

Mayor Wheeler, Commissioners Mapps, Rubio, Hardesty and Ryan:

I am Bob Turner, a resident of Portland for 20 years. I routinely walk several miles in an area between the Sellwood and the I405 Bridges and between the Willamette River and W. 27<sup>th</sup> Street. I frequently observe agitated persons, but will not call police to deal with them.

I am a member of the Portland Pearl Rotary Club, its Social Justice Committee and a participant in the Racial Justice conversations of the Lake Oswego Rotary club. I wrote and delivered two letters in July and August, 2021 with 30 cosigners to each of you strongly supporting full funding for Portland Street Response, which you chose to delay without evidence of Portland Street Response effectiveness.

That evidence has been obtained and documented in the analyses by Dr Greg Townley of Portland State University, who concludes with 9 recommendations, the first of which is:

1. Expand Portland Street Response
2. Trust the Team to Lead but Provide Them with Ample Support
3. Increase Community Outreach and Education
4. Address 911 Capacity Issues and Provide PSR-Specific Support to Dispatchers
5. Educate First Responders on Co-Response and Collaboration
6. Keep Portland Street Response Housed within Portland Fire & Rescue
7. Address Gaps That Prevent PSR From Connecting Clients to Resources
8. Refine Data Procedures and Outcome Measures
9. Advance Racial Equity

(Townley, G., & Leickly, E. (2021). Portland Street Response: Six-Month Evaluation. Portland State University Homelessness Research & Action Collaborative.)

I wish to express my continued strong support for Portland Street Response and for its current budget requests contained in Decision Packages DP13131, DP13143 and DP13144.

1. In these linked Decision Packages, Portland Street Response is asking for \$8.8 million for two years to fund citywide 24/7 expansion. (\$5.9 million in Fiscal Year 2022-23 and \$2.9 million for Fiscal Year 2023-24 to the program up to 58 full-time employees)

2. This budget request is reasonable. Portland Street Response, (with much less than 24/7 operations in Lents,) reduced police responses in Lents by nearly 5 percent and no person was placed under arrest.

(In its first year, PSR responded to 925 calls, which averages out to 2.5 calls per day, according to a review by the City Budget Office. That average increased to 3.9 calls per day once the pilot's geographic boundary grew from five to 36 square miles in November, 2021. Portland Street Response's citywide expansion in March, 2022 includes 145 square miles but operates only from 8 AM to 10 PM. Portland Street Response anticipates responding to 82 to 137 calls per day if operating citywide 24/7.)

The \$8.8 million for 2 years is approximately 3.7% of the Portland Police Bureau's \$240,000,000 latest budget request for one year ([pl fy-2022-23 cbo-review.pdf \(portland.gov\)](#)). One can anticipate that when Portland Street Response is operating 24/7 citywide, it will result in more than a 3.7% reduction in police responses.

3. Portland Street Response can now respond only when the person in crisis is outside, or in a public indoors space. As the Oregonian Editorial Board It has been stated "Portland Street Response has more expertise in dealing with suicidal individuals than Portland Police Officers, so PSRT should be authorized to respond to calls from apparently suicidal individuals." (Opinion - [Editorial: The blunder limiting Portland Street Response](#) - Posted Aug 08, 2021)" (An [agreement in the PPA's latest contract](#) requires representatives of PPA, PSR, and 911 call center officials to reach new agreements on the kinds of calls that Portland Street Response can respond to. Portland Police Chief Chuck Lovell said "When officers or PSR team members go into a situation, all you really know is what someone on the phone tells you. So you go in with unknowns into these calls. These lower-acuity calls could evolve into something else. So when something that sounds good for Portland Street Response becomes something else—what do we do then?")
4. The two individuals shot and killed by Portland police officers this year (2021) both had mental health issues and would have probably benefitted if they were contacted by a mental health care provider and not by an armed police officer. ([Portland police killed 2 people this year. Both sought mental health care before their deaths - OPB](#) 28 July, 2021)

5. It has been reported that PSR clients, or citizens observing an agitated person, are hesitant to call 911 because they fear a police response and they are uncomfortable with an armed officer as a first respondent.
6. Expanding PSR to 24/7 citywide coverage requires buy-in from the Portland City Council and the City Council will vote on the entire city budget in June.

