

**From:** [Joe Hovey](#)  
**To:** [Clerk General](#)  
**Subject:** Fall BMP Budget Hearing - Wednesday, November 10  
**Date:** Sunday, November 7, 2021 3:16:25 PM

---

Mayor Wheeler and City Council Commissioners:

Unfortunately, I am not able to make some of these meetings so I am submitting my thoughts via email re: the Fall BMP Budget.

First off, I am in total support of Commissioner Mingus Mapp's proposal as it relates to his long term plans for adding 300 police officers over the next 3 years, as well as reducing homicides & homeless camps in the City, and cleaning up trash and graffiti. It's a detailed plan with specific goals and timelines of which I am in full agreement. Now is the time we need to move forward on solving the issues that plague our beautiful City of Portland. Not only should we be focused on those "urgent" issues the require immediate solutions, but we also need to be thinking ahead and planning so as not to find ourselves in this predicament once again in the future. And that is the major reason I support Commissioner Mapps' plan. It addresses both our short term/immediate needs as well as planning for the months and years ahead of us. I've read that some Commissioners believe we should be addressing the most urgent issues now but that filling empty positions (on the police force) is not a way to do that. I am assuming from these comments that we should not be focusing on that. Wow! In my opinion, that is such a shortsighted view; a knee-jerk reaction with no thought of how to move forward into the future.

Granted, adding / rehiring officers to the Police force requires a few caveats:

- When rehiring those who have retired we need to be looking at their past records to insure we are not bringing back the "bad seeds"!
- We need to hire Training Managers who can work with and counsel the new recruits to insure they act in a manner that actually helps the community.
- It's not simply a matter of adding "bodies" to the force, but we need to insure that we utilize these officers in a manner that makes sense and complements the work of the Portland Street Response. I see them as responding to criminal actions, especially when firearms are involved.

As for the houseless, I agree that we need more short term shelters, as well as long term housing. But we should also be looking at using some of the available funds and developing a Rental Assistance Program to help people stay in their homes. With this, we need to create policies that actually get people off the streets! We need to present those living in tents and vehicles with options for various services. In fact, how about this ... we allow no more homeless camps, but rather we develop a system that addresses their needs, whether it be financial, drug use, mental health, and provide wrap around services which includes housing. BUT we insist on their participation, if not, the alternative is to move on and out of the City. We can no longer make exceptions, especially for those who refuse to abide by the rules that other law abiding citizens of Portland are required to follow. At times, I truly feel that we have created an environment that encourages those to come to Portland where they can live freely and as they wish with no concerns for their fellow citizen. They can do and come and go as they please. And this needs to stop.

In closing, please move forward with Commissioner Mapps' proposal and lets make Portland a safe and liveable City.

Thank you for your time and for reading this email.

Regards,

Joe Hovey  
Portland OR

