

Portland City Council Agenda Written Testimony
Document Number 2025-175

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|---|-------------------------|----------|---|------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Anonymous | Support | PSR should be fully staffed and funded to provide citywide, 24/7 coverage | No | 04/18/25 12:37 PM |
| 2 | Willow McCormick | Support | <p>Hello!</p> <p>I am a strong supporter of PSR, and urge you to expand the program:</p> <p>PSR should be fully staffed and funded to provide citywide, 24/7 coverage. PSR should be established as a co-equal branch of our community safety system alongside police, fire, and ambulance services. PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation. PSR should explore ways to build off the recent expansion of call types as PSR adds staff and receives more funding PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services PSR should establish a community advisory group</p> <p>Thank you! Willow McCormick</p> | No | 04/18/25 12:41 PM |
| 3 | Dave Peticolas | Support | Portland Street Response is an essential program that complements other first response systems. Please support and expand this important service. | No | 04/18/25 12:41 PM |
| 4 | Melynda Retallack | Support | PSR has proven its worth as a supplemental response to fire and police and should be a permanent part of emergency response in Portland. It not only helps increase positive outcomes for individuals experiencing mental health crisis - but also can free up police for other incidents that require them. | No | 04/18/25 12:41 PM |
| 5 | Kari Merkl | Support | <p>In Support of Portland Street Response,</p> <p>I am a small business owner in Portland Oregon. Business location zipcode 97232. The past couple of years have been challenging for Portland. I have called Portland Street Response about 10 times this past few years to check up on someone that is struggling near my business. I have overheard them provide support and respect to many people in times of struggle in all seasons of the year.</p> <p>Honestly without PSR at this time I don't know who would step in. I remember Portland before PSR and I see Portland with PSR and we are a much better city because of the work that they do.</p> <p>Daily I see PSR out there helping people that everyone else is walking by, annoyed by or does not know who to call to help check on them. This program should not only be funded but expanded. It gives a sense that something is being done in a very visual, humanizing way.</p> <p>Incredibly grateful for PSR, Kari Merkl</p> | Yes | 04/18/25 12:48 PM |
| 6 | Julien Van Wambeke-Long | Support | Living in east portland I see the kinds of people that need help every day. I also see the police here every day. This continued push and pull of unhoused people and the police needs to be dealt with. PSR provides help to people who need it the most and provides help to the Police department by taking some of the load off their plate. Please consider expanding the service in the city. | No | 04/18/25 12:49 PM |
| 7 | Providence | Support | This is necessary for our community. | No | 04/18/25 12:49 PM |
| 8 | James Moore | Support | PSR provides a critical support alternative to our community. Please strengthen and protect it! | No | 04/18/25 12:50 PM |

In Support of Portland Street Response,

I am a small business owner in Portland Oregon. Business location zipcode 97232. The past couple of years have been challenging for Portland. I have called Portland Street Response about 10 times this past few years to check up on someone that is struggling near my business. I have overheard them provide support and respect to many people in times of struggle in all seasons of the year.

Honestly without PSR at this time I don't know who would step in. I remember Portland before PSR and I see Portland with PSR and we are a much better city because of the work that they do.

Daily I see PSR out there helping people that everyone else is walking by, annoyed by or does not know who to call to help check on them. This program should not only be funded but expanded. It gives a sense that something is being done in a very visual, humanizing way.

Incredibly grateful for PSR,
Kari Merkl

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| 9 | T. Dobbins | Support | I would like to voice my full support of Portland Street Response as a Portland local. Working downtown I have witnessed first hand the care and commitment to aid those struggling with mental or physical that PSR provides. I work in the service industry, at a popular tourist location. I have often been asked by those not familiar with Portland how it has changed since the problems with our houseless community members became more prevalent in the news, and am happy to introduce folks to the mission of PSR. Expanding the program seems beyond necessary as we not only try to draw people back to downtown Portland, but more importantly care for those struggling in our community. Thank you for reading. | No | 04/18/25 12:57 PM |
| 10 | Anonymous | Support | I support Portland Street Response as a more effective, humane, and safe response to mental health crises than police response. | No | 04/18/25 1:03 PM |
| 11 | Sarah Aaserude | Support | For too long I've been frightened that if my son needed help and called 911, the people who came might harm him instead of helping him because his developmental disability and anxiety might cause him to resist orders from police. With Portland Street Response, I would feel much more confident that he would be safe. PSR should be fully staffed and funded to provide citywide, 24/7 coverage. It should be established as a co-equal branch of our community safety system alongside police, fire, and ambulance services. Additionally: * PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation. * PSR should explore ways to build off the recent expansion of call types as PSR adds staff and receives more funding * PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services * PSR should establish a community advisory group Thank you for your time and consideration. | No | 04/18/25 1:04 PM |
| 12 | Heart Seven Collective | Support | I'm a small business owner in downtown Portland, and I have called Portland street response to help with multiple situations. They have always been very professional, and helped people who were experiencing crisis in our neighborhood get resources and chill out. | No | 04/18/25 1:11 PM |
| 13 | Anonymous | Support | PSR should be fully staffed and funded to provide citywide, 24/7 coverage. PSR should be established as a co-equal branch of our community safety system alongside police, fire, and ambulance services. PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation. PSR should explore ways to build off the recent expansion of call types as PSR adds staff and receives more funding PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services PSR should establish a community advisory group | No | 04/18/25 1:14 PM |
| 14 | Nicci Kaufman | Support | Portland Street Response is a critically important agency that must be given the full funding needed to provide life saving access to health resources to our most vulnerable residents. PSR staff need access to naloxone, food, clothing to do their job properly. PSR should NEVER be involved in camp sweeps or forced engagement in services. To require this of PSR would undermine their very purpose, to provide a non-violent, trauma-centered approach to community safety and support. I encourage Portland City Council members to vote yes on this resolution. | No | 04/18/25 1:15 PM |
| 15 | Nan Bobernac | Support | We definitely need this kind of public service as it helps the most vulnerable in our society. | No | 04/18/25 1:17 PM |

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| 16 | Elizabeth Hill | Support | <p>Dear Councilors,</p> <p>As someone who works, resides, and owns a home in the City of Portland I ask that you please support the resolution to protect and expand Portland Street Response. I have utilized the resource in both personal and professional capacities and believe it to be a fantastic program. Being able to request PSR rather than just law enforcement makes myself and others I know much more likely to reach out to emergency services, creating a safer city for everyone.</p> <p>Specifically I ask that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PSR be fully staffed and funded to provide citywide, 24/7 coverage. - PSR be established as a co-equal branch of our community safety system alongside police, fire, and ambulance services. - PSR workers be given access to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation. - PSR explore ways to build off the recent expansion of call types as PSR adds staff and receives more funding - PSR never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services - PSR establish a community advisory group <p>Thank you for your time,</p> <p>Elizabeth Hill Portland, OR 97206</p> | No | 04/18/25 1:21 PM |
| 17 | Laura Nash | Support | <p>I have lived in Portland for 15 years. My husband and I own a home in the Arbor Lodge neighborhood. I am fully in support of expanding Portland Street Response. PSR should be fully equipped to respond to mental and behavioral health crises in a compassionate and knowledgeable way. Thank you for your time and service to Portland.</p> | No | 04/18/25 1:27 PM |
| 18 | Connie Cheifetz | Support | <p>I have been a supporter of Portland Street Response from the beginning. All kinds of emergency situations require professional intervention and the training and skills of responders showing up need to match the emergency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PSR should be fully staffed and funded to provide citywide, 24/7 coverage. - PSR should be established as an equal branch of our community safety system alongside police, fire, and ambulance services. - PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and other supplies in line with best practices in de-escalation. - PSR should explore ways to build off the recent expansion of call types as PSR adds staff and receives more funding - PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services - PSR should establish a community advisory group | No | 04/18/25 1:28 PM |

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| Anonymous | Support | <p>Hello,</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony.</p> <p>I am writing to encourage strong support of PSR. As a former Community Health RN with Multnomah County, I worked with a lot of folks facing the challenges of life on the streets, mental health issues and substance use issues. All too often, I heard stories about how they ended up in jail rather than simply getting the help they needed. And when that happened, everything they had would often be lost. It was devastating. PSR and its staff are worth every penny and more. They should be fully funded, be fully staffed and providing their much needed services citywide, 24/7. We have emergency services for crimes, physical health, fires but the types of emergencies these folks face often are not well managed, if at all. Or they are mismanaged, like going to the ER, a costly option when PSR is much more appropriate and more cost effective. I encourage support of PSR being able to support the folks they serve with supplies as it is a vital way of developing relationships and trust. For this reason, PSR should also never be asked to be part of law enforcement or sweeps. Their role is as an ally to this community and they should not be put in an antagonistic position. They should be supported to allow for an expansion of staff, allowing them to expand types of calls they can take. I also support the establishment of a PSR community advisory group.</p> <p>Any one of us could one day find ourselves in a bad situation and in need of the support that PSR provides. As the old Phil Ochs song says, "There but for fortune go you or I." If I were out there on my own, I would be want to have the support of staff like those from PSR. One more quote, this time from writer George Saunders: "Kindness is the only non-delusional response to the human condition." Everyone deserves dignity. I support kindness. I support PSR. I encourage you to support them, too.</p> <p>Thank you and happy Spring!</p> <p>DJB</p> | No | 04/18/25 1:28 PM |
| Anonymous | Support | With the Portland Street Response, our city has a chance to respond to common crises in a far more effective and pro-social way, making the city safer and more livable for everyone! Increasing budgets for punitive policing has failed to bring about viable solutions for our city's problems and only made life more stressful and dangerous for our most vulnerable neighbors. As a Portland resident for almost 20 years, I urge you to vote to support and expand Portland Street Response and establish a committee to oversee its operations. | No | 04/18/25 1:30 PM |
| Chris Freeman | Support | Portland Street Response is a needed asset in the city! I just saw that we have 14,000 people on the streets. Having a specially-trained, non-armed group to respond to needs and offer assistance is clearly the right decision to help the most people. | No | 04/18/25 1:36 PM |
| Sarah Bailey | Support | <p>PSR should be fully staffed and funded to provide citywide, 24/7 coverage.</p> <p>PSR should be established as a co-equal branch of our community safety system alongside police, fire, and ambulance services.</p> <p>PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation.</p> <p>PSR should explore ways to build off the recent expansion of call types as PSR adds staff and receives more funding</p> <p>PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services</p> <p>PSR should establish a community advisory group</p> | No | 04/18/25 1:49 PM |
| Josephine Quinn | Support | I work at community centers where the need for PSR can be high. Many situations do not call for law enforcement but individuals require support and referral beyond what we can provide. PSR makes our neighborhoods safer and our neighbors taken care of. | No | 04/18/25 1:56 PM |
| Mark H Linehan | Support | PSR is a proven and humane model for helping many of the homeless folks on our streets. PSR also relieves the pressure on our under-staffed police force. I encourage the Council to support PSR's development into a full safety service, operating round-the-clock and throughout the city, and co-equal with the Police and Fire Bureaus. | No | 04/18/25 1:57 PM |

