

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Bree Kemp <bree.ali.kemp@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 7, 2018 7:38 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Subject: 5.9 Citizen Testimony - Bree Kemp
Attachments: Bree Kemp City Council Testimony 5.9.18.pdf

Hi Karla,

Please find attached my testimony for this Wednesday's Citizen Testimony's and would greatly appreciate the Mayor and Council being provided a copy if appropriate.

Thank you,
Bree Kemp

Date: May 9th, 2018

What: Citizen Testimony

To: Portland Mayor & City Council

Downtown Portland No Longer Safe for Women Increase Police Officers to Make Downtown Safe & Fun Again

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify before you today. My name is Bree Kemp, I'm 38 years-old and moved to Portland from Chicago in 2010. I live downtown, with my husband, just 4-blocks from City Hall. I am not fond of public speaking, but recent events have compelled me to come here today to share my experience as a woman living in downtown Portland. I no longer feel safe in our city, and am no longer proud to be a Portlander because of the condition of our downtown streets and sidewalks.

Two years ago I was assaulted on my way to work at SW 6th & Clay Street. Out of nowhere and unprovoked, a homeless man approached my car, reached in through my window, and grabbed me by the hair. Terrified, I had no other option than to step on the gas to get away from him, losing a hand full of hair in the process. This has left me nervous to the day.

During my wedding reception in late 2016, a panhandler spit on one of our out-of-town guests because our friends wouldn't give this person money. They were terrified, having just read about the fatal stabbing near KOIN tower by a transient a few weeks prior.

Recently walking downtown with girlfriends, an aggressive woman, obviously on drugs, approached us and began making obscene gestures and statements. We said nothing and made no eye contact, but she continued to follow us for several blocks. This is one of numerous such experiences of general harassment by street kids, sidewalk campers, and other un-hinged individuals who seem to be everywhere downtown these days.

It's a shame, that as a tax-payer living in Portland, I no longer feel like these streets and sidewalks I help maintain are mine to use safely. Every time I walk downtown, I literally am making tactical decisions about my walking path to avoid sidewalk campers, shopping carts, piles of trash, human excrement, needles, and crazy screaming people.

I applaud Mayor Wheeler's efforts to increase Police staffing and am appalled and disappointed, along with all of my friends, that there seems to be little support for this initiative with the rest of the council. It's clear there are not enough Police to enforce basic public safety. Portland's street populations seem to be growing unchecked, and from the experience of my friends and I, they are becoming more aggressive, violent and unpredictable.

I'm happy to support efforts to provide housing and social services for those who are

legitimately in need. But *Compassion that is misdirected helps no one*. As a city, we need to distinguish between those who need help, and others who abuse our goodwill. My parents taught me, 'help those who help themselves'.

The first and foremost duty of elected officials is to provide safety and rule of law for citizens. I insist that our streets and public spaces be restored as clean and lawful environments so that ALL residents can enjoy them equally, without fear, and without concern for their safety.

I speak today on behalf of all my female friends and family in Portland – We implore the Mayor and City Council to do more to improve our City's conditions!

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 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
- Develop an educational campaign to educate citizens about the dangers of panhandling, showing how it hurts the people you give to and funds substance abuse.
- And please, redouble efforts to enforce basic city ordinances like camping enforcement and littering

Respectfully,

Bree Kemp
1500 SW 5th Avenue #1101
Portland, OR 97201

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Bree Kemp <bree.ali.kemp@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 5:12 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Subject: available dates for testimony

Hello Karla,

I'm interested in providing a testimony in front of City Council, regarding 'Downtown Safety from the perspective of a woman', and I am hoping you can tell me when there are some available dates to do so.

Thank you kindly,
Bree

BREE KEMP
bree.ali.kemp@gmail.com

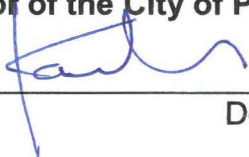
Request of Bree Kemp to address Council regarding downtown safety
from the perspective of a woman (Communication)

MAY 09 2018

PLACED ON FILE

Filed MAY 01 2018

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		