dollars every time they come out. And then the expenses involved with fixing those issues. But knowing the actual expenses is above my pay grade and I wouldn't even know where to start in asking for that information. Hope that helps give an idea of the expenses as best as I can give it. Thanks!

Michael Albertson
Branch Manager
p. 503.275.4277 | m. 503.275.4550 | f. 503.233.0390 | michael.albertson@usbank.com

U.S. Bank
39th and Salmon
1225 SE 39th Ave, Portland OR, 97214 | PD-OR-3193 | www.usbank.com

From: Boo Rigney <boo.rigney@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 7, 2017 5:36:32 PM
To: Albertson, Michael P
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hawthorne Businesses presentation to city council meeting Wednesday July 12th at 9:30am

[Quoted text hidden]

U.S. BANCORP made the following annotations

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June 29.2017
3627 SE Madison St.
Portland, OR 97214

Dear Mayor Wheeler, Commissioners Eudaly, Fritz, Fish, and Saltzman,

Portland is now a city needing to adapt to being a big city. I have always loved Portland and been proud to show it to visitors. I've lived in Portland since 1978, first in the beautiful wooded Southwest hills, then for the past 15 years in SE Portland one short block from Hawthorne and 37th.

I am sad that the SE neighborhood my husband and I selected for walkability and marvelous restaurants, shops, and nearby parks now feels unsafe, unsanitary, and has begun to appear in decline with graffiti, boarded shop fronts, and strewn trash. We now have to witness an entire sidewalk around the corner from our home completely occupied by aggressive people who openly use drugs, alcohol, and use loud vile language directly across from Ben and Jerry's. This almost half-block of sidewalk has become a campground and gathering place for dozens of people behaving very badly in a public space. The effects of this activity is felt throughout the commercial and residential parts of our neighborhood.

We have visitors with 11 year old boys coming soon. I wouldn't want them walking to Ben and Jerry's or Other shops in the area without us. I certainly don't want them witnessing public drinking, drug use, urination or masturbation, which all have occurred there in front of children!

Our house is very near the businesses, and we were happy to purchase it; it meant we would be able to reduce driving, use mass transit, and enjoy city living in a more environmentally sustainable way. I am not feeling safe walking in broad daylight on Madison, because of some uneasy encounters, so I walk on Hawthorne. Madison is the street I live on! Sadly we are considering selling our house because it has come to this.

Our city is a place we've loved, but without adequate policies for enforcing civil behavior, without adequate numbers of police, without good community policing, without adequate staffing and training of both 911 and non-emergency intake, without adequate response time for calls, our neighborhood, our parks and our city continue to deteriorate. We also need the city to provide trash cans and trash pick ups for sanitation and health reasons. Many of the people occupying our sidewalks have nowhere to put their trash. Food trash brings rats; rats bring disease. It is not the responsibility of merchants and residents to tend to the excessive waste (including human waste!) being produced by persons occupying the area. We have witnessed what appears to be drug dealing in a private parking lot across the street from our home for the past few years. All of this almost was completely eliminated when we had a police walking patrol n 2014-15. It again became unbearable this summer. Now we are considering selling our home.

We need to have the entire City Council and the bureaus work to make our city work. We need to have support for the city we want to live in from you, who we elected to tend to every facet of the well-being of Portland. This, of course necessitates working in conjunction with all involved governing bodies: local, County, State, and Federal.

Our coalition of Hawthorne businesses and residents has my total support. Please support our recommendations.

Sincerely,

Sherry Fishman

Paul Fishman
3627 SE Madison St.
Portland, OR 97214
503-789-5107
pfishman1944@gmail.com
July 10, 2017

To: Mayor Wheeler, Council Members Saltzman, Fish, Fritz and Eudaly
Subject: people behaving badly in public spaces; Hawthorne Boulevard and vicinity

Dear Mayor and Commissioners:

In this letter, I want to focus on two important items: 1) the impact of badly behaving street people on the fabric of our community, and 2) the need for coordinated, inter-bureau basic services in Portland.

