

October 3, 2019

Dear Angeletta Hamilton,

I am writing to you regarding the organization JOIN, because you are a member of the Board of Directors. I live in the neighborhood, just one block from the building JOIN runs its services out of located at 1435 NE 81st Avenue, Suite 100 Portland, OR 97213. JOIN provides many positive services for people living without homes. I applaud these services. Living on the street is no way to survive and having housing is important and a basic human right.

When JOIN moved into our neighborhood in 2010 we were supportive of the organization to provide services to help people better themselves and get off of the street. In 2015 things started to change for the worse. When JOIN came into the neighborhood the director Will Harris told us, the neighbors, that they would not allow people to get services if they camped around or near the building. He assured us there would not be camps setting up around the neighborhood. Please see the photos I have included. This is not the case at all. The last 4 years this situation has become worse. The last 2 years have become terrible.

Camps are set up all around the building of JOIN. The neighborhood has become violent. Neighbors are afraid to walk down the street to the MAX stop. Husbands walk their wives; people now drive to avoid walking close to JOIN. Many people who live directly in view of JOIN are afraid because they have been hassled by the people who live in the camps seeking services at JOIN. They do not feel safe in their homes! I know of at least three families that have moved out of their homes because of the problems JOIN has brought into our neighborhood.

We have had meetings with the directors at JOIN. We have called and talked to them especially, Will Harris about these problems. I have been told by him that we have a difference in opinion about what JOIN is supposed to do. Meaning he doesn't think the camps that JOIN is supporting are their problem and they don't need to do anything to not allow this. Another person was told by Will Harris that he doesn't care about the home owners around JOIN, he only cares about the guy on the street corner dying. He really did say this! Part of the Values and Principles of JOIN, I am taking this directly from the website states, "JOIN is centered in relationships-Because we believe in community." This statement is false. JOIN does not care about the relationships directly around their building. We are a community of home owners. Our neighborhood is a community and JOIN does not value that. It does not Value it because the organization allows people to live in tents just outside its doors 24 hours a day, every single day!

Let me tell you why these camps are so disruptive to our neighborhood. We don't feel safe in our homes because we are assaulted, hassled and yelled at. We are afraid to walk down the street past JOIN in fear of being assaulted and attacked. We are woken

up at all hours of the night from people living in these tents yelling and fighting with each other. We have items stolen from our yards, our garages, our cars. We have had countless numbers of stolen cars taken from us or parked in front of our homes. We call the police daily for help and protection. We see drug deals all day long, every day. We deal with people using drugs in front of us, and their used needles in our yards. We deal with human excrement on our sidewalks, our driveways, our planting beds. We watch daily parades of people walking by with bags and luggage looking in to our houses and cars. We pick up soiled clothes and garbage. We have had people come into our yards to steal our water. We deal with drug deals, prostitution, and weapons daily. The list goes on and on. We watch where they go. They go directly into JOIN's parking lot and camp. The weekends the parking lot fills up with tents, cars, chairs of people hanging out and selling drugs. It is one huge market to find and deal drugs. The directors of JOIN refuse to help us. They allow this behavior to continue. There is no reason this should be.

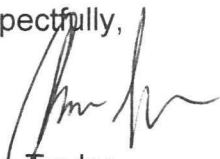
JOIN can easily solve this huge problem it has brought into this neighborhood. They can refuse service to people who are camping within 1 mile of their building. They can hire security and move people along who are hanging outside for more than 2 hours. They need to provide this security 24 hours a day, every day. JOIN was set up as a **day use facility** but it has turned into a 24 hour facility.

I have trouble understanding why you would want to be on the board of directors of an organization that promotes this type of unsafe and dangerous behavior. I think you are unaware of what goes on at JOIN daily. How it has ruined our community, our neighborhood. I am writing to you so you know the truth behind the "good deeds of this service." We are exhausted trying to get help from the city, the police, PBOT and JOIN itself. We shouldn't have to live in fear and protect our homes from the violence, crime, drugs, and assaults JOIN has brought to our area. If you think I am exaggerating please come and see for yourself. I am asking you to help get our neighborhood cleaned up, permanently by not allowing camps to exist around and near to JOIN, and not allow JOIN to act in such a careless and harmless way for our neighborhood. We also deserve a clean, safe place to live!

We would appreciate the opportunity to talk with you about these problems. Please reach out to us.

Thank you for taking time to read this.

Respectfully,



Anne Taylor  
7909 NE Clackamas Street  
Portland, OR 97213  
503-232-3691



Ross Montano



Mailing address: PO Box 16490 Portland, OR 97292  
Physical address: 1435 NE 81st Ave, Ste 100 Portland, OR 97213  
Website: [www.joinpdx.org](http://www.joinpdx.org)  
Tel: (503) 232-7052 Fax: (503) 232-4640

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Partners

October 25, 2019

Anne Taylor  
7909 NE Clackamas Street  
Portland, Oregon 97213

Dear Neighbors,

We are in receipt of your letter dated October 3, 2019.

