

**From:** [R&D Fowlks](#)  
**To:** [Clerk General](#)  
**Subject:** Letter in lieu of testimony November 10 Budget Meeting  
**Date:** Saturday, November 6, 2021 6:17:38 PM

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Dear Council Clerk:

I am writing in lieu of testifying on Zoom at the November 10 budget meeting, to support Mingus Mapp's initiatives for inclusion in the Fall budget. Most importantly I see a dire need to add at least 300 police officers to the force. My husband and I have lived in Portland for 74 and 72 years, respectively, and we have never before felt such fear whenever we leave our house. Crime is rampant everywhere in this city. Violent mentally-ill or drug influenced people roam the streets randomly attacking people with weapons. We have started looking to move to Washington or Clackamas county because we don't feel safe here. We are extremely angry that this Council has so badly failed in its responsibilities that we feel we have to leave the neighborhood we love, and that we expected to stay in until we needed care in our 80's or 90's.

Also very important to us is to support Commissioner Mapp's initiative to drastically reduce the numbers of homeless sleeping in tents on our streets, and clean up the trash and graffiti in our city that signals to everyone who sees it that we are a completely lawless, uncaring community. As we drive to look at houses in Beaverton, Tigard, Milwaukie and Happy Valley, we notice that tent encampments have now expanded to nearly every area of Portland, but that as soon as we cross the city/county line, they disappear completely. We have NEVER seen a single homeless tent in any of those cities. I suggest that the Council consult Washington and Clackamas counties to see what they're doing with their homeless populations. Whatever it is, it's a better approach than Portland's.

Another important proposal we support is the expansion of the Behavioral Health Unit (BHU). We are now doing our grocery shopping in Clackamas and Washington counties on our trips to look at houses there, because of the scary mentally ill and meth-taking people we have encountered hanging out and harassing customers at grocery stores near us in Portland.

This Council should be ashamed at the way they have let our city be destroyed. Listen to Commissioner Mapps, please, and pass his proposals.

Thank you,

Deanna Fowlks

Southeast Portland