Impacts to our Community

The SE Hawthorne Boulevard area has had issues for several years related to the behaviors of what I will term "street people." Some percentage of these street people are travelers, or transients who appear in the spring and summer, many from outside the Portland area. The portion of Hawthorne at and around SE 36th and SE 37th is a chronic hot spot.

Before I continue, I want to state very clearly that we do not identify any of the street people based on housing. Our focus is on behavior, regardless of the housing situation of any individual.

Simply stated, the inappropriate behaviors of many street people have had a very negative impact on our neighborhood, including the businesses on Hawthorne and the residential areas north and south of Hawthorne. Many of us feel that we are under siege. Parents are concerned about what their children are seeing and hearing. Older residents are fearful of walking in the neighborhood. Trash (including food that attracts rats) and drug items are everywhere in the neighborhood. Theft of personal property has increased. Business has decreased significantly for a number of businesses. There is an increasing number of incidents involving verbal and physical assault by street people against residents, business staff, and people walking in the neighborhood. There are indications that property values are being negatively affected. In short, our wonderful neighborhood has become not so wonderful.

The Hawthorne area neighborhoods are touted as having high walkability scores and high livability values. Unfortunately, these metrics do not include the social and economic aspects of neighborhoods, such as the impacts of large numbers of street people loitering, using drugs and alcohol, camping on the sidewalks, living in vehicles throughout the residential area, and other negative behaviors.

A neighborhood is not "walkable" and "livable" if people who live and work in the neighborhood are constantly stressed about their safety, the success of their business, the security of their property, and the unsightliness and lack of sanitation of trash everywhere.

Coordinated and Integrated Basic Services

A large part of the problems and, I believe, an important part of a solution is the lack of coordinated and integrated basic services from the City of Portland. The tendency of people in a neighborhood is to look to the police to solve these kinds of issues. This is not the correct way to view the problem. We tend to expect too much from our police bureau for issues that are not really police issues.

I will use the NW corner of SE 36th and SE Hawthorne as an example. This corner has been a chronic gathering spot for street people for several years. It is in one of the busiest areas of the Hawthorne commercial zone and has a lot of foot traffic. The sidewalk was widened and a covered bicycle rack (bike shelter) was installed some years ago when PBOT did major work on SE Hawthorne Blvd. The commercial building and associated parking lot at the corner were remodeled some years ago, and the City required a stormwater swale and specific landscaping around the parking lot. The combination of a wider sidewalk, a covered bike shelter, and a tall hedge the length of the sidewalk helped attract the occupation of that corner by street people who used the sidewalk to sit, sleep, camp and hang out, used the bike shelter when it rained, and used the hedge to lean against and hide things in. Trash is strewn everywhere, including the stormwater swale behind the hedge.

The Police Bureau is very familiar with this corner, as they receive many calls from businesses and residents about the activities there. Police efforts, however, have been hampered by ineffective policy directions by the City, including instructions not to enforce certain City Ordinances. Merchants and residents organized several years ago to work with the City on a solution to this set of issues. The Police Bureau formed a walking patrol of 10 officers that operated for 2 years before being disbanded. The daily presence of the same unit of police officers was extremely effective in reducing the inappropriate behaviors in the neighborhood.

We neighbors clearly understood that there were other things that could help. The owner of Ben and Jerry's worked for three years to get PBOT to take down the bike shelter, which was very rarely used for bicycles. The shelter was finally removed this June. The owner of the commercial building with the parking lot worked for 5 years to get permission from the City (PBDS?) to remove the tall hedge along the sidewalk and replace it with different landscaping; this permission was finally granted this summer. Some of us tried, unsuccessfully, to get the City to install and service trash and recycling receptacles at the corner (and along Hawthorne) and were told by PBPS that the City does not do this, but the merchants are allowed to place and service them. My wife and I talked with County Vector Control about the piles of trash including food and our concern about rats; we were told that, unless we see a rat, nothing can be done. When I

asked if County Vector Control works with the City on these issues on city sidewalks, I was told that they do, but I could not be given the name and phone number of the person at the City - "maybe you can find it on the internet" (!). The gutters of our streets, including Hawthorne, are rarely swept by the City, and are therefore filled with trash. The pavement on SE 36th between Hawthorne and Madison is badly deteriorated, full of potholes, and large rocks from the road base are scattered all over (this street is used as a route by large trucks servicing Fred Meyers and the businesses on SE 37th). Stormwater catch basin grates are rarely cleaned. PBES and PBOT are the bureaus involved in the above items. Finally, we are told repeatedly by police officers to call 911 or non-emergency every time we see criminal activity (911) or inappropriate behavior (non-emergency). Calling non-emergency typically means being on hold for 15 minutes or longer, and few people will wait that long; this is an issue at 911-BEC.

