

From: [Leo Lawyer](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: My wife's sacrifices to work in Portland
Date: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 9:16:21 PM

My name is Leo Lawyer and I am a painting contractor based in Portland, OR. My wife is a commercial designer and works on SE 13th and Belmont. For the past year and a half she has had to dodge rubbish, human feces, urine, vomit, and passed-out housed and unhoused people on her way along the sidewalk to work. She is in constant fear of being assaulted from drug dealers and users, and keeps a vice grip on bear mace daily on her walk to and from her car as she arrives and departs work.

I am fairly confident you will hear from other Portlanders who have the same daily experiences, and it makes me so sad that our once fair city has deteriorated in this way. I do feel recent efforts to clean up graffiti and homeless camps have improved the overall aesthetics of Portland, but I don't think it is enough. Please continue to use tax-payer funds to continue the work you are currently engaged in, and expand those efforts to support law enforcement and they do their best to curtail open-air drug use and distribution.

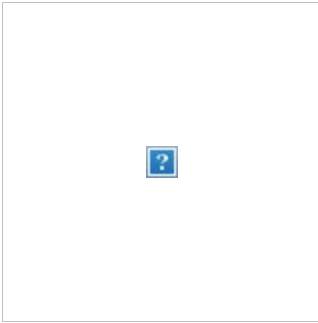
I never imagined as a college student at PSU, earning a BA and an MS while taking public transit that I would witness the lawlessness and destruction we have endured over the past five to six years to our public art, businesses, homes, streets, bridges, etc., but I do see hope in the efforts to improve our livability.

Lastly, I truly feel people vote with their feet, and my family does as well. As my 15 year-old daughter matures and makes her way in this world, and my 13 year-old twin sons expand their views of what their future looks like, I can attest they do not like what they see in their daily travels. I have recently been asked independently by all our three children, 'why we live here anymore?' My response is always, "Portland did not used to be this way. It will get better." If the Portland City Council remains idle and makes little progress in cleaning up our city even more and wants to lose three more citizens and taxpayers to outlying suburbs like the troves that have left already, I can guarantee my three children will vote with their feet and leave, unless of course we take them and run before the choice is theirs-with my business and my wife's professional abilities with us.

Respectfully submitted,

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