

**From:** [Geoff Horning](#)  
**To:** [Clerk General](#)  
**Subject:** Council Person Mapp's Proposal  
**Date:** Monday, November 8, 2021 3:02:39 PM

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To whom it may concern:

It's too late for Update Management as I've already made the decision to leave the City of Portland Multnomah County. After spending nearly 40 years in SE Portland, we're relocating to Washington County and leaving the mess that is Portland. I'm tired of fighting the homeless tents that pop up under our awning every evening. I actually feel for them, but not for the trash and constant needles I have required to pick up every morning. I'm trying to run a small business, not fill the gaps of social needs that our local leaders decide do not matter. I used to take pride by telling friends outside the region that I was from Portland. Now, I let the world know I'm from Sherwood. There is no pride in being a resident of Portland right now.

As such, 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 currently 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

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Geoff Horning | President

**Update Management, Inc.**

147 SE 102nd Avenue | Portland, OR 97216

p 503.253.9385 | [UpdateManagement.com](http://UpdateManagement.com)