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| 25 | Kim Norris | Support | <p>Hello! My name is Kim Norris and I am a constituent here in Portland's 4th Council District.</p> <p>I am writing to encourage the City Council to SUPPORT PORTLAND STREET RESPONSE!</p> <p>Ultimately it is the responsibility of the City Council to provide legislative policy direction. The PSR resolution is an opportunity for you -- our newly elected leaders -- to commit your support to the future of PSR and re-establish community trust.</p> <p>This resolution, coupled with City Council next passing a budget that fully funds Portland Street Response, is about returning a program that was once considered a national model back to a point of pride for Portland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •This Council can make that their legacy if you support this resolution and follow through with the previously promised 24/7 expansion of Portland Street Response while preserving its original mission. •Next, fully funding Portland Street Response in this year's budget should be an easy decision that will modernize our public safety, streamline effectiveness, free up additional first responders, and save taxpayer dollars. <p>Thank you for your consideration, and I hope every Council member votes in support of PSR!</p> | No | 04/18/25 2:01 PM |
| 26 | Laura Dorneman | Support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •PSR should be fully staffed and funded to provide citywide, 24/7 coverage. •PSR should be established as a co-equal branch of our community safety system alongside police, fire, and ambulance services. •PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation. •PSR should explore ways to build off the recent expansion of call types as PSR adds staff and receives more funding •PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services •PSR should establish a community advisory group | No | 04/18/25 2:03 PM |
| 27 | Reed Coleman | Support | <p>Portland often leads the country when it comes to policies and practices that are innovative, compassionate, community-minded, nurturing, and the right thing to do. Please move to expand Portland Street Response as a co-equal branch of the first responder system and please also establish the Portland Street Response Committee. It is our connection to and nurturing of community, of each other, that will get us through so many rough spots. PSR is designed beautifully to do just that. I echo Elizabeth Hill in her comments:</p> <p>Specifically I ask that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PSR be fully staffed and funded to provide citywide, 24/7 coverage. - PSR be established as a co-equal branch of our community safety system alongside police, fire, and ambulance services. - PSR workers be given access to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation. - PSR explore ways to build off the recent expansion of call types as PSR adds staff and receives more funding - PSR never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services - PSR establish a community advisory group <p>Thank you for your time,</p> <p>Reed Coleman Portland, OR</p> | No | 04/18/25 2:05 PM |
| 28 | Kendall Weiss-Close | Support | <p>I have watched people I love die and become permanently changed and often disabled at the hands of the police. PSR saves lives, and especially the lives of vulnerable populations here in Portland, whose only crime is being unhoused and/or in crisis. We can and should do more for all members of our community.</p> | No | 04/18/25 2:06 PM |

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| 29 | Allison Johnson | Support | I live in the Lents neighborhood and PSR is something that I strongly desire, and believe in. PSR should be fully staffed and funded to provide citywide, 24/7 coverage. PSR should be established as a co-equal branch of our community safety system alongside police, fire, and ambulance services. PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation. PSR should explore ways to build off the recent expansion of call types as PSR adds staff and receives more funding PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services PSR should establish a community advisory group | No | 04/18/25 2:16 PM |
| 30 | Kathy Garrett | Support | PSR is a genius program. We need more demonstrations of treating ALL humans with respect. This program demonstrates how to treat people safely and refer them to resources. This should be the mission of all of our public services. | No | 04/18/25 2:22 PM |
| 31 | Cara Rozell, DO | Support | Council Members, As a retired community physician and Portland resident for 27 years, I am in full support of Portland Street Response expansion and funding, believing it is not only a sign of our humanity, but also a long-term investment in improving our city, care for our citizens, and allowing the police to do what they are trained to do. Please show you care about Portland as well by lending your vote and your voice in support of this important branch of first responders. Yours Trule, Cara Rozell, DO | No | 04/18/25 2:31 PM |
| 32 | Janet Robinson | Support | We need to fully fund PR Team's budget to enable them to reach all of Portland where now know has more houseless people than previously reported. The Team needs all the tools they had when the program was the envy of many cities in the U S and has proven effective for folks without housing and resources to live safely. | No | 04/18/25 2:33 PM |
| 33 | Anonymous | Support | | No | 04/18/25 2:38 PM |
| 34 | Linda M Campillo, Portland resident | Support | PSR should be fully staffed and funded to provide citywide, 24/7 coverage for people in crisis situations or who need immediate help. PSR should be established as a co-equal branch of our community safety system alongside police, fire, and ambulance services. PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation. PSR should explore ways to build off the recent expansion of call types as PSR adds staff and receives more funding. PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services PSR should establish a community advisory group. | No | 04/18/25 2:38 PM |
| 35 | Anonymous | Support | Seems to me that PSR, properly funded and properly equipped w listed basics, helps free ambulances and their crews for critical intervention. Even better that PSR becomes co-equal w other first responders. | No | 04/18/25 2:45 PM |
| 36 | Anne S Wagner | Support | Portland Street Response is a smart, "non-tactical", non-enforcement response that is needed in order to turn around Portland's execrable homeless, drink & drug, desperate-homeless-people street numbers. Clearly, if police tactics worked by themselves, if jailing people for homelessness & it's associated ills was even a sane idea, if someone else was on the horizon with skills to deal with this in the face-to-face moments, we wouldn't need them. But that hasn't happened. We (my spouse & I) support not only keeping PSR, but providing them with very adequate resources and giving them a few years to see what they can really do! They have been under-supported and under-funded. Please support 2025-175 to be out of committee and approved. | No | 04/18/25 2:47 PM |

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| 37 | Claire Rivers | Support | <p>I would like to go on record that I fully support Portland Street Response as what I hope will be just 1 of many alternatives to a broken and violent police system. I want them to be fully staffed and funded to provide citywide, 24/7 coverage. And I want PSR staff to have access to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, to be able to fully support people in crisis.</p> <p>I am strongly against PSR staff being involved in sweeping camps, enforcing camping bans, or any kind of force against people they hired and trained to help. I want a safety response team that I can trust to not cause harm to myself or anyone else if I call them.</p> <p>To enable them to carry out their mission, I think PSR should be established as a co-equal branch of our community safety system alongside police, fire, and ambulance services. And, as their staffing grows, they should be taking over calls that are currently being diverted to the police. And, as a co-equal community safety branch, they should also have a community advisory/watchdog group to keep them focused on their mission and stop future efforts to turn them into "police lite."</p> | No | 04/18/25 2:54 PM |
| 38 | CJR | Support | Portland Street Response (PSR) is an invaluable resource for residents of Portland. In January of 2024, a close friend of mine was in extreme distress. PSR helped him when he needed it most, providing transportation to the hospital at a critical moment. Like many others, without this in place, I would have lost someone close to me. I fully support this program. Thank you. | No | 04/18/25 3:09 PM |
| 39 | Cosmo August | Support | I support Portland Street Response! Let's empower them to do more good in our city. | No | 04/18/25 3:11 PM |
| 40 | Anonymous | Support | PSR is a much needed component of our emergency response system. I urge you to expand services citywide and in crease hours of operation. | No | 04/18/25 3:12 PM |
| 41 | Mary King | Support | I strongly support the adoption of the Resolution to Support and Expand Portland Street Response as co-equal branch of the first responder system, and to establish its independent administration. It's shameful that our previous City Council colluded in the effort to diminish the planned expansion of PSR in the face of overwhelming support of Portland residents and clear evidence of the superiority of this kind of response to many situations otherwise resulting in unnecessary arrests and violence at the hands of the police. I urge the City Council to adopt this resolution and to facilitate the budgetary and administrative support that PSR needs and deserves. It's a critical part of a real solution to some of Portland's biggest challenges. | No | 04/18/25 3:24 PM |
| 42 | Ryan Andrada-Foster | Support | This program is well overdue for full funding. Mental health crises are not what police are trained to handle but PSR is. | No | 04/18/25 3:50 PM |
| 43 | Lynnae Burns | Support | This program is so important and needed. PSR should be fully staffed and funded to provide citywide, 24/7 coverage. PSR should be established as a co-equal branch of our community safety system alongside police, fire, and ambulance services. PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation. PSR should explore ways to build off the recent expansion of call types as PSR adds staff and receives more funding. PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services. | No | 04/18/25 3:58 PM |
| 44 | Ellen Wilde | Support | <p>We don't need armed police, many of whom are not trained in dealing with mental health crises, to respond to every call. (We actually need to cut police budget drastically and reallocate those resources to actually help folks in desperate situations and reduce crime, but that's another story.) Portland Street Response's budget should be expanded as they do so much more to help people in crisis than PPD does.</p> <p>They should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. be staffed and funded to provide citywide coverage all hours of the day 2. be established as a co-equal branch of our community safety system alongside police, fire, and ambulance services. 3. have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation. 4. explore ways to build off the recent expansion of call types as PSR adds staff and receives more funding 5. never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services <p>Thank you for your time</p> | No | 04/18/25 4:12 PM |
| 45 | Gerson Robboy | Support | I support the resolution to restore and expand PSR. | No | 04/18/25 4:25 PM |

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| 46 | Lily Roselyn | Support | Please fully support PDX street response. | No | 04/18/25 4:28 PM |
| 47 | Kim Finley | Support | A PSR team is so needed in every city and town. If set up and supported properly it can get people to treatment and other services to get folks off the street. It can help to diffuse domestic abuse violence, save the city money, protect vulnerable people with mental health challenges, and finally and most importantly, save people's lives. In the hands of improperly trained police, there is much more risk, violence and death, especially for folks with mental challenges. Portland has a chance to make a real difference with PSR in tandem with the other programs that the city council and Governor are implementing. We can add to the success and duplication of such programs across the country. The PSR can help to make our streets safer. Thank you, Kim Finley | No | 04/18/25 4:31 PM |
| 48 | Amanda Yampolsky | Support | I live on Johnson Creek Blvd right next to the corridor trail and a minimart and several bus stops. There are lots of folks who sometimes look pretty rough in the neighborhood. Most of the time they are moving through on to some other destinations. Sometimes they are hot, thirsty lost, drug addled, or disoriented. I have driven people a few blocks, brought them water and offered to make a phone call. It is important to know that if folks need more than just a little tenderness I have a place to call that has a better idea of what services or opportunities are available to serve folks in need. I never want to call the police I am afraid of what might happen. Please fund Portland Street Response as a coequal branch of the first responder system | No | 04/18/25 4:35 PM |
| 49 | kate rice | Support | This program and others like it have saved lives and provided care in non emergency situations. Health services and de-escalation is preferred to violence. | No | 04/18/25 4:54 PM |
| 50 | Krista Carlson | Support | Portland Street Response is a vital resource for our community. It's invaluable to have their care and skill available to the people of Portland. Our city is safer and healthier for it; that's why I support this resolution. | No | 04/18/25 5:28 PM |
| 51 | Paul Reinhertz | Support | SR is a proven successful program that invites support and expansion | No | 04/18/25 5:34 PM |
| 52 | Jill Spencer | Support | I urge your support of expanding PSR for 24/7 response as a co-equal branch of the first responder system. | No | 04/18/25 5:48 PM |
| 53 | Anonymous | Support | We must continue Portland Street Response | No | 04/18/25 5:51 PM |
| 54 | Harriet Shaklee | Support | Please continue to support the Portland Street Response, and consider increasing the program, while you're at it. As a Portland resident, the presence of so many street people is a daily concern I feel I'm unable to address. However I've felt confident calling PSR to reach out to the individual of concern in a trauma-informed manner, thus improving outcomes for all -- the individual, the neighboring residents, the businesses. As a Portland resident PSR is a critical resource to deal with an ongoing challenge for our city. | No | 04/18/25 6:33 PM |
| 55 | Clifford Spencer, MA, MS | Support | I write in SUPPORT of PSR. Returning their role to what is was supposed to be, funding and allowing them to function as they are supposed to is critical. Especially at a time when the PPB is so overburdened; from my research PSR could be taking a significant number(percentage) of PPB calls and handling them more effectively. | No | 04/18/25 6:51 PM |
| 56 | Kate M. | Support | Hello and thank you for the work you do to support the citizens of Portland. I am writing in support of Portland Street Response. I see it as highly valuable work in this city where we aim to value all lives. PSR should be fully staffed and funded to provide citywide, 24/7 coverage. This will get people access to the specific type of life saving care they need in moments of great need which is why PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation. This will allow our police officers scope of duty to be defined with more focus which in turn keeps our city safer. PSR should be established as a co-equal branch of our community safety system alongside police, fire, and ambulance services. When we organize our systems of care and law enforcement in this wise way it will save money in the long run. Police overtime pay is costing this city far too much. | No | 04/18/25 6:52 PM |

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| 57 | Anonymous | Support | As a formerly homeless person now thriving in newly built low income housing- Portland Street Response has my full support and it's nothing less than irresponsible and inhumane to reduce/remove vital services which keep the public safe and alive. What we see on our streets is an exact result of how we treat people at their most vulnerable. It only stops when we make services like PSR abundant while also getting everyone back into affordable/permanent housing with other services and supports available for those who need it. | No | 04/18/25 7:02 PM |
| 58 | Anonymous | Support | | No | 04/18/25 7:18 PM |
| 59 | Sheridan Horning | Support | Those experiencing mental health crises are not criminals. They should be met with other providers, trained in de-escalation methods who are able to connect them with proper social and medical services. People in crises are sometimes killed by police because police are not trained properly and are afraid. Please save lives and strengthen our community by keeping PSR. | No | 04/18/25 7:36 PM |
| 60 | Debbie Baier | Support | We need PSR! It is a critical part of keeping our community safe and helping people in trouble. Please support it for the people. | No | 04/18/25 7:40 PM |
| 61 | Anonymous | Support | PSR should be fully staffed and funded to provide citywide, 24/7 coverage. PSR should be established as a co-equal branch of our community safety system alongside police, fire, and ambulance services. PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation. PSR should explore ways to build off the recent expansion of call types as PSR adds staff and receives more funding PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services PSR should establish a community advisory group | No | 04/18/25 7:47 PM |
| 62 | Sarah Marble | Support | | Yes | 04/18/25 7:58 PM |
| 63 | Eowyn Rieke MD MPH | Support | PSR provides critical services for our community. They engage with vulnerable community members without threat of legal action and support those people in next steps towards wellness: sobriety, treatment, medical care and more. As an addiction medicine doctor I know that this service has literally saved the lives of some of my patients. Please vote YES to support and expand PSR. | No | 04/18/25 8:59 PM |
| 64 | Judith Eda | Support | Here in Cully we see the need for Portland Street Response: time to support PSR, not starve it. Thank you. | No | 04/18/25 9:00 PM |
| 65 | Carole Most | Support | Fully fund PSR | No | 04/18/25 9:47 PM |

Dear Portland City Council.