"I do believe with the establishment of Portland Street Response and now with the citywide rollout of Portland Street Response, we are in a better position to be able to appropriately manage mental health crises on the streets. That was the intention of the program," Wheeler said. "From the city's perspective, I think this is a huge step forward in terms of being able to address individuals who are experiencing crises on our streets." [Portland Street Response Expands Citywide, With 24/7 Service Still on Hold \(wweek.com\)](#)

"Sending the right responders to the right calls with the right training is the best way to meet the needs of those who are suffering on our streets," Wheeler said. "The expansion of the Portland Street Response citywide is simply the right thing to do." [Portland Street Response expands citywide with new answer for mental health, addiction-related 911 calls - OPB](#)

Thank you for the opportunity to present support for approving the budget requests necessary to completely fund the citywide, 24/7 expansion of Portland Street Response.

**From:** [Janet Robinson](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Written testimony for the City Council Budget Meeting May 11, 2022  
**Date:** Thursday, May 5, 2022 4:59:27 PM  
**Attachments:** [51122 City Council Budget mta.pages](#)

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City Council Members,

Attached please find my testimony regarding expenditure of tax dollars for housing and comprehensive wrap around services for our houseless neighbors in Portland.

Thank you,

Janet Robinson, PhD  
1718 NE 11th Ave, 406  
Portland, Or 97212

**From:** [Janet Robinson](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** PDF version  
**Date:** Friday, May 6, 2022 5:48:48 PM  
**Attachments:** [51122 City Council Budget mta.pdf](#)

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Keelan,

I am attaching my testimony that is now in a PDF form..

Thank you

Janet Robinson, PhD

1718 NE 11th Ave, 406

Portland, Or 97212

## **Testimony: For 2022 JOHS Budget, 5/11/22**

My name is Janet Robinson and I am a parishioner at St Philip the Deacon Episcopal Church in the NE Eliot neighborhood. I am also one of the church's representatives to the Leaven Community Land & Housing Coalition. Our church plans with PCRI to build The Alcena, an affordable living community on our land, providing 75 units of housing for Seniors. We are partnering with NW Pilot Projects to provide wrap around services for residents who move in to The Alcena.

While I have never been without shelter, I have a brother with a disability who is a Senior and came close to losing his housing several years ago and, without intervention from family members as well as an understanding landlord, my brother would have been on the streets. Many of our houseless neighbors do not have family members or understanding landlords they can count on to help them. Each day that I walk or drive throughout Portland I see my neighbors without housing struggling to survive and I think how do we find solutions that will really meet their needs for adequate housing in safe places with supports that will help guarantee success meaning keeping them housed, securing services to meet their health and social needs and participating in the life of the community.

The Alcena, with its partnership with NW Pilot Projects, will provide those wrap around services that are so vital for success. In addition to providing bilingual information and referral for resources such as mental health and addiction treatment, they will also offer very practical assistance such as actual moving assistance, rental deposit help, basic furniture, eviction prevention services, transportation services to medical appointments and shopping, retention services to help residents connect to the community such as the Albina Library or Matt Dishman Community Center and problem solving assistance for conflict resolution.

Housing people who have been living on the streets without offering wrap around services is both inhumane and a recipe for failure. I strongly urge the City Council to continue to dedicate our tax dollars to comprehensive wrap around services from information and referral to moving assistance, from transportation to mental health and addiction services, and from eviction prevention to retention assistance. We have a crises in this city and the leaders here must act quickly and wisely. These are all of our neighbors who all belong to our community.

Thank you, Janet Robinson, PhD





**From:** [Emily Platt](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Portland 2022-23 budget, agenda 387 homelessness  
**Date:** Sunday, May 8, 2022 12:33:03 PM

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Dear Mayor Wheeler and Portland City Council members,

For the 2022-23 budget, please remember that homelessness is a human rights and public health emergency. The unhoused are also the group most affected by extreme weather. Please be bold in the programs you choose to fund and remember that real solutions to homelessness require real housing, not warehousing people out of sight. I direct you to the 3,000 challenge PDX below. Supportive permanent housing is more cost-effective than shelters and has better outcomes. Please use your common-sense and compassion and support bold action like the 3000 challenge PDX.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Emily Platt  
Portland, 97202