Taken together, all of the items in the previous paragraph add up to a low livability and walkability scores for our neighborhood. And it also is clear that this is not a set of issues that the Police Bureau alone can deal with. And yet, there does not appear to be any kind of coordinated inter-Bureau effort to deal with these issues throughout the city.

Hawthorne Neighbors, a loose coalition of residents and merchants, has worked with the City for several years to improve the livability of our neighborhood. To date, we have been told that it is a police issue, and that the Bureau of Police is understaffed and, therefore, can only do the best they can with limited resource. We do not accept this answer. We are citizens who pay taxes and expect to receive a certain level of basic services, which we do not receive.

We are also people who want to work collaboratively with the City to solve these issues. I am sad to say that we are typically put off with statements such as "we are working on it, and we will let you know when we have a plan." We need a new, creative approach to these urban issues if the City of Portland is going to be successful becoming a large city. We want to help; we are ready to be involved.

To: Mayor Wheeler and Council Members
July 6, 2017

I view our neighborhood/city issue as a public health issue. Livable, safe neighborhoods and cities are essential to fostering good health outcomes within its community members. When community members feel safe and have a relaxing atmosphere for commerce and recreation, we all gain. While we are sympathetic regarding folks suffering from housing insecurity and understand there are numerous causes for homeless youth including h/o abuse/neglect etc., we do not feel it is acceptable to allow these people to disrupt the livelihood of the neighborhood community.

My family and I have felt more and more unsafe since moving in to the Hawthorne neighborhood in 2009. The numerous people camping out on and around Hawthorne street makes our neighborhood stressful -- there is rampant alcohol and drug use throughout the day and night, aggressive behaviors and people fighting and yelling obscenities up and down the streets. We live one block from Hawthorne and regularly have people using our median strip as a toilet and/or garbage dump. We have also felt unsafe taking our children out to the movies or out to eat on Hawthorne -- specifically due to the numerous people hanging out on the street engaging in disruptive behaviors.

We also have a very hard time finding safe recreation for our young children despite having the fantastic Lauralhurst park close by. This park has been hijacked by illegal camp sites, drugs and alcohol use, and indecent exposure. There have been numerous safety concerns thus far this Summer which has made the park unusable for our family.

Lastly, we have a multitude of establishments that serve alcohol at night in the 37th and Hawthorne area, many customers park on side streets with no regard for the neighborhood. We would benefit from police drive through in the area on Friday and Saturday nights between 11-2AM.

For a short time there had been some improvement in these issues with increased police presence. I do think if there were more community policing in our neighborhood (out of their cars and actually interacting with the community) there would be even more improvement in these issues.

These problems are only going to get worse with the push for greater density in this neighborhood.

Regards,

Michael Yetter
3706 SE Madison St.

Department of Family Medicine, OHSU School of Medicine
Family Medicine practitioner, OHSU

From: Mary Sellin [<mailto:msellin@me.com>]
Sent: Monday, May 29, 2017 4:33 PM
To: Mult. Co. District Attorney's Office <dmailbox@mcda.us>
Subject: trouble on SE Hawthorne

Hi Mr. Underhill,

The situation:

I am a property owner at 35th Place and SE Hawthorne. My daughter has a storefront in our building. We are seeing a huge uptick in the number of drinking and drug-using people on the corner of 36th and SE Hawthorne, right in the middle of a busy business district. They have taken over, blocking the sidewalk, no pedestrians can get through. They yell verbal assaults to passers-by. They have now brought a couch and chairs and are becoming encamped. The police argument for doing nothing is that there is nothing they can do. We know that it is not true. In 2014, there was substantial improvement when we had a walking patrol. Community policing has somehow fallen out of favor, and these road warriors are taking over our business district. We need help and we need it immediately. Businesses along Hawthorne have hired private security, but really, we need police back up. Our security doesn't carry guns— and even they are verbally assaulted!