I am writing in support of Council Document 2025-175 - Support and expand Portland Street Response as a co-equal branch of the first responder system and establish the Portland Street Response Committee.

Portland is what we make it, and I want to make my community safe. I want all community members to get their needs met and to thrive. When people are in crisis, I want there to be assistance available that concretely helps them and does not harm them or make their life harder. PSR should be established as a co-equal branch of our community safety system alongside police, fire, and ambulance services and should be fully staffed and funded to provide citywide, 24/7 coverage.

I don't want to have to worry that calling for help will put me or someone else in danger of being shot or crushed to death. I don't even want any of us to have to deal with being arrested, going to court, paying fines, having convictions. PSR should never be tangled up with the police - they shouldn't be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services. All of that makes it harder for community members to get and stay housed, find employment, and just live.

PSR Responders have been an asset to the community. When I worked at a warming shelter, I learned a lot just by watching the PSR Responders build rapport, de-escalate and find solutions for community members in crisis. It can't be said enough what a relief it is to know that requesting their help is unlikely to result in escalation, violence or harm. PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation.

PSR should explore ways to build off the recent expansion of call types as PSR adds staff and receives more funding. PSR is a better, safer, and less expensive model for dealing with crisis calls. PSR should establish a community advisory group.

Thank you for your consideration,
Sarah Marble

| Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|---------------------------|----------|---|------------|-------------------|
| 66 Abby Schwalb | Support | <p>My name is Abby Schwalb, and I'd like to urge the Community and Public Safety Committee to support Portland Street Response and move this resolution forward.</p> <p>As someone who has done extensive street outreach for many years, I know PSR has become a vital part of our public safety system—offering compassionate, trauma-informed care to people in crisis. But for it to truly serve our city, it must be fully staffed and funded to provide 24/7, citywide coverage. It should stand as a co-equal partner alongside police, fire, and ambulance services—not an afterthought or positioned to serve as an enforcer.</p> <p>I also strongly support restoring PSR workers' access to critical supplies like naloxone, food, and clothing—tools that help them de-escalate and save lives. And as PSR grows, I encourage you to continue expanding the types of calls they can respond to, while keeping them separate from enforcement activities like sweeps or camping bans.</p> <p>Finally, a dedicated community advisory group would ensure that PSR stays rooted in the needs of the people it serves.</p> <p>Please vote yes to support and strengthen Portland Street Response.</p> | No | 04/18/25 10:11 PM |
| 67 Kathleen R Mitchell | Support | <p>I am a volunteer at Francis Center located at SE 82nd and Claybourne. We serve houseless and low income families with food and clothes. PSR has been a God send when we have clients that are off their meds or relationship challenged. PSR should be fully staffed and funded to provide citywide, 24/7 coverage. They take a huge burden off police.</p> <p>PSR should be established as a co-equal branch of our community safety system alongside police, fire, and ambulance services. It just makes sense to invest our time and money this way. PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation. PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services. PSR should establish a community advisory group to problem-solve the inevitable issues that arise. I hope that Portland City Council gives PSR as much support as possible.</p> | No | 04/18/25 11:30 PM |
| 68 Anonymous | Support | <p>PSR is a key way to build a more just, humanitarian city. I urge the City Council to support this agenda item.</p> <p>Sincerely, John C. Morrison NE Portland</p> | No | 04/19/25 7:18 AM |

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| Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|------------------------------------|----------|---|------------|-------------------|
| Bridgeton Neighborhood Association | Support | <p>FROM: Bridgeton Neighborhood Association (BNA) RE:2025-06 City Budget Comment in favor of funding for Neighborhood Associations</p> <p>The BNA Board of Directors asks that you continue to fully support Portland's neighborhood associations through the District Coalition Offices (DCOs). Bridgeton is part of the NE Coalition of Neighborhoods, in District 2.</p> <p>City of Portland funding is critical for information flowing to and from residents and businesses. Bridgeton volunteers make our neighborhoods welcoming and inviting by creating community that also adds safety and resiliency for all Portland residents. We activate spaces by having events, cleanups, and community gatherings. We pick up trash, plant trees, participate in critical infrastructure meetings for the IBR, USACE Levee Improvement, PEMO trouble shooting meetings, NET and BEECN critical safety services. We inspire collective action in The Portland Food Project, Adopt One Block and are caretakers for small pieces of public land along our neighborhood streets.</p> <p>We want the City to continue to support neighborhood associations by funding our organizations especially for vital insurance and communication expenses. Thank you for considering this very important request. BNA Board of Directors Barbara Miller Bill Patterson Bridget Bayer Clare Baxter Cyn Mcdaniel Dan Nehler Gayle Miller Jerry Duckett Karen Waggoner Katy Ailstock Linda Burright Matt Whitney Mike Pickrel Susan Johnston-Wright Walter Valenta</p> | No | 04/19/25 8:22 AM |
| Bridget Bayer | Support | <p>Support Portland Street Response fully. Without the Portland Street response teams, we wouldn't be able to improve our community spaces and live safely. The City is finally making headway on providing housing access to those who are homeless but the remaining people out there on the streets are really hurting. And most do not have the capacity to deal with the police. Please fully fund the Portland Street Response!</p> | No | 04/19/25 8:25 AM |
| Lale Santelices | Support | Portland Street Response is an essential community service equal to any other constituent rapid response service. As a resident and home owner of District 3 who works downtown, I request city council to sustainably fund portland street respond and to integrated as an equal branch of rapid response services | No | 04/19/25 9:31 AM |
| Anonymous | Support | <p>Please, please, please support PSR! We cannot arrest our way out of no support for our fellow Portlanders.</p> <p>Police union had held up expansion, and this is another obstacle to real help and treatment.</p> | No | 04/19/25 10:10 AM |
| Tom Snell | Support | This is one of the best services the city offers! | No | 04/19/25 10:22 AM |
| Anonymous | Support | Please support and expand the Portland Street Response. In many cases, they are better trained than cops to respond two incidents, especially those involving mental health issues. PSR should be fully staffed city wide 24/7, and have access to life saving supplies such as naloxone. PLEASE SUPPORT THIS MUCH NEEDED SERVICE! | No | 04/19/25 10:23 AM |
| Aaron Brown | Support | I support providing full funding to maintain and expand Portland Street Response. This is a cost-effectivr, humane, successful, progressive and politically popular program that our current city council needs to prioritize. | No | 04/19/25 10:38 AM |

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| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|----|----------------------|----------|---|------------|-------------------|
| 76 | Seth Johnson | Support | <p>My name is Seth Johnson and I live in Foster-Powell.</p> <p>Fully funding and PSR might be the single highest-impact action the city could take this year. It works directly to address concerns citizens across the political spectrum are clamoring about constantly, to the image of the city, to justice, to public safety, and to business viability.</p> <p>It's well-supported by evidence of success from the pilot program and similar programs in other jurisdictions.</p> <p>I see people in need of services we could be delivering via PSR regularly when I'm out in my neighborhood. We need to expand it and aggressively advertise how to make use of it in the city. Stop forcing people to choose between "walk on by" and "call the police" -- that false-choice builds a community culture of uncaring and silent frustration, and it's not what Portland should be.</p> <p>Frankly, I will be disappointed if support for this resolution is not unanimous.</p> | No | 04/19/25 11:00 AM |
| 77 | Anonymous | Support | I wholly support expanding the Portland Street Response as a co-equal branch in the first responder system. This will help save numerous lives. We can show our neighbors experiencing distress that we care about and value their lives. Thank you for taking my comment. | No | 04/19/25 11:03 AM |
| 78 | Jimmy W | Support | I've been on both sides of Portland's substance abuse crisis, now ten years sober. I've watched the problems in our city compound and not improve. It is correct to recognize addiction as a mental health problem; it is also necessary to hold addicts accountable for the harm and blight they impose unfairly in their communities. While PSR is a useful tool for us, it is also necessary to get real about relocating dangerous folks out of public spaces as a top priority. It is unjust for the city to have two codes of justice: one for the taxpayer, and a more lenient one for those who refuse to get help. | No | 04/19/25 11:29 AM |
| 79 | Lloyd Vivola | Support | I am writing as a longtime supporter of Portland Street Response. Evidence gathered from the long-established Cahoots program in Eugene and a study by PSU confirm and direct that 24/7 coverage by a fully funded and staffed PSR program is integral to winning the confidence of all Portlanders, and subsequently, to ensuring the success of PSR's event-specific role of serving citizens in need. Confidence would be further enhanced by establishing PSR as a co-equal branch of Portland's first-responder community safety system, one that is equipped with all the tools and training required to address events that demand purposeful, de-escalation techniques while never being directed to engage in the likes of camping bans or sweeps. This distinction of PSR's official mission should effectively refocus the preferred objectives of our fire, police and ambulance services in ways that better support their reputation and service in Portland's diverse communities. In sum, the time for a fully funded and staffed PSR is long overdue. | No | 04/19/25 12:07 PM |
| 80 | Bix Frankonis | Support | I can't speak to whether or not there are any changes that would strengthen the current proposal but in general: yes. I support expanding PSR, as a co-equal first responder. | No | 04/19/25 1:31 PM |
| 81 | Sara Ryan | Support | <p>I am writing to express my strong support for resolution 2025-175.</p> <p>As Friends of Portland Street Response advocates:</p> <p>PSR should be fully staffed and funded to provide citywide, 24/7 coverage.</p> <p>PSR should be established as a co-equal branch of our community safety system alongside police, fire, and ambulance services.</p> <p>PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation.</p> <p>PSR should explore ways to build off the recent expansion of call types as PSR adds staff and receives more funding.</p> <p>PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services.</p> <p>PSR should establish the Portland Street Response Committee.</p> <p>Please fully fund Portland Street Response in this year's budget to modernize our public safety, streamline effectiveness, free up additional first responders, and save taxpayer dollars.</p> | No | 04/19/25 3:12 PM |
| 82 | Susan Zall | Support | The successful responses of PSR has proven time and again the necessity of a non-lethal, trained and compassionate team to help our neighbors living with untreated mental illness on the streets of Portland. | No | 04/19/25 3:31 PM |

