

From: [Niles Armstrong](#)
To: [Clerk General](#); ted@portlandoregon.gov; [Commissioner Ryan Office](#)
Subject: Surplus dollars
Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021 12:43:28 PM

Hello Council Clerk, Mayor and Commissioner,

It has recently come to my attention that there is a multi million dollar surplus in the city government funds partially, if not fully, due to the Business Tax License. As a retail business owner in Portland, I would be very disappointed to see the funds spent on funding more police and hiring bonuses for them. As a person who works very hard to make a living it pains me to think that these funds you have collected from so many small businesses who believe in exploring a better way to address the concerns of our society will be put into programs that just increase the police presence. Unfortunately, I have had nothing but negative interactions with Portland Police throughout my time in this city and as a business owner. If not quite rude when I have needed their services, they have been at the best apathetic. This paired with the fact that they have been under scrutiny multiple times with the DOJ in addition to the issues that have recently been unearthed regarding their handling of the situations over the past year leads me to feel grave concern around bolstering their presence and rewarding them for a job not well done. Please consider focusing these dollars into community programs that will enrich the lives of our communities. In addition, please take the time to reach out to other businesses in the city beyond those with the money to fund individuals with time to make their voices heard at City Hall. There are many of us out here, working hard to keep our businesses afloat who have concerns as well. Would you ever consider a way for us very small business owners to communicate with you more easily and direct?

Niles Armstrong
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