



***Calm Water Coalition, Portland Willamette River***

November 4, 2021

Mayor Ted Wheeler  
Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty  
Commissioner Mingus Mapps  
Commissioner Carmen Rubio  
Commissioner Dan Ryan

Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury  
Commissioner Susheela Jayapal  
Commissioner Sharon Meieran  
Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson  
Commissioner Lori Stegmann District Attorney Mike Schmidt

District Attorney Mike Schmidt

Dear Commissioners,

We applaud the recent \$38 million dollar shelter funding package shared by the County Commissioners and City Council to create more shelter beds, fund homeless outreach workers and increase behavioral health services. Commissioner Dan Ryan's Free Parking Lot program is another good plan to help people living outside.

We're equally pleased to see the expansion of the Portland Street Response teams to NE Portland, under the guidance of Commissioner Hardesty, that will begin this week, and hope for the program will be citywide as soon as possible.

Next, we ask the City Council and County Commissioners to tap into the surplus funds for urgent and immediate community safety needs. We need to help those who are currently struggling on the streets, ***while at the same time protecting the neighborhoods and businesses, we plan to reinstate them to.*** More law enforcement is critical to the city and county's plans.

Willamette River moorages, marinas, and boating organizations are paying the heavy price of providing their own security, both with infrastructure and surveillance. Homes, parking lots, boats and boat slips, dragon boat and crew teams are experiencing increases in vandalism, "smash and grab" and car thefts, and tent camps increase under bridges, along the riverbanks and Springwater

Trail, and Powers Marine Park, Ross Island, while more abandoned and derelict boats turn into homeless camps on the water.

The reduction in Portland Police and Sheriff's River Patrol in Portland has been a hard blow to the river neighborhoods and we ask for funding to increase street and river patrols and law enforcement.

Mayor Ted Wheeler's proposal last week is a good start:

- \$7.8 million in a public safety spending proposal to **rehire of 100 retired PPB officers**
- A **\$25,000 signing bonus to the first 50 qualified police recruits.**
- Proposal to set up a city **police training academy**
- **Expand to 40 unarmed public safety support specialists** to share the workload of non-emergency calls.

We also wish to echo the requests of *Waterfront Organizations of Oregon* (WOOO), which represents all of us on the river:

- **Restore the Multnomah County River Patrol teams** that were cut in 2018. A single patrol boat and one team cannot protect over 110 miles of river and its users.
- Provide resources for District Attorney Mike Schmidt to **restore prosecution of all crimes.**
- **Invest available surplus funds for more law enforcement** with staffing positions for fast-tracking new hires and training, and funding private security for neighborhoods and business districts.

Sincerely,

***Calm Water Coalition***

***Member Organization Representatives:***

Reneé Morgan, Commodore-elect, Portland Rowing Club Moorage and Marina

Kaspar Murer, Community Relations, Wasabi Paddling Club, Dragonboats & Outrigger Canoes

Sid Smith, President, DragonSports USA

Tom Crowder, Race Director, Rose Festival Dragon Boat Races, Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Assoc.

Marlon Bump, Harbormaster, RiverPlace Marina

Kelly Holtz, Rear Commodore, Oregon Yacht Club

Nick Haley, Vice President, Portland Boathouse, Rose City Rowing Program Director

Bernie Thurber, President, Portland Boathouse

Sam Taylor, Head Crew Coach Lewis & Clark College Rowing & Oaks Park Commun. Boathouse Manager

Willie Levenson, Human Access Project

Katherine Criswell, President Wasabi Paddling Club, Dragonboats & Outrigger Canoes

Peggy Hennessy, Quayside Condominiums and Marina

Sue Remy, President, Quayside HOA

Maura Hayes, Community Relations, Macadam Bay Moorage