



November 2, 2021

Portland City Council
Mayor Wheeler
1221 SW 4th Ave, Room 340
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners:

Like many neighborhoods in Portland, Lloyd has been hit hard by not only the pandemic but a variety of social ills, including riots, shootings, street racing, property destruction, mounting piles of trash, and graffiti on seemingly every vertical surface. With the upcoming fall bump there are several programs that would directly benefit Lloyd, the Central City, and Portland at-large. The Lloyd Enhanced Services District supports immediate investment in the following programs to help right the listing ship that is Portland.

Safety

The need for more Portland Police Bureau beat officers cannot be overemphasized, specifically North Precinct. With a record number of homicides and what seems like daily shootings, Portland residents and employees fear for their safety. The same can be said for visitors, which are a critical part of Lloyd's economy, choosing to shop, stay, and recreate in other locales because of the poor safety reputation of Portland. The addition of **PS3 officers** would allow more regular police patrols in neighborhoods and decrease 9-1-1 response times. Expansion of the police's **Behavioral Health Unit** to better deal with those who are in immediate need of crisis intervention. Additional resources for the **Service Coordination Team** would help reduce drug-related property crimes, particularly for chronic offenders. And, to address the immediate shortfall of patrol officers, the city should "**Rehire/Retired**" officers, until more new officers can be properly vetted and trained to be deployed on our streets (a 2–3-year lead time).

Homelessness & People in Crisis

Funds need to be allocated to immediately expand the operational boundary of **Portland Street Response** to the Central City, or ideally, to all of Portland. The Central City currently relies on the County's Project Respond, which is overburdened and often has lengthy wait times for those experiencing a mental health crisis. It will be necessary to increase capacity for **HUCIRP** to respond to a backlog of reported camps. With additional resources they could expand the number of response teams in the **Clean Start Program** so more camps can be evaluated, instead of falling further behind current demand for services.

Livability

Despite significant and concerted ongoing efforts by community groups, business associations, City bureaus, and concerned citizens, the Central City continues to look in shambles – graffiti covered surfaces as far as the eye can see, overflowing trash cans, with debris and needles in the streets. Many property owners/managers have given up

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repainting their buildings knowing the graffiti will reappear the follow day. More resources need to be funneled into **graffiti removal**, **grants for community-based murals** (public art), increased frequency of **trash removal**, and more regular **street sweeping** (e.g., ubiquitous tire shrapnel from street racing). These are some of the basic levels of services that are sorely needed to bring our neighborhoods back to a livable standard.

Coordination

To increase the effectiveness and reduce response times of 9-1-1 calls, the city needs to enhance the 3-1-1 information line. This will cut down on unnecessary or non-emergency calls fielded by 9-1-1 operators. Separating the two systems will allow them to operate in parallel and allow operators to transfer callers to the more appropriate service.

Obviously, there is a long list of needs with limited resources (\$62 million), but directing BMP funds to these important safety, homeless, livability, and coordination programs are absolutely what our community needs to get back on track and renew the faith of Portlanders, to reassure them that the City of Portland has their back.

Sincerely,



Hank Ashforth
Lloyd ESD, Chair

Cc: Commissioner Ryan
Commissioner Hardesty
Commissioner Mapps
Commissioner Rubio