



November 8, 2021

The Hon. Ted Wheeler
Portland City Council
1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 340
Portland, OR 97204

RE: Fall Budget Monitoring Process

Dear Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners:

NAIOP, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association, is one of the leading organizations for developers, investors, owners & operators, brokers, and related professionals in office, industrial and mixed-use real estate throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The Oregon Chapter's members represent a broad and diverse range of companies involved with commercial real estate activities in the Portland metropolitan area, including developers, owners, brokers, and managers, along with other professionals providing legal, finance, title, engineering, architectural, construction, and other services.

As you consider options in the Budget Monitoring Process, we strongly urge your support for the three crucial investments below. These investments—aimed at the challenges associated with trash, mental health, and public safety—are more important today than ever before as Portland struggles to regain its economic footing as we pull out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Joint City/County budget to address houselessness**
 - The \$6.5 million to the City's Impact Reduction Program for trash and unsanctioned camp clean-up 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 significant trash problem.
- **Expansion of the Behavioral Health Unit (BHU)**
 - The proposal will increase the City's capacity to address violent, higher-impact 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 BHU to five units to get potential clients off the street and into treatment.

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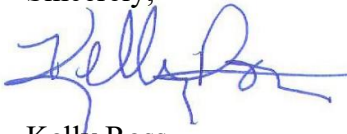
Executive Director

Kelly Ross

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- **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 the 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 will 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.

Portland is fortunate to have an unexpected windfall of funding for the Fall BMP and we urge you to approve the crucial actions recommended above to speed up the City's human and economic recovery.

Sincerely,



Kelly Ross
Executive Director

cc: Commissioner Mapps
Commissioner Ryan
Commissioner Rubio
Commissioner Hardesty