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|----|----------------------|----------|---|------------|------------------|
| 83 | Anonymous | Support | Portland Street Response is a vital program that will only become more important in the coming years. It should be fully funded alongside fire, police, and ambulance services, and provided with the resources it needs to succeed, including essentials like food and clothing. More people will become vulnerable in this economic downturn and we need to be able to provide for them in ways that are not violence or incarceration. Portland Street Response should never be used punitively and should not be required to participate in things like sweeps — people need to be able to trust PSR workers. Please fund this important resource. | No | 04/19/25 4:12 PM |
| 84 | Anonymous | Support | Please move forward with total support for PSR. This is the kind of street support we need so badly. Support not automatic sentencing. | No | 04/19/25 4:58 PM |
| 85 | Veronica Poklemba | Support | PSR should be fully staffed and funded to provide citywide, 24/7 coverage. PSR should be established as a co-equal branch of our community safety system alongside police, fire, and ambulance services. PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation. PSR should explore ways to build off the recent expansion of call types as PSR adds staff and receives more funding PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services PSR should establish a community advisory group What the prior council members did in an attempt to destroy Portland Street Response was so irresponsible. I believe this program benefits all of us and will make Portland a better city to live in. | No | 04/19/25 6:21 PM |
| 86 | Jessica Pearson | Support | PSR is such a great program, I fully support funding and expanding it as much as possible. | No | 04/19/25 7:01 PM |
| 87 | Marj Hogan | Support | I am writing in support of supporting and expanding Portland Street Response. Providing PSR with life-saving supplies and the tools for de-escalation frees up first responders, prioritizing safety and efficiency. I know from first-hand experience that it is not safe or an effective use of Portland Police's to call on them to deescalate public mental health crisis situations. Instead, PSR should be supported in operating as a co-equal branch of our city's safety network, alongside other services. | No | 04/19/25 7:41 PM |
| 88 | David Mandelblatt | Support | As a former resident of Downtown Eugene I had the opportunity to see CAHOOTS (Eugene's prototype for Portland Street Response) in action many times. The Portland Street Response program is clearly designed along the same lines. The Eugene program was inexpensive, humane, and effective. It left police free to do more of the work for which they are trained and less of the work for which they are not. Good things happened when they came around to work with a person in distress; I absolutely believe that we can do as well or better if we properly support this critical program. I urge most strongly that the City Council support for and provide expansion of Portland Street Response and that they establish the Portland Street Response Committee. | No | 04/19/25 8:16 PM |
| 89 | Virginia M. Feldman | Support | As a physician, I strongly urge you to support & expand the PSR. I have volunteered at warming & cooling shelters these past years. Many mental health crises around these homeless folk. I have also seen, unfortunately, when police, who are well-intentioned, but just not trained, come into the situation. PLEASE make PRS a co-equal branch of the 1st responder system. Thank you . Dr. VirginiaFeldman MD | No | 04/19/25 8:58 PM |
| 90 | Kelly Janes | Support | PSR should be fully staffed and funded to provide citywide, 24/7 coverage. PSR should be established as a co-equal branch of our community safety system alongside police, fire, and ambulance services. PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation. PSR should explore ways to build off the recent expansion of call types as PSR adds staff and receives more funding PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services PSR should establish a community advisory group | No | 04/19/25 9:29 PM |

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|----|----------------------|----------|---|------------|-------------------|
| 91 | Anonymous | Support | I firmly support this resolution and strongly urge the Public Safety committee to unanimously affirm this resolution and support it before the full council. PSR checks virtually every box - if one is a single issue voter on 'supporting the police', say - the police for years and years have said that they are not and should not be expected to be social workers, (and I agree)... PSR will help diminish that burden. If we are up in arms about response times for 911 calls, PSR, in its current minimal form has already helped diminish calls that would likely otherwise be a PPB or Portland Fire response. So if you say you support PPB and Portland Fire, you really should also be in favor of standing up PSR fully as this measure details. And lastly, as so many PPB advocates like to point out, Portland lags behind peer cities in number of sworn officers per capita.... but Portland also lags behind peer cities in fully standing up an entity like PSR... shouldn't we match peer cities in this area as well? Especially when PSR will help diminish the demand for police to respond to calls answered by PSR, freeing up PPB to focus on crime and public safety issues that that force is best equipped to handle? I urge passage of this Resolution. Tom Simonson NE Portland | No | 04/20/25 7:04 AM |
| 92 | Anonymous | Support | Portland Street Response is new to Portland but has been proven effective over many, many years. Please provide the support needed to provide stability and resources to PSR. | No | 04/20/25 8:21 AM |
| 93 | Joan S. Bradley | Support | Portland Street Response is a humane response to those folks living on the streets who are having mental health issues. The vote should be unanimous in support of making PSR a co-equal branch of first responder system and to establish the PSR committee. | No | 04/20/25 9:20 AM |
| 94 | Cindy | Support | | No | 04/20/25 11:06 AM |
| 95 | Anonymous | Support | Please vote to expand PSR. When people are in a mental health crisis, police often escalate the situation and are not best equipped to handle these types of calls. PSR is an invaluable community partner for first response, and they should be granted additional funding to support the city's safety and health outcomes. | No | 04/20/25 11:54 AM |
| 96 | Anonymous | Support | As a former psychiatric nurse specialist, I know the unique problems facing our mentally ill citizens can offend, and shock our regular citizens. Please help them have educated, compassionate, well trained persons deal with their unique behaviors. I support a better PSR now. Thanks for your consideration. Derianna | No | 04/20/25 12:15 PM |
| 97 | Manon Veilleux | Support | I would like to express my support for Portland Street Response as an innovative and vital resource. As a longtime Portland resident; a special educator; a person with friends who are paramedics; someone who volunteers in/with shelters; and as a person with a friend who lived on the street who was arrested at least twice due to his escalation during sweeps. I believe PSR is able to reach and support a very needy population of folks in ways that law enforcement is not always effective in helping. I have called 911 on numerous occasions to request support for someone in a mental health crisis and/or to do a wellness check, and I've been so thankful for the option of PSR when I did not think a law enforcement response was warranted. PSR should be fully staffed and funded to provide citywide, 24/7 coverage and PSR workers should have access to life-saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing. PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services. I would be happy to volunteer as a member of a PSR community advisory group, should one be created. Thank you for the opportunity to share my opinion about this complicated and sensitive topic. | No | 04/20/25 1:44 PM |
| 98 | Ashley Rood | Support | | No | 04/20/25 1:56 PM |
| 99 | Jessi Presley-Grusin | Support | PSR is a much needed and highly effective resource for our city and it needs our full support. Please vote yes on this agenda item to guarantee that they receive it! | No | 04/20/25 2:13 PM |

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|-----|----------------------|----------------------|--|------------|------------------|
| 100 | annie capestany | Support | Thank you to Councilors Avalos, Kanal and Morillo for introducing this life-saving resolution. The best way to continue to save lives in Portland is by increasing funding for Portland Street Response and allowing the program to live up to its promise (and the promise of our leaders.) PSR should be co-equal with fire, ambulance and police, and operate 24/7, as they do. PSR should be able to give out life-saving equipment without second-guessing from politicians. (No one questions when medics or firefighters dispense medicine. Each service should be able to distribute the life-saving supplies that are necessary at the time.) PSR is NOT law enforcement and should never be asked to participate in law enforcement actions or sweeps. Just as police are not trained as social workers or drug counselors, and should not be doing that work, PSR should not be doing police work. Both situations can end with people being dead. Let PSR do what they are best at and let police do what they are best at. Please vote YES on this resolution and support of the great work of PSR as they make portland a better and safer place for everyone. | No | 04/20/25 4:41 PM |
| 101 | Anonymous | Support with changes | Portland Street Response saves lives and improves the well-being of those who are struggling the most. It needs to be fully funded as a co-equal branch of the first responder system. Please keep PSR as independent from police as possible—it is meant to be an alternative to police that can be dispatched when a punitive, escalating, or restraining approach is not needed. Many of the vulnerable people who need PSR's services have been traumatized by police and the criminal justice system, unfortunately. They need first responders they know they can trust whether they're having a mental health crisis, overdose on substances, or need survival gear or a ride to services. Thank you for your consideration. | No | 04/20/25 6:06 PM |
| 102 | Anonymous | Support | PSR should be fully staffed and funded to provide citywide, 24/7 coverage. PSR should be established as a co-equal branch of our community safety system alongside police, fire, and ambulance services. PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation. PSR should explore ways to build off the recent expansion of call types as PSR adds staff and receives more funding. PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services. PSR should establish a community advisory group. | No | 04/20/25 7:16 PM |
| 103 | Anonymous | Support | Portland Street Response fills a need without compounding the problems on our streets. | No | 04/20/25 8:41 PM |
| 104 | Darlene Chirman | Support | | Yes | 04/20/25 9:38 PM |
| 105 | Mark Woodlief | Support | I write to encourage you, as my elected representatives, to: * fully staff and fund Portland Street Response (PSR) to provide citywide, 24/7 coverage. * establish PSR as a co-equal branch of our community safety system alongside police, fire, and ambulance services. * ensure PSR workers have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation. * help PSR explore ways to build off the recent expansion of call types as PSR adds staff and receives more funding; and * help PSR establish a community advisory group. Also, PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services. | No | 04/20/25 9:39 PM |

April 20, 2025

Portland City Council Community and Public Safety Committee

RE: Support and expand Portland Street Response as a co-equal branch of the first responder system and establish the Portland Street Response Committee

Dear Co-Chairs Novick and Kanal, and Committee members Councilors Morillo, Zimmerman and Smith:

I am writing in support of the expansion of Portland Street Response (PSR) as a co-equal branch of the first responders, and expansion, as staffing allows, to a 24/7 program. The evaluations of PSR have shown that their response to mental health and behavioral crisis are a more appropriate response for the individuals in crisis, and reduce police response to 911 calls. This allows the police to respond to criminal issues.

Recently, the tasks that Portland Street Response can undertake have expanded, including transporting clients to services, and responding in public buildings. There may be additional services that could be evaluated, such as welfare checks (with specific criteria) and responding within private residences with occupant permission.

I recognize that the City of Portland has a budget deficit. However, studies have shown that PSR-type responses are 4x less expensive than a police response. Thus, I urge the mayor and the council to consider reducing police overtime as a funding source for expansion of Portland Street Response.

Thank you for consideration of expansion of Portland Street Response to become a co-equal and separate partner of first responders in Portland. As far back as May 2022, the previous City Council voted to expand PSR to 24/7. The time has come.....

Sincerely, Darlene Chirman
District 3, Portland

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|-----|--------------------------|----------|---|------------|-------------------|
| 106 | Charlie Michelle-Westley | Support | Supporting and contined expansion of Portland Street Response seems to be an obvious no brainer to anyone who cares about the lives of our most vulnerable i.e. anyone in a mental health crisis which include our alcoholic/otherwise addicted, those with other mental health issues, those in houselessness crisis, suicidal, all suffering from trauma and our marginalized i.e. our black, brown and indigenous community members also suffering from same issues but also experience implicit/explicit racial bias from armed responders and too often experience physical abuse up to and including excessive and deadly force whether detained or in custody AND it's common knowledge those armed unqualified officers too often who engage in appalling and unconstitutional behavior can get away with harming them vs helping them, we know this and it is scary as hell.....inflicting further trauma from those who are suppose to "protect and serve" which seems to be a name to sheild the truth from public who have not been a target of police.... an entire system of power that allows police to abuse their power and their commuity members and this same system, including the supreme court have almost completely made the police exempt from accountability!!! Which seems to go against all the city's core values which should be the foundation of our city leaders but this lack of police accountability which also means lack of racial justice can so easily never be accountable!! So, everything I know from extensive lived experience and study and everything in this document 2025-175 is absolutely a huge choice of integrity. We need more humanity in our Portland Responders to start a Portland to be truly inspiring, inviting and a city to be a model to be envied !!! SUPPORT PORTLAND STREET RESPONSE 2025-175! WE LOVE THEM. WE LOVE PORTLAND, our sacred Land! | No | 04/20/25 10:34 PM |
| 107 | Tim Eisner | Support | Street response is an essential community service. We must support it's continued growth. | No | 04/21/25 9:09 AM |
| 108 | Anonymous | Support | Dear Counselors, Please support 2025-175, the motion to "Support and expand Portland Street Response as a co-equal branch of the first responder system and establish the Portland Street Response Committee." Our current system, leaving this task to the PPB is unjust, inappropriate, and unsuccessful. We need to expand Portland Street Response. Sincerely, Ted Dreier 7037 SW 54th Avenue Portland OR 97219 | No | 04/21/25 9:25 AM |
| 109 | Mike Farrell | Support | Portland Street Response is an incredibly successful program. Every study done about it shows that it is making a difference in peoples lives. It helps houseless people deal with being on the street. It treats people with dignity and respect, in other words like humans. Our alternative to PSR is always to criminalize people... further insuring that that don't get help and mostly stay on the street. PSR is the opposite of that. It supports people and helps them get the support they need. This is a step in helping people get off the street. PSR needs to be funded and treated like the key program that it is. If we want to reduce houselessness in Portland, if we want to help people become housed, if we want to prevent people living on the street... WE NEED PSR. We can't solve any of those issues without PSR being part of the solution. So step up and take the first easy step of protecting PSR and making it an integral part of our first responder system. | No | 04/21/25 9:42 AM |
| 110 | Anonymous | Support | Mental health challenges deserve quality intervention. It's been long due. | No | 04/21/25 9:47 AM |
| 111 | Alison Ellsworth | Support | I am writing in support of the expansion of Portland Street Response (PSR). PSR is a crucial service that meets the needs of our unhoused community members and supports the safety of the whole community. In order to continue to provide this support, PSR should be fully staffed and funded to provide citywide, 24/7 coverage. It should be established as a co-equal branch of our community safety system alongside police, fire, and ambulance services. PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation. PSR should explore ways to build off the recent expansion of call types as PSR adds staff and receives more funding. In order to maintain relationships with the people who it serves, PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services. And in order to make sure that PSR continues to meet the community's needs, it should establish a community advisory group. Thank you for voting to support the expansion and support of Portland Street Response. | No | 04/21/25 10:02 AM |
| 112 | Scotti Warren, LCSW | Support | Please fully staff and fund PSR to provide citywide, 24/7 coverage and return their access to life-saving resources such as Naloxone, clothing, and food. These are not only necessary items to survive living on the streets, but having them are in line with best practices in de-escalation. | No | 04/21/25 10:41 AM |