JOIN has delivered innovative and nationally recognized support and solutions to help people get off the streets of Portland and into permanent housing since 1992 and has been in Montavilla for the past 9 years. The rise in the number of those experiencing homelessness is the result of a multitude of factors. Most importantly, there is a lack of affordable housing options, not only in the City of Portland, but across Multnomah County, and the entire State of Oregon. Today, in 2019 our work also includes advocating for tenant rights, delivering culturally appropriate mental health services and finding sources of affordable housing to address the root cause of this wide-spread issue.

As the Board of Directors, we are keenly aware of the conditions affecting our communities at the State and local level, including the conditions of our property in Montavilla. We too are residents of Montavilla, or have friends and family living in the area, and understand the history of Montavilla, and 82nd Avenue. The safety and dignity of our staff, clients, and community always have and continue to be of the utmost importance. Homelessness is a complicated issue and there are no easy solutions. At JOIN we're committed to processes that honor our person-centered values and are inclusive and equitable for the most vulnerable in our community. Through these challenging times, and especially as winter approaches, we will continue to work hard to house individuals who are facing homelessness and operate a safe place for all to access life-saving services.

JOIN is making daily contributions to combat the cycles of poverty, racism and homelessness in our community and we appreciate your support of these efforts.

Sincerely,

Chris Bonner  
Chair  
Board of Directors

Chris Bonner  
President of Hasson Company  
1500 NE Irving Street  
Portland, OR 97232

November 2, 2019

Dear Chris Bonner,

I am pleased to know you read the letter signed by 25 of the neighbors that live in the community surrounding JOIN. We are aware of the positive services JOIN does provide to some people. We are also painfully aware of the crime, drug use, and garbage this service has brought into our neighborhood. We are also aware how we don't get any help. We are being neglected and ignored the same feeling homeless people have, not being heard, listened to or helped when they really need it.

We applaud JOIN's efforts in being innovative and nationally recognized for creating support and solutions to help people get off of the streets. If JOIN is so effective at helping people why cannot they put some of that innovation in cleaning up the neighborhood it is conducting its service in?

I am pleased you are aware of the conditions of your property that JOIN is situated on and how bad it is. I also realize that no other business or service in this area allows their parking lot to fill up over the weekend with a homeless camp conducting prostitution, drug distribution and use. I've also noticed how no other business or service allows their property to be surrounded by tents every day. I am surprised that the board of directors accepts and allows such a dangerous situation to exist. It is dangerous for the neighbors who have permanent homes here, for the staff, and for people entering the building to use the services.

I have lived here for over 16 years and the problems that JOIN has brought into our neighborhood are not caused by the history of 82<sup>nd</sup> street and the Montavilla neighborhood. These problems would not be here if JOIN did not allow the camp from forming around its building. Your friends and family would know this. If you truly want to "operate a safe place for all to access life-saving services," you need to clean up your building and not continue to allow it to be a drug distribution center, leaving trash everywhere.

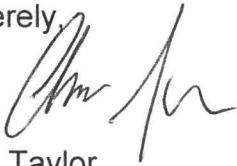
Not only is it dangerous, but it is costing tax payers thousands every year having the city come and clean out the camp monthly. If JOIN is committed to helping the community it would be aware of this fact and come up with solutions so this camp does not exist in this residential neighborhood.

We would appreciate being heard and listened to. We hope you would be willing to sit down and talk with us, the neighbors, to see what will be done to improve the situation that is surrounding JOIN to <sup>no</sup> longer allow your services to bring in drugs, prostitution, and theft into our residential neighborhood. We are finding everyone talks about the good work JOIN does when we state the fact JOIN has brought crime into our area, yet no one is willing to combat this problem. Why is this? Everyone knows it exists, but the Board will do nothing to help.

Please contact us to set up a meeting.

Our neighborhood is committed to having a safe, clean community to live in, and we appreciate your support in these efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Taylor', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Anne Taylor  
7909 NE Clackamas Street  
Portland, OR 97213







Parking lot of JOIN on a weekend





## Camps surrounding JOIN





JOIN on a weekend





Parking lot of JOIN on a weekend





**From:** Adrian Huang  
**To:** Council Clerk – Testimony  
**Subject:** NE Clackamas Street / JOIN  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 2, 2019 10:22:20 AM

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Hello,

I would like to be put on the December calendar to discuss safety issues we have on NE Clackamas Street in connection with JOIN / lack of street lights and sidewalks / lack of parking enforcement for 2 hour parking signs / Livability issues in residential area.

The date we are requesting Dec 11th, 2019.

My name is Adrian Huang and I live a block from JOIN, on NE 80th Ave.

Thank you,

Adrian

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1131

Request of Adrian Huang to address Council regarding safety issues on NE  
Clackamas Street (Communication)

DEC 11 2019

PLACED ON FILE

DEC 03 2019

Filed

**MARY HULL CABALLERO**  
Auditor of the City of Portland

By



Deputy

COMMISSIONERS VOTED  
AS FOLLOWS:

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