[What is the 3,000 Challenge? – 3000 Challenge PDX](#)



What is the 3,000 Challenge? – 3000 Challenge  
PDX



**From:** [Mary Emerson](#)  
**To:** [CBO - Budget Comment](#); [Council Clerk - Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Input on City Budget, Agenda Item 387  
**Date:** Sunday, May 8, 2022 2:34:38 PM

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The city must address the homeless crisis immediately and with compassion. While I agree with injecting major dollars into addressing the homeless crisis, we need to turn the current budget proposal on its head. Emphasis must be on moving un-housed Portlanders into permanent housing; and, providing the services needed to keep the newly housed and housing insecure in their own homes.

Permanent housing is more cost-effective than temporary shelter. Even if the city could gain agreement on sites for safe villages, they cost no less than supportive housing - and significantly more than rent subsidies or guarantees.

Permanent housing is available now. The city continues to struggle to identify and gain community agreement on new sites for safe villages. Vacant homes are available now - and already zoned to house individuals and families. With appropriate support for new tenants and guarantees for landlords, vacant apartments could be homes to individuals who want to live inside, in their own homes and with dignity.

Permanent housing is permanent. Helping people into permanent living situations provides a sense of permanence and control that can remove barriers to success in other parts of their lives. A temporary shelter resident will still need to find a home after their stay - and it is hard to plan for the future when you are uncertain where you will live.

Temporary shelters serve a purpose, but they should be a relatively small element of the equation as they are neither cost-effective nor readily available. What's more, by design temporary shelters are only temporary and will not provide long-term change for the city's homeless crisis.

The budget must fund permanent housing solutions now to turn around the current crisis in the streets.

Respectfully,

Mary Emerson  
Portland, OR 97214

[activist@maryemerson.org](mailto:activist@maryemerson.org)

**From:** [Rod Merrick](#)  
**To:** [Ted Wheeler](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [Commissioner Rubio](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Mapps](#)  
**Cc:** [CBO - Budget Comment](#); [Portland Coalition for Historic Resources](#); [Clerk General](#)  
**Subject:** Adequate Funding for Equitable Preservation and the Historic Resources Inventory  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 11, 2022 3:04:57 PM  
**Attachments:** [Equitable Preservation ltr Final.pdf](#)

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Dear Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners,

This letter addresses a critical shortfall in the proposed budget in the City's ability to carry out adopted policies around preservation.

Thanks for your attention to this.

*Rod Merrick, AIA NCARB*  
*John Liu*

[PCHR Co-Chairs](#)

*Portland, OR 503.771.7762*

# Portland Coalition for Historic Resources

May 10, 2022

**Subject: Adequate Funding for Equitable Preservation and the Historic Resources Inventory**

Dear Mayor Wheeler and City Council Members:

The Portland Coalition for Historic Resources (PCHR) is an all-volunteer body including neighborhood leaders concerned with land use issues, housing, and historic preservation, together with participation by representatives from the two leading historic preservation organizations. Our members include experts in the designation, protection, and preservation of historic resources.

PCHR strongly supports the Equitable Preservation (EP) package included in the Mayor's proposed budget. PCHR, along with the many others who testified during the Historic Resources Code Project (HRCPP) update, recognize the significance of the stories missing from Portland's historic preservation efforts to date. Alongside the need to ensure these important stories are shared is the need for ongoing, meaningful plans that document the histories and places of all of Portlanders and are represented in the City's preservation program.

This EP package is intended to expand BPS' Planning Program capacity in order "to advance equitable historic preservation projects," in response to HRCPP public testimony. These projects seek to elevate and protect places important to historically marginalized communities and provide new opportunities for the continued prosperity of legacy businesses and institutions. If this is indeed the intent, we have strong concerns that what's being offered is not anywhere close adequate in accomplishing these goals.

In their "State of the City Preservation Report 2019", the Portland Historic Landmarks Commission (PHLC) highlighted Equity as one of their top priorities and goals, acknowledging the City's 2035 Comprehensive Plan for making "significant strides in acknowledging prior deficiencies in the City's planning practices as it relates to inclusion of a diverse representation of public voices" (PHLC February 2020). Portland's commitment to a broad approach in elevating and protecting underrepresented histories will require a strategic plan as well as a realistic commitment of funds, to advance these equitable preservation goals. The rapid pace of growth and change in our city has led to a long history of displacement resulting in both physical and less tangible loss of such underrepresented histories.

