

From: [Karl Keener](#)
To: [Clerk General](#)
Cc: [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Mapps](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [Commissioner Rubio](#)
Subject: Portland needs much better safety on our streets NOW!! Budget Committee hearing November 10
Date: Sunday, November 7, 2021 1:41:29 PM

Good Afternoon Members of the City Council:

The following is the written testimony I wish to submit in favor of much better funding for Portland PD and fully staffed and funded 24/7 Behavioral Health Teams.

Portland needs Behavioral Health Teams with sufficient funding to operate 24/7. Having a specially trained police officer teamed with a mental health clinician available 24/7 is absolutely necessary during this chaotic

dangerous new meth fueled crisis. The current funding proposal only has enough money to staff (BHRT) Mon thru Fri 8 to 5. We all know mental health crisis are not limited to Mon to Fri working hours. That funding needs to increase!

-Portland MUST have detox/ triage facilities open for first responders to use to get people at risk to themselves or others off the streets! The current lack of any facility is the reason the person attempting to get into homes on SE Flanders was released to "go back to his camp in Laurelhurst Park."

Allocating more funds to public safety is the most important you as Public Servants can do for our city, a city in crisis. More police officers (up to 300) need to be hired. Bring back recently retired police officers who left the

department because they felt neglected and abused by the city they swore to protect. In the interim, approve overtime for police officers as needed to fill the existing gaps. We also need a large number of non-police to respond to metal health crises on our streets. That category of trained professionals need to be available 24/7.

The Portland PD also needs some cultural sensitivity training. Keep the guns holstered except when absolutely necessary. To help assure police accountability our police officers need to be equipped with body cameras. It's

inexcusable that PPD has never been required to use them. cameras protect the public and they protect the police.

And of course, we need far more support and better funding for the houseless members of our community. The city must find ways to get the houseless out of tents and off the streets and into humane sheltering. They also

need hygiene facilities, healthy meals, addiction support, mental health outreach, job search assistance and so much more. The city must act now not next month or next year to provide caring and humane treatment for the houseless.

Portland was once a model for cities around the country, but in the past few years we have become the example of what not to do in city government. We are now the laughing stock of late night TV. You need to change that NOW!!

Respectfully,

Karl A Keener
3601 S River Parkway, Unit 403
Portland, OR 97239