

**McClymont, Keelan**

**From:** Marcia Dennis <mleedennis@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 7, 2020 3:10 PM  
**To:** Carol L. Otis; Council Clerk – Testimony; Commissioner Eudaly; Commissioner Hardesty; Wheeler, Mayor; Commissioner Fritz  
**Cc:** Hillier, Lucas; Allen, Seraphie  
**Subject:** Re: Please protect the public health and safety by funding Rapid Response - Item #15 on City Council Agenda Jan 8

Good letter, Carol. I agree 100%!

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**From:** Carol L. Otis <carolotis921@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 7, 2020 9:58:42 AM  
**To:** cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov <cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov>; chloe@portlandoregon.gov <chloe@portlandoregon.gov>; JoAnn@portlandoregon.gov <JoAnn@portlandoregon.gov>; MayorWheeler@portlandoregon.gov <MayorWheeler@portlandoregon.gov>; amanda@portlandoregon.gov <amanda@portlandoregon.gov>  
**Cc:** Hillier, Lucas <lucas.hillier@portlandoregon.gov>; Seraphie Allen <Seraphie.allen@portlandoregon.gov>  
**Subject:** Please protect the public health and safety by funding Rapid Response - Item #15 on City Council Agenda Jan 8  
 Dear City Commissioners.

We can all agree that it is neither safe nor healthy for people to camp out in the open in the urban environment. Every effort should be made to have shelter and social services for those with no other options. However Portland is currently inundated with outdoor campers who are "Service Resistant" and who decline the shelter and services offered. In particular the Eastside of Portland is a location for encampments that become chronic, larger and filled with people who are dealing drugs and pose significant health and safety threats to the community.

There is significant **TRAUMA caused to the people living and visiting the communities** in which these encampments are allowed to exist. However the people in these neighborhoods seem to not have a voice in keeping their community livable. The recent delay in funding for Rapid Response has lead to increased size in encampments and dangers to the community that include exposure to needles, human excrement and risks of diseases such as shigella dysentery - please recall the Shigella outbreak documented in Portland homeless community by the CDC 3 years ago <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6531a5.htm> . The police will also tell you that many of these encampments are also drug dealing and prostitution rings that prey on the neighboring communities. Community city policing principles are clear: It is important to reduce the size and remove the opportunity for these criminal encampments to occur in our precious city.

Please protect the public health and safety by funding Rapid Response and providing more mental health and drug treatment services as well as shelter for people living on the streets. Please talk to the people who are affected- ie the taxpayers- who rely on the City to protect public health and safety. And understand that keeping Portland Clean by removing the public health threats that these chronic encampments produce is essential and vital for all of us.

Thank you

Carol L. Otis MD  
 0836 SW Curry St  
 Portland 97239  
 310-704-9796

McClymont, Keelan

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**From:** Carol L. Otis <carolotis921@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 7, 2020 9:59 AM  
**To:** Council Clerk – Testimony; Commissioner Eudaly; Commissioner Hardesty; Wheeler, Mayor; Commissioner Fritz  
**Cc:** Hillier, Lucas; Allen, Seraphie  
**Subject:** Please protect the public health and safety by funding Rapid Response - Item #15 on City Council Agenda Jan 8

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0836 SW Curry St  
Portland 97239  
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**From:** Roger Goldingay <goroger@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 6, 2020 10:52 PM  
**To:** Council Clerk – Testimony; Commissioner Eudaly; Wheeler, Mayor; Commissioner Fritz; Commissioner Hardesty  
**Cc:** Carol L. Otis; Hager, Tashia; grantswishes@gmail.com; celtgerm@me.com  
**Subject:** Rapid Response Contract

Portland City Council

Dear City Council Members,

Commissioner Hardesty claims to “*understand the trauma that comes from sweeps.*” I agree that living on the streets is extremely traumatic. A single story of a woman taking meth to stay up all night to avoid being raped is enough to convince me of the horrors members of the houseless community suffer on a daily basis. The need for safe shelter is overwhelming. Honestly, I cannot understand how a government and an economy as great as the United States are unable to provide a safe and secure shelter for anyone who needs it.

I believe safe and secure shelter should be available to anyone who needs it. However, those who refuse it are a different matter. They threaten the health and safety of the entire population, not just themselves. With outbreaks of AIDS, dysentery, typhus and hepatitis threatening the health of campers and the general population, there is a desperate need to provide access to sanitation and security. The costs of doing so would be offset by savings from reducing the expense of crisis management, police enforcement, emergency room treatment and catastrophic health care coverage.

However, city commissioners’ empathy for the houseless community does not seem to extend to the general population that pays their salaries through taxes. The trauma of dealing with relatively small number of homeless – let’s face it, a tarp is not a home – is falling more and more to the general population. Living rough in the urban environment is neither healthy nor safe. This is true for both the houseless and those with housing and businesses. When politicians stop laws from being enforced, the general public is left to deal with the issues of crime, health, and safety that are created by those living in unsafe and unsanitary conditions.

Thus a relatively small number of individuals threaten the health, safety and well-being not only of themselves, but of the entire population. People living in desperate conditions do desperate things. As an immigrant business owner that supports over thirty mostly minority and woman-owned small businesses, I find it hard to underestimate the impact of a homeless camp fifty feet from the entrance to my business.

It is not just the economic loss. Being assaulted, having your packages stolen, your bicycle stolen, your car or business broken into, or human excrement smeared on your bathroom walls does more damage than the direct financial cost of the losses. Customers stop coming, clients leave their businesses, and employees quit. In addition to economic and physical damage, what is stolen is peace of mind – from the entire neighborhood. Indeed, the trauma has spread to the entire city.

And the latest blow to hardworking Portland residents is the City Council’s suspension of the Rapid Response cleanup contract to clean up the needles and trash surrounding the camps.

Cleaning up these camps is necessary and imperative to prevent the development of permanent encampments that get more and more offensive in so many ways. Camping in the urban environment needs to be discouraged, not encouraged.

Sincerely,

Roger Goldingay

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**From:** Steve Weaser <celtgerm@me.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 6, 2020 7:45 PM  
**To:** Council Clerk – Testimony  
**Subject:** Re: Item 15 for 1/8/2020 and 1/9/2020

I kept it as civil as I could.

Sent from my iPad

> On Jan 6, 2020, at 7:43 PM, Steve Weaser <celtgerm@me.com> wrote:

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> Due to the Traumatic Impact of Crime and Public Health Hazards forced upon neighborhoods by the Illegally camped homeless, immediate funding of Rapid Response is necessary. Absent this funding, the City of Portland assumes liability for Public Safety and Health Hazards it chooses not to abate.

> Steve Weaser

> Brentwood-Darlington

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> Sent from my iPad