

**From:** [Maureen Hurst](#)  
**To:** [Clerk General](#)  
**Subject:** Fall BMP Budget Testimony  
**Date:** Friday, November 5, 2021 2:26:08 PM

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I am writing to submit my written testimony regarding the Fall BMP Budget. The toll on Portlanders' mental health as a result of the crime and lawlessness that is occurring cannot be overstated. I am a resident of inner Southeast and have already seen my fair share of violence and theft. Just the other week after dropping my son off at school, I witnessed a shooting on Division street. I heard the shots, saw people fleeing for safety, and the car speeding away. I called the police and gave my statement. But what has stuck with me is the image of a mother and her son moments later walking that same stretch and the idea that they could have been innocent victims. I've also recognized that every time I drive by a homeless camp on Powell or Division, or anywhere else, I flinch and wonder if I will be come another casualty of the gun violence. Worse, I think about the people living in the neighborhoods who live with these shootings daily and what it must do to them and the fear it instills in the children. Kids don't deserve to grow up in fear of walking down the street or leaving their house. They shouldn't be scared of going to the park or being pricked by a needle like the toddler was in Laurelhurst. There are a wide range of issues before the city, but at what point do we start putting the innocent children first to ensure they feel safe and are safe.

We have had thousands of dollars stolen from our property--which is all replaceable. But when our house sitter had her car stolen in front of our house right before Christmas, it took away her only mode of transportation. She was a teacher living in St. Johns and travelling to SE for her job. To lose her car in the dead of winter created undue hardship. And to get it back destroyed, caused even more distress.

There are constant reports and images of stolen bikes, stolen cars. Why can the city not create a database for the public to use to report them. Why can't police pull over the cars driving around without any license plate or tags and cross check if its stolen. Just today, someone on nextdoor identified a parked car stacked with bikes and whose license plate didn't match the VIN. How hard is it to confiscate those bikes and the person using that car? It wouldn't be that hard if we had the police staffing and resources this budget advocates for.

What is occurring in Portland is a tragedy and an utter embarrassment. I support Commission Mingus Mapp and commend his efforts to get this city back on track. And I commend him for being the one city Commissioner who is constantly out there talking to residents, listening to residents, communicating with residents and fighting for residents.

Sincerely,  
Maureen Hurst  
SE Portland