We request a meeting to explain the problem and to explore solutions. The group started at 5 people a month ago and now is up to almost 30. We need help!!! and we need it now!!

We need your help. Please meet with a small group of business owners who are directly affected and need solutions fast.

Thank you.

Mary

Mary Sellin

3556 SE Hawthorne Blvd.

Mailing Address Oregon:

515 NW Saltzman Rd.

PMB 923

Portland OR 97229

[503-319-3838](tel:503-319-3838)

July 10, 2017

To: The City of Portland, City Council

From: Hawthorne Vision Center

Here at Hawthorne Vision Center, we have been experiencing a great increase in safety concerns and situations over the past one and a half years. These incidents include a break in that was damaging to our store, increased traffic of intoxicated people coming in our store or parking lot, one of which resulted in an arrest on our property, and more trespassing by homeless or others.

With these increased incidents, our staff has also noticed a decrease in police patrol, resulting in insecurities and safety concerns. We believe there to be a direct correlation between the decline in police patrol and our safety being in greater jeopardy.

The staff here is nervous to approach some of these people in our parking lot and have to wait for a buddy system to enter or leave the building in the mornings or at night. We used to feel a sense of security with the active police patrols but now feel scared at times.

Here are some of the things our staff had to say:

"I have been at my business along Hawthorne for 11 years now, and in the last 4mos have had more crime against my business than in the entire 10yrs prior. I've had a speeding car crash through my clinic building causing almost \$50k property damage, 200% increase in building graffiti, 2 times my building broken into (causing nearly \$2K property damage), and now a chained-up bike stolen from premises. Police only show up after the crimes to take report, admit crime is up in my area, admit they aren't able to patrol to keep crime down." - Rebecca Uhlig, OD, Owner & President

"I feel scared and not safe at my own employer." - MD

"There are people car checking while we are still here during business hours." -JV

"When I see people sleeping on our property, I feel threatened since they are in my way of getting to my job and they aren't compliant." - PR

"Everyone needs to do their part to make this community safe and when I see people use our property for storage or a bathroom, I don't like cleaning it up." - NK

"Businesses don't operate in a vacuum: if the crime rate soars like it is, people won't come to shop, employees won't feel safe to come to work, and then we won't be able to keep our businesses open." - Rebecca Uhlig, OD, Owner & President



3445 se hawthorne blvd. portland, or
www.kidsathearttoys.com 503-231-2954

July 12, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

Since this particular batch of street kids has shown up, the issues with homeless people that I deal with have more than doubled. These people have no respect for small business or other people's property, and certainly no sense of neighborhood or community.

common problems are as follows:

- graffiti on my building, garbage cans, recycling enclosures, newspaper boxes, street signs, sidewalk
- cigarette butts
- hypodermic needles
- human feces
- clothing, bed rolls, bags or miscellany left on my property
- liquor/beer bottles and broken glass
- my front door broken off of the hinges so someone could steal \$12 worth of coins from our register,
causing more than \$1,000.00 worth of damage
- harassment while walking down the street
- worry for the safety of my employees
- fear of retaliation for asking people to leave my property
- loss of business from people too afraid or put off to come to Hawthorne
- I was chased up the street and had a cup of red wine thrown on me because I didn't have a cigarette to give to a man that asked me for it. At least 5 other people called 911 on him that day and when the police officer came, he ran away and the officer would not stay to look for him.

I have run a business on Hawthorne for more than 15 years. In that time, the boulevard has become safer, more pleasant and more of a draw for people from all over to come patronize my business and those of my neighbors. I feel that allowing these people to take over our street during the day and our properties at night is having and will continue to have a devastating effect on our neighborhood.

Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Green', with a stylized, flowing script.

