

From: [Bart Ricketts](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Submitted Testimony for City Council, October 26, 2022
Date: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 2:19:55 PM

My name is Bart Ricketts, President & CEO of Lease Crutcher Lewis, a Commercial General Contracting Business located in downtown Portland. We have seen the escalating rate of businesses around our location closing, our recurring construction customers choosing to exit downtown as their office, retail or restaurant leases expire, and our employees choosing to leave our business and/or move out of area due to the condition of our downtown – homeless populations in tents, blatant drug use, violence, property damage, etc. with no repercussions for the criminals and/or limited immediate options for those experiencing homelessness. This has to stop! The tax base is shrinking, our customers are fleeing Portland, and our employees are exiting our business...strictly due to our Downtown Portland location & the state of downtown. Unless you want to see our business added to growing list of those forced to exit the city we love, it's time for real action:

- We strongly encourage the city council to unanimously support the Mayor's plan to end unsanctioned camping in our city. This plan strikes the right balance between enforcing our laws and ensuring that the most vulnerable Portlanders have urgent access to housing, and the mental health and addiction services they need to move off the streets.
- This plan has finally created a political consensus. We are heartened to see all three candidates for Governor, both candidates for County Chair, and elected leaders from across the region support the plan. The only way to solve a crises of this magnitude is if state, regional, and local leaders stop the finger pointing and work together. We are strongly encouraged to see a new spirit of urgency and collaboration across these jurisdictions.
- Portland cannot wait any longer. The time for bold, urgent action is now. It is inhumane to our houseless neighbors to allow the conditions we see on our streets to continue any longer. We encourage the city to work with all stakeholders who want to move us forward together and tell those who want to continue to be a barrier to change, to move aside.

Thank you for listening and for taking action on what's needed in our downtown and what is being demanded by the people you represent.

Bart D. Ricketts
Chief Executive Officer

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