

From: [James Gifford](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Central city in crisis
Date: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 8:47:30 AM

As an owner of an 84 year old small family business in downtown Portland. I urge you to come together and immediately act on the Mayor's proposal to END illegal camping. People are dying on the streets. My business has been broken in to 3 times in 4 months. My female employees have been terrorized by screaming, vandalism and physical assault from street people in drug and or mental fueled violence. I know they were campers because they were known to the officers who responded. Both times offenders were booked and released. One had over 80 previous police reports on him. The officer showed me the print out. This is an Emergency. During COVID we had PPP loans. Now we have nothing to repair the damage and help with all the lost business. I believe Portland should lead the nation in restoring our downtown to greatness. Jim Gifford, Gifford's Flowers. 704 SW Jefferson. Cell. 503-407-5616