

From: [Jeanette and Bruce Morrison](#)
To: [Clerk General](#)
Cc: [Karen Gilmore](#)
Subject: Written testimony for November 10 BMP Budget hearing
Date: Sunday, November 7, 2021 2:55:20 PM

Dear Mayor Wheeler and Council members,

Thank you for your hard work.

We are writing to urge additional resources for the Portland Police Bureau.

As people with African-American relatives, we realize that policing needs to improve.

Defunding the Police will not improve policing. Better leadership, training, resources, and rebuilding trust with the city at large are what will make things better.

Policing problems are not limited to the disparate outcomes for BIPOC citizens. In the past few years Portland has suffered from a breakdown in law and order that affects all communities. From our soaring murder rate (which affects many cities, disproportionately BIPOC communities) to more petty crimes like drag racing and vandalism, the city feels under siege.

It's no wonder PPB cannot cope.

—We have dropped from over a 1,000 sworn officers to under 800 despite our increased population.

—Portland has approximately 1 officer for each 800 citizens. Denver and Kansas City have closer to 1 for 400. Seattle and Sacramento have 1 to 600 and 700 respectively.

The Council should vote the money to hire robustly including rehiring retired officers. Also, we also need to convince the PPB that, while we expect improvements, we have their backs.

Strong hiring is also a way to recruit and train the type of police we want.

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