

**From:** [Michael Kaplan](#)  
**To:** [Clerk General](#)  
**Cc:** [Commissioner Mapps](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Enhanced City Funding per Hearings Wednesday, November 10, 2021  
**Date:** Monday, November 8, 2021 12:52:52 PM

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I am a retired MS in Educational Psychology and former Alcohol Drug Counselor with a history of serving individuals with persistent mental illness and/or substance abuse. I am also a resident of Lair Hill/South Portland since 1993 and a resident of Portland since 1984.

I am submitting my written testimony in support of following:

- \* Increased funding to eliminate piles of trash and garbage all over our city as well as significant reduction of graffiti through out our city;
- \*An immediate expansion of Behavioral Health Unit with a caveat that police be accompanied by mental health professionals when ever possible;
- \*An immediate expansion in # of police with additional caveat that all new hires and/or rehiring of retired police receive mental health crisis training; and
- \* Increase in funding to lower 911 response.

I especially commend Commissioner Mapps for offering measurable outcomes regarding reduction in homelessness and other important issues with specified time lines as follows:

- \*Hiring of 300 police officers within 3 years;
- \*Reduce # of homeless human beings sleeping in tents by 1,000 by the end of 2022;
- \*Reduction in homicides of human beings in Portland by 20% by end of 2022; and
- \*Use windfall funds-in part- for utility assistance, especially as we now know that heating costs will increase significantly this winter.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michael Kaplan (member of Board of Directors, South Portland Neighborhood Association, SPNA)\*

\*Listing Membership on SPNA board does not imply any official endorsement by SPNA of comments submitted