

**From:** [Ruth Sorensen](#)  
**To:** [Clerk General](#)  
**Subject:** Written testimony for Fall BMP Budget Hearing on Wednesday, Nov. 10, at 2:00 p.m.  
**Date:** Friday, November 5, 2021 4:06:24 PM

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My name is Ruth Sorensen and I live at 1310 NW Naito Parkway, Portland, OR 97209. My husband and I bought our condo in 2015 and moved here in May 2016. As retired seniors, we believed that we had moved to a beautiful and safe city. Since then many changes have occurred and, had Portland looked then as it looks today, we would not have chosen to live here. My husband died a year ago and, as much as his death has saddened me, I am thankful that he no longer must watch what our adopted city has become.

PLEASE CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS:

- (1) I urge the City Council to expand the Impact Reduction Program to clean up trash and unsanctioned camps. We can be compassionate toward the homeless without turning our streets into dangerous heaps of trash.
- (2) As a former social worker I also urge the City Council to expand the Behavioral Health Unit in order to better respond to those suffering from mental illness and/or drug addiction. Such problems call for special skills and training in order to preserve everyone's safety. In my second career I served as a District Attorney and it was clear that the most effective officers were those who had received specialized training in how to deal with people in crisis.
- (3) Take the steps necessary to add and recruit trained officers and public safety support specialists and to enhance the response to 9-1-1 calls.
- (4) Provide some much-needed relief from utility bills to low-income residents and small businesses.

IN CONCLUSION, the sooner these steps are taken, the sooner the face of our once-beautiful city will shine again.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth Sorensen