

**From:** [Ryan Deckert](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Mayor Wheeler and Comm. Ryan's plan to improve Portland  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 26, 2022 11:24:29 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
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Good afternoon Portland City Council,

I am writing today to express 100% agreement and support for the resolutions before you today to address long-standing challenges facing Portland and Multnomah County. I recall Comm. Mapp's being quoted in a news outlet many months ago; "our constituents are literally begging us to take action to save this city." I agree with his sentiments and these resolutions seem to match the immense challenges facing our community.

We have a facility in SE Portland that serves 13,000 students/year from the five county PDX Metro region. We have had our front window shattered, graffiti on our building weekly, and we now have a homeless encampment in our student/volunteer parking lot. This recent group is openly using hard drugs where are volunteers park, and having subsequent behavioral issues, that make this place not safe for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and 20 community adult volunteers each day.

We are busily raising resources (through a capital campaign) to open a new JA Discovery Center in downtown Hillsboro where these conditions do not exist and are not tolerated. Portland is a great city but it isn't right now – we don't want citizens, non-profits and businesses fleeing to the suburbs leaving our city a shell of its former self; please pass the resolutions before you today.

Thank you for your service!

Ryan Deckert

**Ryan Deckert** | President  
Junior Achievement of Oregon & SW Washington  
7830 SE Foster Road | Portland, OR 97206  
971-255-4943 | [www.jaorswwa.org](http://www.jaorswwa.org)

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