

**From:** [Michael Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Clerk General](#)  
**Subject:** Portland public safety, houselessness and livability  
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The City of Portland is at a critical juncture. I support the following proposals that Commissioner Mapps wants to ensure make it into the final budget.

- **Joint City/County budget to address houselessness**
  - We're especially supportive of the \$6.5 million to the City's Impact Reduction Program for trash and unsanctioned camp clean-up. This program is the only major City resource addressing this problem, and expanding it is the most immediate way that the City can have an impact on our trash problem.
  
- **Expansion of the Behavioral Health Unit or "BHU"**
  - This proposal will increase the City's capacity to address violent, higher-acuity incidents resulting from known or suspected mental illness and/or drug and alcohol addiction. BHU can work with clients that even a Citywide Portland Street Response is not current equipped to address. The proposal will immediately restore the Behavioral Health Unit to five units to get potential clients off the street and into treatment.
  
- **Investments to increase the number of police officers and reduce 9-1-1 call answering times**
  - The [Mayor's Retire/Rehire proposal](#) is a good down payment toward the goal of adding 300 officers over the next three years. Given the current backlog to train new recruits, this approach enables this City to bring on officers that are ready for duty. These officers will provide critical backfill for the Focused Intervention Team when that unit is launched in December.
  - The [targeted additions to accelerate recruitment and hiring](#) of both police officers and Public Safety Support Specialists ("PS3s") will likely have the biggest impact on ensuring that Portland has a fully staffed police force.
  - Several packages for the [Bureau of Emergency Communications to address 9-1-1 and non-emergency call answering times](#), including new technology that will enable filing of non-emergency reports online or over the phone, and additional staff to support training of new emergency center call operators.
  
- **Utility assistance for low-income Portlanders and local small businesses**
  - Commissioner Mapps will be introducing an amendment for \$1.5 million to help provide relief to thousands of low-income residents and small

businesses who are significantly behind on their Water and Sewer bills. This is an opportunity to provide immediate relief, as utility bills are increasingly contributing towards economic instability for the most vulnerable members of our community.

Please make it clear to the rest of council that I and many other Portlanders support these objectives.

Michael Johnson