

From: [Colleen R. Grant](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
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As someone who has worked downtown since 1994, I have seen things spiral out of control the past 5+ years. Before the pandemic the tents were already starting to take over the sidewalks on my route from the MAX stop to my office front door. Often forcing me to walk in the street to pass by. Businesses were already starting to struggle with the impact of these campers up and down the main streets of downtown Portland. Then the pandemic hit, and it seemed to be an open call to street campers because there was no longer workers downtown to complain.

We have hit the breaking point. Our company lost an entire department that was shifted to another state because our workers didn't feel safe coming into the office any longer. I've been coming into the office myself more and am shocked by the number of restaurants that have left the downtown area. The city must take action and quickly before we lose more businesses downtown. Help us reclaim the Portland we all loved.

Thank you,
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