Portland's public support for historic preservation is conspicuously lagging behind its peer cities of comparable size. Our neighborhoods contain a trove unmatched west of the Mississippi. As you must know, BPS staff includes only one full-time historic resources planner. BPS in its request for this funding indicated that without this add package, "BPS' Historic Resources Program work plan over the next two years will be centered on ensuring City compliance with State and Federal regulations, providing needed technical services to BDS staff, the Historic Landmarks Commission and other City bureaus, and providing consultative expertise on BPS projects that affect areas containing historic resources." Even with some additional support for the coming year, BPS efforts for this project will of necessity be severely limited.

Much of the work leading to historic designations and adaptive reuse in this city has relied on volunteer efforts and community donations. That track record raises two concerns:

1. Since the package includes only \$90,000 of one-time funding, we are concerned that this effort will simply raise false hopes and expectations among underrepresented communities without any meaningful impact, especially if this funding is not extended in subsequent years. This one-

time funding would be a mere drop in the bucket and do very little to moving the city forward in terms of preservation equity.

2. The amount of funding is minimal. Additional funding during the first year of such a program would allow the Equitable Preservation effort to develop a firmer foundation for future work. With more adequate plans and resource materials in place the City could better support and leverage ongoing volunteer efforts which will be at the heart of this work. A budget of \$120,000 would be at least somewhat more effective in getting a baseline framework established.
3. We would also point out that funding for the long dormant Historic Resources Inventory (HRI), of which the EP is a vital component, urgently needs funding to begin to grapple with **40 years of neglect**.
4. Historic places, be they associated with under-represented groups or the broader community, don't get protected unless and until they are actually "designated". A great example of this is the African American Sites Multiple Property Submission was never designated. At least three of the most historic resources listed were pre-emptively demolished within weeks of the acceptance of the nomination by the Keeper of the National Register. More such demolitions are likely unless the City moves forward vigorously to continue to identify, prioritize, and actually designate resources. That requires a long-term source of funding and staffing that can do the hard work of research and documentation required to turn aspirations into reality.

PCHR appreciates the fact that the inclusion of this item in the Mayor's proposed budget indicates that in this instance public testimony is helping to shape policies and programs. We strongly encourage the City Council to take a bolder stance and direct additional funds towards this package and the broader HRI as well. As the PHLC states in their report, "the City must listen to these communities, lead by example, and help to protect the places that help tell the complete story of Portland, specifically by elevating the voices of ... marginalized communities" (PHLC February 2020).

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Regards,  
Rod Merrick, AIA  
John Liu  
PCHR Co-chairs

CC:  
Mayor Wheeler  
Commissioner Mapps  
Commissioner Rubio  
Commissioner Ryan  
Commissioner Hardesty  
Council Clerk

**City Council Meeting - Wednesday May 11, 2022 2:00 p.m.**

| <b>Agenda No.</b> | <b>First Name</b> | <b>Last Name</b> |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 387.01            | Ciatta            | Thompson         |
| 387.02            | Sara              | Fischer          |
| 387.03            | Jordan            | McCarthy         |
| 387.04            | Melissa           | Hansen           |
| 387.05            | Andy              | Miller           |
| 387.06            | Janet             | Weil             |
| 387.07            | MaryAnn           | Barham           |
| 387.08            | Emily             | von W Gilbert    |
| 387.09            | Rachel            | Gitner           |
| 387.10            | Meg               | Ainsworth        |
| 387.11            | Kat               | Salas            |
| 387.12            | Sarah             | Nedeau           |
| 387.13            | Sean              | Green            |
| 387.14            | Nick              | Guerrero         |
| 387.15            | edgar             | navas            |
| 387.16            | Laura             | Moulton          |
| 387.17            | Giuseppe          | Amato            |
| 387.18            | Sahaan            | McKelvey         |
| 387.19            | Mimi              | German           |
| 387.20            | Christina         | McGovney         |
| 387.21            | Nancy             | Yuill            |
| 387.22            | Au                | Nguyen           |
| 387.23            | Ellen             | Vanderslice      |
| 387.24            | Lisa              | cicala           |