Sarah Green

Kids at Heart Toys



Board Members July 12, 2017

Officers

Hilda Stevens

President

Bazi Bierbrasserie

Gregg Harris

Vice President

Roosevelt's

Liz Potter

Secretary

New Seasons

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Aetna Brokerage

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Belmont Eco-Laundry

Ryan Malen

Fred Meyer

Sarah Balzer

Pomegranate

Julia Hanfling

3 Peaches Nutrition

Bret Lubic

Attorney at Law

Michele Machado

Hawthorne Hostel

HBBA Mission

HBBA. promotes,
supports & celebrates
the prosperity and
livability of our District

HBBA Vision

HBBA conserves the
uniqueness of our past
and embraces the
possibilities of the
future.

HBBA

P.O. Box 15271

Ptld, OR 97293-5271

(503) 775-7633

www.hawthornepdx.com

Hawthorne Street Fair

August 27, 2017

Dear Portland City Council Members,

I am writing as the President of the Hawthorne Boulevard Business Association (HBBA). Our group represents over 400 businesses on Hawthorne Blvd between 12th St. and 55th St. Our organization has observed, with great concern, a significant surge in criminal activity along the boulevard including verbal and physical harassment and intimidation of our patrons and community residents while walking along the sidewalk and side streets by individuals gathering in large numbers who are clearly intoxicated and often dealing drugs. We have noticed that these individuals will travel to our community in one or more recreational vehicles which park on the side streets and serve as a base of operations for their criminal activity. It is only a matter of time before someone is seriously injured.

We strongly believe that one key to successfully countering this behavior is to designate Hawthorne Boulevard, between 12th St. and 55th St., as a high pedestrian zone, and to simultaneously implement a daily walking police patrol of that same area. Please consider this letter as a formal request that you immediately implement these policies.

Thank you in advance for your prompt consideration and help in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hilda Stevens", written over a horizontal line.

Hilda Stevens
HBBA President

Hello City Council board members, thank you for letting us be here today. My name is Sarah Balzer, I own a business at 35th and Hawthorne, am a board member of the Hawthorne Blvd Business Association and am a home owner in the Richmond neighborhood.

Imagine walking down Hawthorne and you hear something from behind. You see what looks like a gang of people ages 16-30 on the side of the street. And now you can make out what they're saying, "Hey, ya you, Cunt Bitch, give me your money! Hey you Bitch, I know you have money!" I take a photo and they then yell "I'm gonna follow you home and beat you up! Better watch out bitch." This was just two months ago. Local businesses and employees have been threatened they're going to be raped by these individuals, they've witnessed them shooting up in the bushes, getting in knife fights, defecating on the sidewalk, yelling at senior citizens walking by and yelling at children, our safety is at serious risk and no one seems to be taking it seriously except for us.

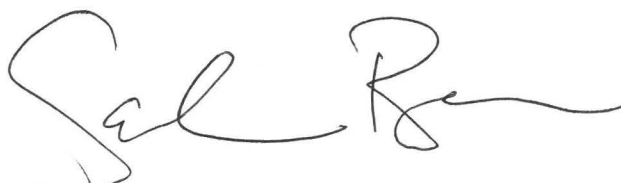
Back in 2013 a group of home and business owners got together and formed the Hawthorne Neighborhood Coalition. We brought these exact same issues to City Council and they answered our pleas. They gave us a police walking patrol that split their days between downtown Portland and Hawthorne in the beginning of 2014. And guess what, it worked. And it didn't just work, it worked really well. You didn't find one complaint on the boulevard, everyone loved it, the walking police themselves, business owners, home owners, tourists and the individuals behaving badly. Police only wrote 24 citations that year and everyone behaved themselves. It lasted through 2015 with a few cuts here and there but kept working, all the way until the leading officer of the patrol was honored by Vice President Joe Biden at the White House for how well it had worked.

Then 4 months after he was honored, the program was cut. 2016 came and saw the bad behavior starting to trickle back in. 2017 hit and we had break in after break in up and down Hawthorne, window smashing after window smashing and sure enough the bad behavior was back. Hawthorne Businesses banded together, took money out of their own pockets and hired a security patrol. But here's the thing, they're not police, they can't write tickets, so although they may make a dent they're nowhere near as affective as a police officer. And until the police actually start writing tickets for these crimes, because as of right now they are not, the individuals breaking the law will have complete reign over Hawthorne.

