

From: [Zachary J. Fruchtengarten](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony
Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 10:26:18 AM

Dear Local Government,

Please accept this as my testimony in support of Mayor Wheeler's proposal regarding the unhoused.

I have been working in Old Town for the last 9 plus years. We were the first professional services firm to move into this area and soon after many other stakeholders followed. We knew we were moving to a diverse neighborhood with many services available for people who are in need including the homeless/houseless. This was never an issue and we embraced the neighborhood. I have continued to work in the office every day since the beginning of this pandemic. I don't feel safe and my people do not feel safe and do not want to come into our office. I have had employees assaulted physically, spit on and threatened and there is not a week goes by that we don't have some sort of incident including break-ins or just damage to cars parked in our lot. I have seen other homeless/houseless individuals assaulted as well. It is the biggest reason my employees don't want to come to work. People are begging us to move out of Multnomah County. I used to walk everywhere including over to downtown or Pearl for lunch meetings or to the bank and I now drive.

Most alarming are what I am seeing on the streets. The tents, especially in our area are clearly trafficking drugs and women. I see the suppliers come in in their fancy cars with no license plates multiple times a day. There are some dangerous and violent people engaged in this activity and other vulnerable homeless individuals are falling prey to their brutality. The majority of the homeless I see in this area are vulnerable and either having some mental health crisis (or clearly need mental health treatment) and/or have significant substance abuse issues with some appearing to have some permanent damage as a result of excessive drug use. All you have to do is Google Old Town and see the amount and frequency of violence that is happening in our area as evidence to support what I am saying. Most of the victims are all houseless/homeless. My employees forward me articles weekly. Whether it is two stabbings in 9 hours with one happening during the day a block from my office or the fact that Portland Parking Enforcement won't send people alone to enforce parking violations in our area. It seems like something is happening at least weekly. Please protect our most vulnerable and end unsanctioned camping in our city. This is a humanitarian crisis and we must do better to protect all citizens.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Zach

Zachary J. Fruchtengarten | Managing Shareholder

Gevurtz Menashe

115 NW 1st Ave, Ste 400, Portland, OR 97209
408 W 9th St, Vancouver, WA 98660

OR 503.227.1515 | WA 360.823.0410 | FAX 503.243.2038

GEVURTZMENASHE.COM

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Gevurtz Menashe COVID-19 Response to Clients and Business Partners: We remain open and are continuing to serve our community and clients during these uncertain times. Families are at the heart of everything we do! Things are quickly changing in the wake of the COVID-19, and we are taking careful precautions to ensure the health and safety of everyone by closely following health authority guidelines. We are available by phone and, with remote access, can continue to provide exceptional service to our clients. [CLICK](#) here to read our full message.