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|-----|----------------------|----------|---|------------|-------------------|
| 113 | Ana | Support | I wholeheartedly support the expansion of PSR. It cannot come soon enough and folks in crisis deserve this type of care. I cannot wrap my head around PPB both complaining they're understaffed and over-tasked while still trying to hold on to work they're both not as trained as PSR to do, and has historically turned deadly. A punitive response to the crises of mental health and homelessness is money wasted. PSR is a sound investment of our dollars. | No | 04/21/25 10:59 AM |
| 114 | Brittany Goodwin | Support | i work in the city and have had to call for non police help more then a few times, psr has always been responsive, compassionate and effective. | No | 04/21/25 11:09 AM |
| 115 | Arianna Garofalo | Support | I am writing in support of expanding Portland Street Response as a co-equal branch of the first responder system. This is a crucial service that Portland cannot let down. | No | 04/21/25 11:09 AM |
| 116 | Anonymous | Support | | No | 04/21/25 11:09 AM |
| 117 | Nikolai Ursin | Support | <p>Members of the Council,</p> <p>I'm writing to express my strong support for the resolution to fully staff, fund, and expand Portland Street Response (PSR), and to formally establish it as a co-equal part of our city's first responder system. Portland Street Response has proven to be a successful alternative for public safety—one that de-escalates crises instead of escalating them. At a time when trust in traditional policing has eroded, PSR offers something different: help without harm.</p> <p>In contrast, the death of Robert Delgado in 2021, the killing of Immanuel Clark in 2022, and more recent fatal shootings of individuals in mental health crises continue to shake this city. We need responses that don't carry the risk of deadly force. PSR answers that need.</p> <p>This resolution is essential to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Provide 24/7, citywide PSR coverage by ensuring full staffing and stable funding. No one experiencing a mental health crisis or homelessness should be left waiting—or risk a police response—just because of the hour or neighborhood. •Establish PSR as a true co-equal alongside police, fire, and EMS. PSR responders are professionals. They handle situations traditional responders are not trained for, and they do so with empathy, care, and effectiveness. •Restore access to critical life-saving supplies like naloxone, food, and warm clothing. These aren't luxuries—they're best practices for crisis intervention. Stripping PSR workers of these tools only increases the chance of harm. •Build on PSR's expanded call types as staffing and funding increase. More capacity means more opportunities to meet people where they are, and to prevent emergencies before they escalate. •Keep PSR non-enforcement, always. PSR should never be involved in sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or coercing people into services. That crosses the line from help to harm—and would undermine trust in the program. •Create a community advisory group to ensure accountability, transparency, and continued alignment with public health principles—not punitive ones. <p>The evidence is clear: PSR works. It keeps people alive. It calms, not escalates. It saves money and frees up police and paramedics to focus on the calls they're best equipped to handle.</p> <p>I urge you to pass this resolution and ensure Portland Street Response has what it needs to grow into the citywide, 24/7, life-saving service Portlanders deserve.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> | No | 04/21/25 11:13 AM |

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|-----|----------------------|----------|---|------------|-------------------|
| 118 | Matt Villers | Support | <p>Fully funding and expanding PSR is one of the most important things we can be doing as a city right now. It might seem like "oh no the budget is already tight", but that's exactly the reason to do it, right now. For too long our city has treated Police and Fire like an expensive swiss army knife - expected to handle any and every kind of problem - when in fact sending these departments to calls they are not suited to handle is a tremendous waste of resources.</p> <p>A fully-funded co-equal PSR would be a tremendous win, not just because it would allow us to send the right people for the right job and save money in the process, but also because responding to people in crisis with the care they need will reduce the likelihood that they go on to generate call after call in the future. It's an investment in care that adds up far beyond the savings on the initial call.</p> <p>The evidence is clear: PSR has been a resounding success, and it must be funded and expanded as soon as possible to meet the moment we find ourselves in. Whether you value caring for your neighbors, making our city safer, saving money, or all of the above, a fully-funded co-equal PSR with 24/7 operation is the best choice you can make for our city.</p> | No | 04/21/25 11:35 AM |
| 119 | Anonymous | Support | I'm writing in support of expanding Portland Street Response as a co-equal branch of the first responder system. PSR should be fully staffed and funded to provide citywide, 24/7 coverage. Not only will those who are most vulnerable benefit from having fully trained people provide them support when they most need it, a fully funded and fully functioning PSR team will free up the police from responding to calls that they're not trained to respond to, thereby allowing the police to focus on responding to law and order related public safety events. | No | 04/21/25 11:43 AM |
| 120 | Anonymous | Oppose | We are already facing a large deficit with talks of cutting services to Portlanders. Therefore, why are we proposing this now? ALL public safety bureaus need to maintain, at the very least, their current budget & staffing levels. This proposal would require additional funding. It begs the question, from where does the City get the funding at this point in time? Also, I do NOT support cutting into funding from the other areas of Public Safety to support this proposal. While I heartily agree PSR provides a necessary service to our community, it is meant to work in tandem with the other areas within Public Safety. In closing, I would encourage the Committee to re-think this and perhaps seek working with the County - perhaps include it under Project Respond and grow it from there. Thank you for the time and listening. | No | 04/21/25 12:04 PM |
| 121 | Evan C | Support | Knowing that there's Portland Street response will make me feel more comfortable calling 911 because I know there will be the option of support who is trained and unarmed. Highly support | No | 04/21/25 12:55 PM |
| 122 | Anonymous | Support | | No | 04/21/25 12:56 PM |
| 123 | Bill Deiz | Support | As a Rotarian our group has been active in supporting Portland Street Response and we look forward to its expansion. My committee researched other programs such as Eugene's to arrive at our conclusions in support. | No | 04/21/25 1:02 PM |
| 124 | Eric Marentette | Support | <p>As residents of north Portland who live a block from a homeless shelter, we both use and support expansion of PSR. The police rarely show up when called and they don't have the expertise to actually resolve the issues facing the person in distress or the neighborhood that's affected.</p> <p>The best reason to expand this is police aren't responsive to anything unless violence is occuring.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> | No | 04/21/25 1:03 PM |
| 125 | Anonymous | Support | | No | 04/21/25 1:05 PM |
| 126 | Nanao C | Support | I support the expansion of Portland Street Responses. I don't want to see people getting arrested, harassed or even killed when they need help instead of violence. I would also love to have some training on when to call PSR as it's not really clear for me. I hope the expansion comes with strong advocacy and also education. | No | 04/21/25 1:19 PM |

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|-----|----------------------|----------|--|------------|------------------|
| 127 | Jae Embs | Support | <p>I am writing in support of expanding Portland Street Response as a co-equal branch of the first responder system and establishing the Portland Street Response Committee.</p> <p>When I lived in Eugene and worked in various downtown locations through the early 2000's, I had several experiences calling CAHOOTS for assistance with individuals experiencing mental health crises. And as a person who has had lifetime experience with family members with mental health struggles, I cannot tell you how relieved I was to have the option to call for a humane, compassionate, and unarmed response team of exemplary people trained in humane, compassionate, and unarmed de-escalation and resource delivery. It is vital that our community and the members of this committee understand and appreciate that *absolutely anyone* could find themselves in a series of unfortunate events leading to a lack of income, housing, and/or medical care. And *absolutely anyone* who experiences those circumstances is at risk of mental health impacts leading to isolation, marginalization, compounded despair and desperation, and further impairment to their ability to change those circumstances. For Portland to ever have a chance of becoming the city we envision, we must pursue all options to actively CARE for our citizens, which means acknowledging those citizens experiencing the MOST challenging circumstances as deserving of that care.</p> <p>Profound thanks to Councilors Kanak, Morillo, and Avalos for introducing this resolution. Empowering PSR to execute its mission to the fullest extent helps *every single citizen in our city* by providing the most appropriate support to our most vulnerable community members.</p> <p>With gratitude, Jae Embs</p> | No | 04/21/25 1:19 PM |
| 128 | Madeline E | Support | <p>As a therapist who has worked in community mental health, I strongly support expanding Portland Street Response. Unarmed responders with mental health crisis training would be a huge help to not only our city's unhoused population but also to the people who live and work near them. Having a viable alternative to calling armed police on someone in a crisis would go a long way toward revitalizing the city. Agencies like PSR only work with adequate funding and staffing. Please give them everything they need to succeed.</p> | No | 04/21/25 1:24 PM |
| 129 | Anonymous | Support | <p>We absolutely need to support and expand Portland Street Response. Police officers are not equipped to handle mental health issues and other issues that Portland Street Response are equipped to manage. We need to support and expand PSR!</p> <p>PSR should be fully staffed and funded to provide citywide, 24/7 coverage.</p> <p>PSR should be established as a co-equal branch of our community safety system alongside police, fire, and ambulance services.</p> <p>PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation.</p> <p>PSR should explore ways to build off the recent expansion of call types as PSR adds staff and receives more funding</p> <p>PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services</p> <p>PSR should establish a community advisory group</p> | No | 04/21/25 1:38 PM |
| 130 | Lovisa Lloyd | Support | <p>Last summer I was driving down Sandy Blvd and saw a man passed out on the sidewalk, laying on his back in the hot sun. He was alone. I called the non-emergency number and asked them to please send PSR to check on this man and render him any necessary medical assistance. At the very least they could move him to a shady area to protect him from the hot sun, where he could easily suffer severe heat stroke and serious burns. I was told by the operator that there were not enough PSR responders available and that they would most likely have to send police instead. No crime was occurring, there was no danger to the public, and yet they had to send police. To me this seemed like a gross mismanagement of resources. Please fund and expand PSR. Leave police to do police work.</p> | No | 04/21/25 1:48 PM |

