

From: [SLO 4 Life](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Written testimony Portland City Council
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We moved to Portland five years ago because we loved how charming the city was, the wonderful food culture it is known for, its people, and its beautiful parks and neighborhoods. We also felt that as people of color, we would be very welcome into our neighborhood and the city. My wife and I own two small businesses and we work very hard every day to try and succeed. Some of our marketing is attached to the “vibe” of the city. We were proud to call Portland our home and our business headquarters. That has changed immensely. Nowadays the city looks terrible. Our clients don’t want to travel here any longer, our parks, streets, and sidewalks are polluted with mountains of trash, needles, and other undesirable junk. My wife and I were in shock one day when we had to witness a machete fight in the middle of a street between two homeless people - a machete fight!! This is not the Portland we moved to. We were born and raised in one of the most violent and insecure countries in the world, and I must say, we have never witnessed some of the things we have seen in Portland in the last couple of years. Homeless folks have serious drug issues and they harass citizens constantly and they do NOT follow the laws that all of us tax payers have to abide by. I understand some homeless folks do want help in getting their lives on the right track, but some don’t! Many don’t. Our city has become the laughing stock of every state in this country. Every single time we travel, people ask us if we’re safe in Portland. It’s wild!

Regarding Mayor Wheeler’s plan: we don’t believe it will work, since nothing him or the city council have done has changed our city for the better yet. However, we are hopeful that there is a positive result that comes from it. Not only us, but every single one of our friends who love this city are ABSOLUTELY TIRED of our disgusting streets! This city is falling apart. my wife and I have made a commitment with each other, that if Portland does not get better in the next 8 to 12 months, we will leave and take our businesses with us. We pay incredibly high taxes, and we don’t want to live in a place where our taxes are being wasted! Enough is enough!