

From: [Kathlene Kelley](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: City council meeting 11/10/21
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I am very new to this sort of thing but at 65 years old I feel compelled to speak out.

I have lived in Portland most of my life. I have enjoyed many of the once beautiful outdoor areas Portland used to have to offer. Practicing reasonable personal safety, I have felt safe in most areas most of the time. Sadly, the last five or six years I have watched this city slowly disintegrate into the crime ridden, trash & rat filled sewer it has become. Strong words? Perhaps. But I do not live in a gated community. I live like most of our hard working citizens, worried someone might steal our catalytic converters, or our car. Afraid to go into many parts of Portland, even in the daytime to do business. Trying to escape reality by venturing into our parks & wetlands i see piles of garbages, rats, hypodermic needles, everywhere ruination by human beings.

The homeless...as has been pointed out, we need to help those who are mentally ill, those who are on the streets because theyve lost a job or couldnt afford a rent increase, etc, help those who sincerely WANT help & would most likely have lasting benefit from that help. The rest...the criminals, the ones who don't want to act civilized, those who commit crimes, who don't want to follow anyone's rules, who choose to continue using drugs, who have a job but simply choose to live on the street to save money, those who have shown violence toward others...why must we continue throwing money at this group? What a waste. Figure out who will benefit in the long run from help & chase the rest out of town, make Portland less inviting, less (emotionally for some bleeding hearts) codependent. I don't know...as rough as I sound I care about those who need & want help. I do not care much about those who take & victimize society with their crimes, victimize our wildlife & natural areas with their garbage.

Sent from my iPhone