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
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| 131 | Anonymous | Support | Please expand PSR! | No | 04/21/25 2:17 PM |
| 132 | Anonymous | Support | Please expand PSR!! Overactive policing does not help our communities. PSR provides a sane and humane way to address a huge problem in Portland. Police involvement leads to too much killing. We shouldn't have to resort to police involvement unnecessarily | No | 04/21/25 2:19 PM |
| 133 | Anonymous | Support | PSR is an invaluable resource for the most vulnerable in our community. | No | 04/21/25 2:25 PM |
| 134 | Anonymous | Support | | No | 04/21/25 2:26 PM |
| 135 | Lisa Siems | Support | With the arbor Lodge shelter on Lombard more street response is needed to help fokx get services and support. | No | 04/21/25 2:27 PM |
| 136 | Kimberly Williams | Support | Portland Street Response provides a vital piece of emergency response and improves community safety. Last year, a person began sleeping on neighbor's porches. He caused no harm and left as soon as you opened the door, only occasionally taking a blanket of pillow from the porch. I was fretful of calling the city for help as I did not want an armed police officer anywhere near my neighborhood. If I knew Portland Street Response would be the one to come in that sort of situation, I would have called and felt good knowing the team could help the person find better shelter. Please expand PSR to be city wide and 24/7. | No | 04/21/25 2:34 PM |
| 137 | Judith Wild | Support | I have lived in PDX since 1971 and have seen too often the results of police interaction with people who need help ending in catastrophe through the use of force and inappropriate response. I often find myself in situations where I am moved to help in situations that require trained mental health advocates and it's important to me to be able to call on PSR because I am reluctant to call police to a situation they might escalate into something dangerous. I urge you to adopt the resolution to support and expand Portland Street Response. | No | 04/21/25 2:40 PM |
| 138 | Anonymous | Support | The humane support that Portland Street Response was designed to provide to (and has successfully provided to) citizens reduces harm and gets people the help they actually need to resolve their crises and live better lives. Compassionate and resourceful human connections are what uplift people from their struggles and stabilize them so they no longer suffer in public (and risk further traumatization by clumsy, cruel interactions with the polite). Portland Street Response must be fully funded and supported to continue this work for the betterment of all the people in Portland. | No | 04/21/25 2:42 PM |
| 139 | Kristina D | Support | PSR should be fully staffed and funded to provide citywide, 24/7 coverage. PSR should be established as a co-equal branch of our community safety system alongside police, fire, and ambulance services. PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation. PSR should explore ways to build off the recent expansion of call types as PSR adds staff and receives more funding. PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services. PSR should establish a community advisory group. | No | 04/21/25 2:43 PM |
| 140 | Karly Enger | Support | Portland Street Response is a necessity in our city. It is essential to expand their services to better support our communities needs. | No | 04/21/25 2:50 PM |
| 141 | Lea Velliquette | Support | Portland Street Response should be fully staffed and funded to provide citywide, 24/7 coverage. PSR should be established as a co-equal branch of our community safety system alongside police, fire, and ambulance services. PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies in line with best practices in de-escalation. PSR should explore ways to build off the recent expansion of call types as PSR adds staff and receives more funding. PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services. PSR should establish a community advisory group. | No | 04/21/25 2:50 PM |
| 142 | Anonymous | Support | | No | 04/21/25 2:58 PM |
| 143 | Gabriele Schuster | Support | Portland Street Response is a human focused, very good alternative to the expansion of policing. I support it. | No | 04/21/25 3:06 PM |
| 144 | Anonymous | Support | | No | 04/21/25 3:07 PM |

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|-----|-------------------------|----------|--|------------|------------------|
| 145 | Sam Hiller | Support | Further support of PSR as a co-equal branch of citywide first-response services is, in my eyes, one of the most valuable things our city government should be pursuing. When I think about the kind of city I want Portland to be, and the kind of services it should have, I'm not sure any are more emblematic than PSR. The program is popular with both the business community and the general population, and provides both short-term relief and the potential for long term growth and stability. I know personally multiple Portlanders who have felt threatened and unsafe but elected not to call the police for fear of unnecessary violence, use of force, and other repercussions. | No | 04/21/25 3:14 PM |
| 146 | Anonymous | Support | PSR is a welcome addition to our community and we need expanded coverage now more than ever. | No | 04/21/25 3:17 PM |
| 147 | Sarah Kenealy | Support | Please support the expansion of Portland Street Response. As a public school teacher, I have seen the impact this incredible program has on our students. Having unarmed, trained mental health experts respond to mental health crisis is essential to building trust between the public and law enforcement. As the supports for mental health are being cut in education, we need to step up and provide safe, effective mental health responses for all of Portland's residents. | No | 04/21/25 3:25 PM |
| 148 | Anonymous | Support | The services provided by Portland Street Response are vital not only to those most vulnerable in our city, but also to our community as a whole. If PSR gets the budget it needs to properly serve Portland, I would feel safer knowing my neighbors in crisis have access to care from a compassionate team who are trained to de-escalate and reduce harm. An unarmed alternative to law enforcement removes the implication of criminal behavior when an innocent person needs help, and allows Portland police officers to allocate more of their resources toward emergencies and violent offenses. Increasing the Street Response budget means increasing safety for every PDX citizen, on the streets and off. | No | 04/21/25 3:54 PM |
| 149 | Anonymous | Support | | No | 04/21/25 3:58 PM |
| 150 | Cormac Burke | Oppose | Keep it with the Fire Bureau. With the current budget crisi the city does NOT need more overhead and bureaucracy that this would bring. PSR is doing good work and should be maintained, but this proposal does not seem necessary. | No | 04/21/25 4:50 PM |
| 151 | Anonymous | Support | This is an essential service that portland desperately needs. As we head towards more dire times for many, we must invest in non violent de escalation responses to our most vulnerable community members. | No | 04/21/25 4:54 PM |
| 152 | Rebecca Boenke | Support | I believe PSR is a vital service in our community and I would like to see it continue to thrive | No | 04/21/25 4:58 PM |
| 153 | Jeremy Beausoleil Smith | Support | Portland Street Response is a crucial resource in solving the concurrent crises of mental health and homelessness. When law enforcement arrives in a crisis situation their presence often escalates the situation. Very few safety situations require an armed response. Making Portland Street Response a co-equal branch of the first responder system and establishing the Portland Street Response Committee will put our city on a path towards a safer future for every Portlander. | No | 04/21/25 5:24 PM |
| 154 | Lauren Varney | Support | I work for the local ambulance company and am often called to help people living on the streets or people living with addiction or mental health challenges. Sometimes I'm called to the same person multiple times in a single day. The EMS system as it is now, with very little support (ie beds, counselors, housing, shelter, food, medicine, medical care) for addiction or mental health services, is being bogged down with responding to and transporting people who don't need an emergency room as it exists today. They need wrap around services such as mental health professionals, addiction counselors, free or low cost medications, and someone to talk to and help them with their challenges. What they get now is a trip to the ER which is obviously expensive, overburdens an already burdened emergency system, and then they are back out on the street a few hours later. The ambulance and hospital resources, ie \$, should be used differently in a more effective manor and PSR is one piece of that more holistic approach. Currently PSR operation hours are limited and they are limited in how they can intervene and how they can offer help. We should give PSR more skills, training, money, time, and support to respond to non emergency health care needs. And then let's start building the infrastructure for the other pieces of a holistic approach and quit giving this crisis the lip service we've been hearing for decades. | No | 04/21/25 5:36 PM |
| 155 | James Marshall | Support | PSR should be fully staffed and funded to provide citywide, 24/7 coverage. PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies in line with best practices in de-escalation. | No | 04/21/25 5:39 PM |

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|-----|--------------------------------|----------|---|------------|------------------|
| 156 | Anonymous | Support | This appears to be a no-brainer. Takes a big load off the police and saves lives. Totally support our government doing something positive for once. | No | 04/21/25 6:11 PM |
| 157 | Christian Science Reading Room | Support | I am the librarian at the Christian Science Reading Room and we all appreciate the job that Portland Street Response is doing. They have visited us and helped us out when we needed them. The city needed them. | No | 04/21/25 6:19 PM |
| 158 | Nancy Hiser | Support | I am proud of the City Councilors who wrote this resolution and thank them for taking this step. PSR has filled a public safety need. As a co-equal partner in serving Portland as first responders 24-7, they will continue to reduce the demand on the police. | No | 04/21/25 6:46 PM |
| 159 | Anonymous | Support | I strongly support the expansion of Portland Street Response. I and my neighbors have experienced both the excellence of their service and the results of their scarcity in working with a person on our property on two occasions. The first time, we were lucky enough to call first thing in the morning and they arrived quickly and helped the person get redirected. The second time, a bit more of an emergency, we had to wait on hold when we called and no one came until we ended up dealing very imperfectly with the situation ourselves. There are many circumstances where people's safety and dignity could be helped, that are now being missed due to lack of funding. | No | 04/21/25 6:51 PM |
| 160 | Leigha Saur | Support | I am so thankful for this program. They are trauma informed and treat everyone with respect. They uphold the values of our beautiful city, and I feel safer having them. Please continue to fund this cutting edge program! | No | 04/21/25 7:27 PM |
| 161 | Meaghan w. | Support | I'm a sw Portland home owner (nearly downtown), I've worked at Unity Center for Behavioral Health and various other mental health organizations, and I've been in the trenches of the addiction and mental health crisis happening in our city. Please support Portland Street Response. We cannot criminalize people out of a mental health crisis. People whom are paranoid, scared or sad are most often not comforted and deescalated by people authority figures, especially cops. Portland street response is a magnificent resource and we need to treat it as such and recognize them as equal partners. | No | 04/21/25 8:01 PM |
| 162 | Shannon McMullen | Support | We need to expand PSR for the sake of our community needs. They are an integral part of progressing past violent policing and lack of community care. | No | 04/21/25 9:01 PM |
| 163 | Anonymous | Oppose | I support Portland Street Response. I do not support creating a new bureau at a time of extreme budget cuts in our city budget. Does PSR even want this? Would they need to re-bargain their contracts? How much is this going to cost? How would this improve current operations - what data do you have to support this? | No | 04/21/25 9:15 PM |
| 164 | Sumeeth Bhat | Support | I strongly support expanding Portland Street Response. It is a vital program which provides appropriate responses to people who are suffering from mental health crises. I work as a family physician who deals with many vulnerable populations in my job. I know it is of paramount importance to get people in crisis the appropriate level of care. Our current system of asking law enforcement officers to be social workers is unfair to both the police officers but also the public. People undergoing a behavioral health crisis need trained behavioral health professionals to help them, not armed police. Furthermore, the statistics on the success of PSR speak for themselves. When funded adequately and empowered appropriately PSR will be a huge help to our community. We need to free up police bandwidth for the issues they best trained for and offload mental health criseses to PSR. In a well functioning system, they would complement each other. That is what we should be trying to build. | No | 04/21/25 9:23 PM |
| 165 | Annette Morrison | Support | I live in St John's and I have used Street Response several times in the past year, when I encountered people in need of assistance. I am so appreciative of the efforts of Street Response personnel in addressing the needs of the people I have encountered. I believe Street Response needs to be increased so that all of us in Portland have an opportunity to support our neighbors through this invaluable resource of our responder system. I also realize that this is also an important resource for our local businesses when they encounter people in need of assistance. | No | 04/21/25 9:28 PM |
| 166 | Anonymous | Support | Portland Street Response provides a valuable service to our community. I support it. | No | 04/21/25 9:33 PM |
| 167 | Rebecca Jacobsen | Support | This is an important support for many people in our city. People who should be under medical care, not in the court system. Let's get people the right kind of help! | No | 04/21/25 9:35 PM |

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|-----|-------------------------------|----------|---|------------|-------------------|
| 168 | Kip Silverman | Support | <p>I've signed up to speak as well, but if I don't get the chance I do want my support of this proposal to be on the record</p> <p>As a resident of Portland, my chosen home, for over 25 years and as policy and reform subcommittee co-chair on the Portland committee on community engaged policing, I fully support this proposal to promote Portland Street response to a co-equal first responder.</p> <p>People suffering from various crises need trained professionals to help evaluate the situation and ensure the best possible outcomes. As I learned during a Ride along with Portland Street response, it often takes several interactions with an individual to build a trust relationship to a point where they will accept help and coordinated care.</p> <p>This proposal reflects the recommendation our committee made to Mayor wheeler which was accepted, and also expands or clarifies some key points.</p> <p>This proposal will also help address remaining issues from the 2012 lawsuit against the Portland Police bureau by the United States department of Justice.</p> <p>The recommendation PCCEP made has also been supported by federal circuit judge Simon as well who is overseeing the lawsuit.</p> <p>Portland Police association President Aaron schmeltz himself had stated that the Nexus of options for police is very limited when encountering people in crisis and Portland fire and rescue should be primarily focused on fire and rescue. The data from PSU supports the idea of elevating Portland Street response and integrating them into the 911 system fully to triage and send out the best possible responder based on the incoming information to have the most appropriate outcomes of these counters. And hopefully make Portland safer for all.</p> <p>One more thing I'd like to add, this is just a front line emergency response. Without adequate support to get people to help they need in the moment and then connect them to the services they need to get them housed with ongoing help based on the challenges they have, nothing about the crisis our city is in really changes. But this is an essential first step along with building the infrastructure and plans for everything else .</p> | No | 04/21/25 9:45 PM |
| 169 | Anonymous | Support | | No | 04/21/25 9:46 PM |
| 170 | dwayne hedstrom | Support | <p>i've been supportive of portland street response since it's inception but fully embracing it's full support seems like an obvious and very necessary act given the battle we as a country are in regarding the providing of care. i personally do not want to live in a society that does not prioritize care. not just based on supposed merit but upon the idea that all are deserving of care. if psr is able to expand with the necessary funding and status as a co-equal beanch of the first responder system proposed it would provide me personally with a much need boost of hope. for this selfish reason if none other i am ask for it's support</p> | No | 04/21/25 10:00 PM |
| 171 | Linda M Wysong | Support | <p>Dear Portland City Council,</p> <p>I am submitting this written testimony in support of the agenda item, Resolution 2025-175 – to support and expand the Portland Street Response. Not a day goes by that I do not witness a person in a crisis or with mental health issue wandering the streets. This is true in my North Portland neighborhood, Kenton but also throughout the city.</p> <p>Portland Street Response is the decent, humane and cost effective way to assist people experiencing mental health and behavioral health crises. We need this now. Please support the Portland Street Response.</p> | No | 04/21/25 10:23 PM |
| 172 | Sally Joughin | Support | | Yes | 04/21/25 10:42 PM |
| 173 | Ana H | Oppose | <p>We need to support and find our police departments and public safety. PSR is useful but limited and should remain so until we have made progress in our very serious issues which PSR is not adequate to handle.</p> | No | 04/21/25 11:54 PM |
| 174 | Tia Palafox (PCCEP volunteer) | Support | <p>I support and believe PSR should be the option for PPB in the case of a mental health crisis situation. PSR is trained & more equipped to work with these folks in this situation. I understand there may need to be safety protocols in cases of weapons, or a homicidal situation. It depends on the PSR staff training regarding a suicidal situation. It's so important that we are keeping people with a mental illness as safe as possible.</p> | No | 04/22/25 12:10 AM |

