

**From:** [Malcolm McIver](#)  
**To:** [Clerk General](#)  
**Subject:** BMP Hearing Testimony  
**Date:** Monday, November 8, 2021 2:28:05 PM

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Dear City Council,

I am writing as a business owner to urge your support for priorities outlined in Commissioner Mapps' email of 11/5/21. Specifically, I support:

- **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.

I also support the goals Commissioner Mapps has set:

- Adding 300 police officers over the next 3 years
- Reducing homicides by 20% by the end of 2022
- Reducing the number of people sleeping in tents, cars or RV's by 1,000 by the end of 2022
- Significantly clean up trash and graffiti in the city by July 1, 2022
- Provide direct and immediate relief to our neighbors who are still digging out from the COVID recession

I think most reasonable people would agree Portland is at a crisis point. My office is at SW 1<sup>st</sup> and Main. Every morning I drive by a Justice Center, Federal Courthouse and County Courthouse fortified against attacks by anarchists. Landmark parks are fenced off and defaced. Downtown businesses are boarded up while suburban ones thrive. Rampant camping leaves behind mountains of trash and stolen goods. Graffiti is everywhere, even obscuring overhead freeway signs. It is time to act, and act decisively, to restore a sense of order and reclaim public spaces for the people of Portland. The above steps and Commissioner Mapps' goals are a good first step.

Best regards,

Malcolm McIver  
President



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