We're officially out of options. We've removed bike overhangs, removed bushes, watered down side walks, hired day and night security, met with local police and organizers and yet still these individuals take advantage of our neighborhood. We are here to beg you to do something, act, save Hawthorne. Save your small businesses that support the Portland economy, save the neighborhoods that support your local schools. Because it's only going to get worse.

Here's a folder of letters written by local residents and businesses describing how they've witnessed threats, you need to read all of these, they are shocking. Also in that folder is a letter of support from the HBBA for a police walking patrol.

We came here asking for help, and are providing real solutions that history has proven worked recently. Please don't pass up this opportunity to help your community.



7.12.17

My name is John Light, and I live in the Hawthorne neighborhood, near SE Hawthorne and 36th street. This vibrant commercial and residential area has both a recent and longer history of public health and safety issues, as I think my neighbors have just demonstrated. From a resident's perspective, our neighborhood--like others around the city--is becoming too dangerous and unpredictable to safely live or run a business. People dread coming to work, residents don't feel safe, and their children are at risk. Businesses are losing money, and property values are being affected.

Hawthorne residents and business people have come here today to say, it is time for a new approach, to address these problems realistically and resolutely.

For starters, this approach would *not* blame the victims. We have been tutored on using 911 and police non-emergency, and there is now even a web site for reporting anti-neighborhood activity...yet our experience is, we're usually on our own. Calls to non-emergency go unanswered, 911 calls draw inconsistent response and seldom lead to effective action, and the other reporting methods are widely understood to be useless. Further, we are advised not to intervene ourselves, for fear of reprisals.

We cannot blame our police either; there are simply too few of them to do the job properly.

This new approach we imagine might instead accept from the outset that our community problems are both difficult *and real*... requiring systematic, concerted, planned effort. Portland prides itself as a city that can do what other cities cannot, and we have the transportation system, bike-friendliness, and so much more, to prove it. We can do this!

While we're certainly not going to propose a full plan in a three-minute talk, this plan will have several obvious features.

1. It's going to cost money—but think of it as an investment in our city's future, one that, moreover, can generate a model for other cities to follow.
2. Fast-track recruitment of new police officers and other community outreach personnel, who can have an immediate impact in our neighborhood.
3. Move quickly to create at least temporary shelter and facilities available to anyone, and make clear that they are to be used, and that camping in city neighborhoods and parks is not acceptable.
4. Improve city emergency contact methods, once we have an adequate number of responders in place.
5. Establish a committee to coordinate neighborhood problems and their solutions across city departments

In conclusion, there is no more fundamental goal of city government than supporting its communities and neighborhoods. Thank you.

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Boo Rigney <boo.rigney@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 9:01 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Cc: Paul Fishman; Sarah Sellin-Eiler
Subject: Request for 3 minute testimony for Portland City Council Wednesday, July 12th at 9:30am

Dear City Council Clerk,

I would like to request a 3 minute slot on Wednesday, July 12th at 9:30am to speak to the city council regarding issues with the transients along Hawthorne Blvd.

Name: Boo Rigney

Address: 1428 SE 36th Ave, Portland, OR 97214

Phone: 541-325-6995

Date requested: July, 12th 2017

Topic: Issues with transients camping out along our sidewalks and in front our our businesses that have driven away our customers. We and our neighbors feel extremely threatened by these people and the police are not being given the resources they need to enforce laws (e.g. trespassing, openly drinking and doing drugs in public, disturbing the peace by being loud and often fighting, etc.). We would like to ask for the police walking patrol to return as this program in 2013 provided excellent results in reducing unlawful behavior and crimes committed by transients. We are working with the police officers assigned to our area but their ability to enforce and generally give decent coverage to our area is insufficient.

Note: There will be two others testifying along with me so please place us together on the agenda.

Thank you,
Boo Rigney

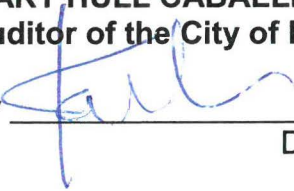
Request of Boo Rigney to address Council regarding issues with
transients along Hawthorne Blvd (Communication)

JUL 12 2017

PLACED ON FILE

Filed JUL 03 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		