To the Community and Public Safety Committee,

Providing community safety and helping Portlanders experiencing difficulties are both very important to me. That is why I believe that Portland Street Response should be expanded and should be a co-equal branch of our city's "first responder" system. The PSR program should be fully staffed to be available all the time and everywhere in the city. Many people on the streets who are experiencing a mental health crisis or some other non-violent situation do not need an armed response or any encounter with police; they need someone who is trained to understand, deescalate, and address people's issues. This program must also include very good training of 911 call receivers so that they correctly divert emergency calls from police to PSR. This will reduce use-of-force incidents and give opportunities to direct people in crisis into appropriate community or medical services. This also frees up police time to direct attention to situations where a police response is needed. Police and Portland Street Response can work together, as equal branches of our city system to appropriately address community safety for all. A community advisory board and evaluation of both PSR and police first responder services are also essential.

The Resolution being submitted on April 22 by Councilors Kanal, Morillo, and Avalos covers everything I have mentioned above, and more. Please approve it!

Sally Joughin
2715 SE 34th Ave, Portland 97202
sallyjoughin@gmail.com

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|-----|---|----------|--|------------|-------------------|
| 175 | Pete S | Support | <p>I urge the city council to pass this resolution, and further, to take more steps to reduce our dependence on policing for public safety. Policing has its roots in slavery and in fact perpetuates the modern slavery of mass incarceration. It is also incredibly expensive while not being a particularly effective way to achieve safety. Almost every dollar spent on policing would create more safety spent on education, meeting people's needs, and other preventative measures.</p> <p>I believe that there is a growing plurality of Portlanders that would like to see a world entirely free of policing. And even if we are not a majority in the near future, you must contend with and compromise with the growing body of police and prison abolitionists in our city.</p> <p>Portland Street Response represents a response to criminality or undesirable behavior rooted in solving problems and not carceral violence. Many advocates hedge their praise of it, saying that it is a complement to policing. I would go further, and say that we should seek to replace all policing with more specific, better trained, solutions-oriented responses. Having PSR established as its own co-equal branch or emergency services is one step towards this critical goal.</p> | No | 04/22/25 12:42 AM |
| 176 | Vanessa Lee | Support | I support the expansion and continuation of the Portland Street Response as well as establishment of a committee. Putting funding back into the community, building more robust resources, and creating accountability/checks and balances for the services being provided will support a more collaborative approach to care/support for people in crisis. If we use approaches that build compassion/empathy we will continue to decrease unnecessary use of force/punitive measures and be able to increase funding for necessary resources that the community is lacking. | No | 04/22/25 12:47 AM |
| 177 | Anonymous | Oppose | See PDF. Opposition is to lack of adequately researched specifics in this resolution. But PSR staff and labor group have all my support. They deserve true representation and accommodation, rather than being used for corrupted political motives. | Yes | 04/22/25 6:38 AM |
| 178 | Janet Stein, retired nurse practitioner | Support | I strongly support this resolution to appropriately fund, structure, and expand Portland Street Response. Since its inception, PSR has been a logical, needed, and indeed essential part of Portland's ability to keep us ALL safe, secure, and cared for. Let's do the right thing and make it possible for PSR to do what it can do so well. | No | 04/22/25 7:00 AM |
| 179 | Ellen Goldberg, retired LCSW | Support | The city must fund fully Portland Street Response to provide effective, empathetic, appropriate coordinated care for our vulnerable neighbors with needs for mental health treatment and escalation that takes into account their mental health condition in the moment. | No | 04/22/25 7:04 AM |
| 180 | Leah bendlin | Support | We need a compassionate, respectful and de-escalator fully funded body to help deal with homelessness crises and give people help rather than criminalize and use violence against them. | No | 04/22/25 7:48 AM |
| 181 | Megan | Oppose | I support the expansion of Portland Street roots, but I am opposed to commissioner Kanal's opaque, uninformed, and deeply damaging proposed resolution. I have walked our neighborhood with commissioner Canal. He is deeply uninformed about the nature of people in crisis, the people who serve them and the necessity of our public health and safety institutions to manage for the overall safety and welfare of Portland. The parallels between the Trump administration and ideologues like commissioner Kanal strengthen every day. Despite having absolutely no personal expertise or training within these public safety institutions, he feels frighteningly entitled to propose untested, deeply opaque and unaccountable policies and constraints that only serve to consolidate his voice and his power. I Oppose commissioner Kanal's deeply harmful attempt to raid an already constrained budget. This is the same councilman who walked our neighborhood and said how important it was that people get out of City Hall and away from their own choir to see what is really happening to the people suffering under the portland performative ideology. | No | 04/22/25 7:51 AM |
| 182 | Genevieve Moore | Support | Portland Street response has been a huge benefit to our city. Have mental health care first responders for our community has been so necessary and we have seen how helpful they have been. I greatly appreciate the effort to expand and fully fund this program. Thank you | No | 04/22/25 8:05 AM |
| 183 | Virginia Rose Seagal | Support | | No | 04/22/25 8:21 AM |

My testimony is to question the resolution terms proposed by Mr. Kanal, and to support the expansion of Portland Street Response (PSR) Services which Mayor Wilson and the public safety unions worked on conscientiously in accordance with the public's desire and the needed professional expertise. I would like to take the opportunity to thank PSR labor, labor representation and leadership for enduring a morally corrupt climate where they have been used as pawns for the past 5 years, while trying to do a very difficult job, and being denigrated or spoken for, by people who have never in their life served a person in crisis.

Given the supposed enormous municipal deficit, which still allowed for 20+ million in renovations of city hall, the multiplication by 3 of large council employee salaries, the upcoming 15 million bill per FY for the police oversight board, while threatening essential services for the people footing the bill, I truly wonder where the budget stream is coming from while requesting those added line items in this new resolution. I guess public oversight having been eliminated through the dismantling of Budget Advisory Committees, we will never know, and the new opaque council fiscal practices are well and alive.

Medicaid reimbursement has been a lingering issue for over a year, and during Mr. Kanal's latest townhall in conjunction with Commissioner Singleton, she brought up the fact that medicaid billing is being worked on for PSR services, essentially using the county as its billing hub for municipal services. This conversation has to be made very public: to benefit from medicaid reimbursements, PSR has to demonstrate 24/7 services. That demonstration has to come with a budget stream, which will be municipal (apparently?) even though there is no cost explicitly attached to Mr. Kanal's proposal? Makes no sense.

Portland taxpayers deserve clear, direct answers to the following:

1. How much will these proposed changes to PSR cost?
2. What funding stream will be used?
3. What will it cost to the tax payer to use the county as its billing partner?
4. Do PSR staff, labor group and leadership actually support this direction?
5. What legal liabilities would fall on the civilian committee proposed to lead PSR, especially if they go beyond recommendations and into Decision-making? Would the city be held liable if professional mistakes are made?
6. Will the labor groups need to reopen bargaining agreements if these structural changes take place?

Once again, this type of resolution, coming from non professionals with political motives, will lead to a complete catastrophe in the public safety system. Which, of course, the city councilors do not have to deal with as they are safely tucked away at city hall. But WE do. And we still pay for those same councilors to have those genius, low info, low research ideas. Get out of the office, councilors!

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|-----|----------------------|----------|---|------------|------------------|
| 184 | Rod Such | Support | I am writing in support of the resolution to support and expand Portland Street Response as a co-equal branch of the first responder system. As you know the U.S. Justice Department in 2012 founding a pattern of excessive use of force by Portland police against people experiencing mental health crises. Those findings led to a settlement in 2014 that placed Portland police under federal supervision. As recently as 2022, the Justice Department found violations of the settlement. The need for Portland Street Response has never been greater. I moved to Portland in 2011 and learned about the police killing of Keaton Otis in 2010. Soon after another young unarmed man experiencing a mental health crisis was shot and killed. When patterns fail to change, systems must change. | No | 04/22/25 8:33 AM |
| 185 | Annie Kaplan | Support | | No | 04/22/25 8:43 AM |
| 186 | Elizabeth Willbach | Support | I am a very strong supporter of PSR. This will help both the community and the PPB. We need a responsive organization for people in crisis that is separate from both PPB, and the Fire Department, and that the community has learned to trust. Otherwise we will never be able to solve some of the problems our city has been experiencing for so long. It will also free up the PPB or Fire Dep't from trying to be the city social workers. | No | 04/22/25 8:48 AM |
| 187 | Brian Betcone | Support | Please vote in support of expanding Portland Street Response. The Portland State University Research Project that assessed the programs effectiveness found the program was very successful and had accomplished its stated goals. I'd like to see the program expand operations to nights and receive more support so that PSR can be stationed throughout the city to improve response times. I have witnessed a handful of experiences where I wish I could have called PSR. In downtown recently in the early morning(before PSR could respond) , private security mistreated a woman outside my office who was having a behavioral health crisis. It made me sad to see this and I hope our city will support PSR so that folks experiencing mental and behavioral challenges can be treated with the dignity and respect they deserve. | No | 04/22/25 8:53 AM |
| 188 | Rylan O'Brien | Support | As was recently reported by Multnomah County, we have over 14,000 people experiencing homelessness in or around Portland. We need a humane approach to helping this population when they need it. Police are not suitable for that responsibility. Elevating Portland Street Response to an equal branch is the beginning of the response needed to address this crisis. I support. | No | 04/22/25 8:53 AM |
| 189 | Forrest | Support | I'm am excited to support this and hope this moves quickly through Portland City Council. Portland Street Response is exactly the creative approach to public safety we need much more of in Portland to help everyone feel safe and more holistically care for our community. | No | 04/22/25 9:03 AM |
| 190 | Diane Meisenhelter | Support | I am testifying in support of the Kanal, Morillo, Avalos resolution for Portland Street Response. My own personal experience and the success reported in the preamble of this resolution from multiple evaluations make clear the critical value of this program. PSR needs to be a co-equal emergency response, authorized to act independently to respond to all relevant 911 calls without going through a PD screening process. They need to be resourced at the level to respond 24/7 and have relevant life support supplies and shuttling capacity to do their work and be supportive of our most vulnerable community members in crisis. To build community trust, they should not have to take part in sweeps of homeless camps. The establishment of an independent oversight committee is also of critical value, especially as their capacity is being ramped up. In the long run, Portland Street Response is an extremely cost effective and humane approach to working with mental health issues, welfare checks, and varied public safety issues by avoiding arrests and incarceration. Even more important, unarmed responses and trained mental health professionals are able to provide de-escalation and more safety for those in crisis. Personally, I have had either indifference and unwillingness to help or extremely callous and at least three cases terrifying encounters from police responses when I have called 911 to deal with a number of mental health issues in the past. One of those involved a twelve year old Black girl who was slammed face down onto a car by a white male officer when she was basically just having a tantrum in a conflict with her grandmother. In that case, I too was threatened with arrest for attempting to tell the officer that this was unacceptable and de-escalation was needed. On the other hand, I've been involved with an equal number of Portland Street Response situations when I have found them to be incredibly effective at calming, listening, providing support, and adequately responding to public safety and mental health calls I've made when witnessing someone in crisis or acting erratically in an unsafe manner in the midst of traffic. We need to shift public resources from unsuccessful policing in a vast number of situations towards PSR as the better public safety alternative. I strongly favor this resolution as a first step in that direction. | No | 04/22/25 9:10 AM |
| 191 | Anonymous | Support | Portland street response is incredibly important for our community. Most cases I see our of people having mental breakdowns and just need help. Please continue this vital service and extend it to 24/7. Thank you for this work. | No | 04/22/25 9:20 AM |

