

From: [Dan Friedman](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Homeless and drug crisis in Portland, Oregon
Date: Monday, October 24, 2022 11:26:30 AM

My name is Dan Friedman. I have been a Portland resident since 2000 and I am a physician assistant at Legacy Emanuel Hospital Emergency Room. I can personally testify as a citizen and as an emergency room provider that the situation in Portland is appalling (at best). Letting people camp on our streets, relieve themselves on our streets, walk around with weapons in plain view, use meth and fentanyl in plain view, dump their trash will nilly is insane. How did we get here? There is NO argument that any politician or activist can make that can justify what has happened to Portland.

The drug and psychiatric crisis in our city is in vivid display at my work. IV drug induced infection including abscesses, necrotizing fasciitis, septic joints and epidural abscesses plague these street people. Burns and frost injuries, assaults, meth induced psychosis, opioid overdoses, malingering for food, shelter and a warm bed, assaults on hospital staff plague my emergency room. I have worked over 30 years in emergency rooms and I have never seen anything close to what is going on today.

SE Burnside from 82nd to the Blackburn Center is basically a refugee camp. The area around the Northwest College of the Arts is just plain scary. And that is just the tip of the iceberg. Trash, crime, meth raging individuals are now a daily sight in Portland. I wouldn't go into downtown Portland for anything. I have given up my season tickets to the Thorns. From my personal experience to the clear societal, dystopian dysfunction on clear display in what was once a beautiful, livable city, I demand immediate action. The can has been kicked down the road long enough, millions of dollars wasted and homeless advocates have had more than enough time to show us what a great thing street living is, and clearly, they have been wrong. Meanwhile, tax paying, law-abiding Portland residents are ignored, our rights and needs secondary while we are asked to play by the rules and pay the bills. Enough is enough. Either city leaders lead with courage, or step down and let new leadership and vision step in.

Sincerely, Dan Friedman PA-C

Sent from my iPhone