

From: [Michele Micciche](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Written testimony- Michele Micciche, AVP of Operations- downtown Portland, Harsch Investment Properties
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 10:50:37 AM

Dear Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners:

Harsch Investment Properties is a family-owned real estate owner/manager/developer with 27 million square feet in the western United States, of which 4 million square feet are located in the Portland-metro area. Harsch Investment Properties has deep roots in Portland, and the extensive philanthropy of the Schnitzer family is well known. We care deeply for Portland, and Portland is in crisis.

When I moved here from Clearwater, Florida in 2012 to take a property management position with Harsch Investment Properties, Portland was growing feverishly with a reputation as a highly livable city with beautiful scenery, a thriving downtown and the newly refurbished Pearl District, wonderful restaurants and shops, all located between the mountains and the ocean. The Portland of today is sad and broken, but it doesn't have to be.

Critical to saving Portland is investment in temporary shelters, drug and alcohol rehabilitation and mental health services, coupled with enforcement of the laws and more police officers assisted by an expanded Portland Street Response team. Portland cannot recover economically without clean streets and sidewalks free of urine, feces and excessive trash from encampments; buildings free of graffiti; elimination of drug needles, drug dealing and drug manufacturing; decrease of crime, especially gun crimes committed largely by drug gangs. Encampments harboring criminals must no longer be allowed on the sidewalks. An example of one of these encampments was recently removed from SW 12th and Taylor, less than 1000 feet from Lincoln High School and the Northwest Academy, and the leader of the encampment was arrested. This particular camp was proven, by extended surveillance, to be involved in drug dealing, drug production, prostitution, bicycle theft/chop shops, violation of the ADA, dumping hazardous chemicals, littering of trash, human feces and urine and fire hazards. Many of the inhabitants were criminals with prior convictions including drug crimes, weapons charges, assault on a police officer and attempted murder. We must provide temporary shelters for those individuals and families who would use them while we pursue long-term housing solutions for them, and enforce the laws on those who break them.

We support the recent \$38 million emergency one-time investments for outreach programs, shelter capacity expansion and sanitation and trash services. We support the proposal to put retired police officers back to work and hire three hundred new officers over the course of the next three years. We support expanding Portland Street Response to central city and, preferably, the entire city. We also support the separation of 9-1-1 from 3-1-1 to improve emergency response times.

We understand that limited resources are available to combat a multitude of challenges. Please direct these resources to address the critical concerns of safety and enforcement, livability, temporary housing solutions and outreach programs so that we can restore Portland to the great city that it was, should be and can be.

Thank you for your time and attention,
Michele Micciche

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