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|-----|-------------------------|----------|---|------------|-------------------|
| 192 | Cian Gipson | Support | <p>I strongly support elevating Portland Street Response (PSR) to a co-equal branch within Portland's first responder system. As our city continues to face complex challenges around mental health, addiction, and homelessness, PSR has proven itself as a compassionate, effective, and community-centered solution.</p> <p>Unlike traditional emergency responses that may rely on law enforcement, PSR offers an alternative approach that prioritizes care over criminalization. By deploying trained mental health professionals and crisis workers, PSR de-escalates situations that do not require police intervention, reduces trauma for vulnerable individuals, and alleviates pressure on law enforcement and emergency medical services.</p> <p>PSR has lowered emergency call volumes for police and ambulance services, increased access to social services, and built trust among communities that have historically been underserved or harmed by conventional public safety approaches.</p> <p>Making Portland Street Response a fully integrated and co-equal responder is not only a logical next step, it's a moral imperative. It reflects our city's values of equity, empathy, and innovation, and it sets a precedent for how modern cities can rethink public safety to better serve all residents.</p> <p>I urge city leadership to act with vision and courage by granting Portland Street Response the recognition, resources, and autonomy it deserves as a vital pillar of Portland's public safety infrastructure.</p> | No | 04/22/25 9:32 AM |
| 193 | Heather Heatlie | Support | <p>Most of the safety concerns I have encountered in my day to day life as a Portland resident for 57 years has been people who need help and access to services, not someone showing up with agun to "move them along." I support PSR as a more effective and cost efficient response to Portland's safety issues.</p> | No | 04/22/25 9:32 AM |
| 194 | Sophia Lang | Support | <p>Good afternoon, I emphatically support the expansion of Portland Street Response as an equal branch of Portland's first responder system. The expansion of this program embodies the sort of cutting edge, creative problem solving I hope to see in our city as we move through a challenging time. This program lets folks call to report incidents without fear of escalating a complicated situation further.</p> <p>Thank you for your time</p> | No | 04/22/25 9:34 AM |
| 195 | Anonymous | Oppose | | No | 04/22/25 9:36 AM |
| 196 | Bonnie Henderson-Winnie | Support | <p>Portland Street Response is an essential program that delivers urgent help to people on the street in distress. They deliver it while treating the individuals with dignity and respect, and without the risk of escalation towards more harm. They deliver a much-needed service in our community, making it safer for all. Please make Portland Street Response a co-equal branch of the first responder system and establish the Portland Street Response Committee.</p> | No | 04/22/25 9:42 AM |
| 197 | Clara Gillet | Support | <p>Portland Street Response is one of the best, most effective programs we have. Expansion and ongoing support for PSR is a great investment for our city that saves lives. These responders are doing such important work that we desperately need more than ever. PSR also frees up other first responders such as Police and Fire for more calls where they are needed. I have supported Portland Street Response from the start, I believe in its mission and always will. Let's make sure PSR has what it needs to thrive and grow, not only for our people locally, but as an example to cities everywhere. Lead with compassion and good sense. Thank you!</p> | No | 04/22/25 9:48 AM |
| 198 | Joel Statz | Support | <p>I'm writing to let you know that I support the resolution to expand and support Portland Street Response. I believe it is vital to have a non-police emergency response service in place here in Portland. I also believe that Portland Street Response should be fully staffed and funded to provide citywide, 24/7 coverage. And, I think that it should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services.</p> <p>Thank you!</p> | No | 04/22/25 9:56 AM |
| 199 | Anonymous | Support | <p>Here's the testimony I submitted:</p> <p>Portland Street Response is an essential program that delivers urgent help to people on the street in distress. They deliver it while treating the individuals with dignity and respect, and without the risk of escalation towards more harm. They deliver a much-needed service in our community, making it safer for all. Please make Portland Street Response a co-equal branch of the first responder system and establish the Portland Street Response Committee. Thank you.</p> | No | 04/22/25 10:15 AM |

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|-----|----------------------|----------|---|------------|-------------------|
| 200 | Roy Coughlin | Support | Expanding and fully funding Portland Street Response is the single best thing Portland can do to improve community safety and trust. That's all there is to it. Do the right thing. | No | 04/22/25 10:16 AM |
| 201 | Brian Stephen Ellis | Support | Portland Street Response is one of the best things to come out of this city in years, and we have only begun to see the programs effectiveness. As it is expanded more and more, we will continue to understand how to better shape public safety in Portland. | No | 04/22/25 10:17 AM |
| 202 | Anonymous | Support | | No | 04/22/25 10:39 AM |
| 203 | Marc Poris | Support | <p>I fully support expanding Portland Street Response to 365/24/7 and ensuring that it is a co-equal branch of the first responder system. People in crisis must be able to count on PSR to arrive without armed police officers. See the years of court records in United States v. City of Portland for evidence of why armed police officers should not be called upon to serve people experiencing or perceived to be experiencing mental health issues.</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_v._City_of_Portland .</p> <p>It is unconscionable that the City stopped asking for (and presenting to the public at City Council) independent evaluation of PSR. As such, I fully support:</p> <p>"8. Continue consultation with the original PSU evaluators and report back to Council through the Community and Public Safety Committee by August 2025 on ongoing efforts to re-establish an independent program evaluation for PSR."</p> <p>Finally, I would like to bring attention to this important recommendation from page 137 of the Portland Street Response Year Two Evaluation:</p> <p>"PSR should never be used to carry out sweeps of unhoused people, enforce camping bans, or require individuals to engage in shelter or service use. Their role is to discuss options with people and guide individuals to make informed decisions that match their unique needs and life context."</p> | No | 04/22/25 10:39 AM |
| 204 | Michelle Milla | | <p>I am writing to express concern about the proposal to establish Portland Street Response as an independent city bureau. I fully support mental health response teams and alternative crisis intervention, but I do not support being forced into a false choice between outreach and public safety.</p> <p>In the proposed resolution, one of the primary justifications for elevating PSR into a coequal emergency branch is the Portland Police Bureau's past noncompliance with a federal settlement about excessive force against individuals with mental illness. This history matters. Accountability matters. Public safety systems must evolve.</p> <p>But using that history to silo PSR into a standalone bureau misses the mark because it treats coordination as contamination, when it is the solution.</p> <p>Making PSR a standalone bureau will fracture our city's ability to respond in an efficient way. This kind of path undermines the sustainability and the safety outcomes our communities rely on, and will pull funding from other vital services during a period of severe budget strain.</p> <p>We reject the narrative that in order to be compassionate, we must sacrifice coordination. Our neighborhoods are asking for solutions that meet the real weight of our city's complexity—not self-contained ideas in shiny new packaging! We've lived the consequences of broken systems that don't speak to each other.</p> <p>Rather than isolating PSR as another emergency bureau, the City should integrate it into Portland Solutions. This lateral move would prevent bureaucratic isolation, improve real-time coordination between available safety and established mental health resources, embed accountability into a system [not a silo] and provide a sustainable path for funding, staffing, and impact. This approach doesn't erase the history of harm. It learns from it.</p> <p>A truly effective system isn't just about adding a new branch, it's about reforming and supporting the whole tree. We believe we can care for and protect our communities. Please don't frame this as either/or. We're ready for both/and. Thank you for your consideration.</p> | No | 04/22/25 10:43 AM |

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| Kelcie Smolin Grega | Support | <p>I'm testifying today in strong support of the Kanal, Morillo, and Avalos resolution backing Portland Street Response (PSR). I have personal experience with PSR and have witnessed firsthand the impact they make -- despite being chronically underfunded.</p> <p>Last summer, during the previous council's efforts to defund and weaken PSR, I encountered a man in my neighborhood who was clearly in the midst of a mental health crisis. It was a sweltering day, and while he wasn't a danger to anyone, he was clearly suffering. Most people passed him by -- some even kicked him. Private security nearby simply stood and watched.</p> <p>I called PSR. When they arrived, they helped me and another community member move him into a shaded area. They spoke to him gently, offered food and water, and treated him with dignity. Their response was calm, compassionate, and effective.</p> <p>We need more of that in our city. Not less. It's time to undo the harm caused by past efforts to defund PSR. This program deserves more than symbolic support It should be recognized as a fully funded, co-equal part of our public safety system.</p> <p>PSR is not law enforcement, and they should never be asked to act like it. Their strength lies in offering a non-punitive, trauma-informed response to people in crisis. I want to see a real commitment to growing and protecting PSR so they can continue doing this important work.</p> | No | 04/22/25 10:44 AM |
| Kristin Bowling | Support | PSR is an amazing resource that should continue to be supported and expanded! In a neighborhood like Lents where I work, the needs on the street are great, and it's fabulous to regularly watch PSR teams take the time to give folks the help they need WITHOUT THE COPS that always seem to make things worse for folks that are already suffering. While Cahoots in Eugene is in danger of being defunded, let's keep up one of Portland's best (borrowed) ideas! | No | 04/22/25 10:48 AM |
| Jordan Lewis | Support | <p>I'm writing in support of the motion to support and expand Portland street response. As someone who is deeply skeptical of sworn officers' ability to resolve low-acuity public nuisance calls safely, or even respond in a timely manner post-2020, I will not call police as a rule, short of an active shooter situation. A city without a funded PSR system is one where I simply do not call *anyone* to respond to an unwell individual acting out in public.</p> <p>Contrary to some mischaracterizations, I and people like me want a resolution to public disturbances, just one that does not result in harassment towards our house less neighbors, or worse, violence. By funding Portland Street Response comprehensively, we can work together to remedy the problems we can all see on our streets. I will have a number to call at any hour, which can actually make things better, no matter your political persuasion. Please vote yes on this, it is broadly popular and builds well off of past work.</p> | No | 04/22/25 11:01 AM |
| Spencer S. | Support | The city has an epidemic and it's because of old policies. Stop trying to make poorly trained cops do everything. We need to help, not hurt those in need. | No | 04/22/25 11:42 AM |
| PROTEC17 | Support | | Yes | 04/22/25 12:14 PM |
| Alex Meggitt | Support | Portland Street Response is an incredibly important program and should be supported and resourced to the fullest extent possible. | No | 04/22/25 12:18 PM |
| Stephanie McBarron | Support | Steph McBarron, District 4 - I am wholeheartedly in favor of this item! Please support it. It's true that Portland has fallen behind national progress on unarmed resolution despite being an early adopter, and this is an opportunity to course-correct. As an autistic person, I would never feel safe calling the cops to respond to someone in mental crisis - but I would absolutely call for PSR. I would rather ignore someone than risk getting them shot, but I would drop everything to get them help if I knew that help wouldn't come with a percentile chance of death by firearm. Just my two cents. | No | 04/22/25 12:26 PM |
| Anonymous | Support | | Yes | 04/22/25 12:34 PM |
| Heather Haindel | Support | I support PSR and the good they do in our community. | No | 04/22/25 12:49 PM |
| Betsy Power | Support | | No | 04/22/25 12:54 PM |



2900 Eastlake Ave. E, Suite 300 • Seattle, WA 98102 • 800.783.0017

Chair Novick, Chair Kanal, and members of the committee,

We write today in support of Resolution 2025-175, which would demonstrate important support from City Council for the future of Portland Street Response.

PROTEC17 represents approximately 1,000 City Employees across most City bureaus. Our members include the City's engineers and engineering technicians, IT professionals, planners and permit technicians, botanical staff, public information officers, and Portland Street Response mental health workers.

Our members in Portland Street Response work tirelessly to provide a vital service to Portlanders who are in extremely precarious circumstances. However, for most of its existence, the PSR program itself has felt unstable as its future has seemed to hang in the balance of political decisions in City Hall. It has been very difficult for PSR employees to feel like the work they are doing – work that has been widely praised throughout the community – has a stable footing on which to grow.

Resolution 2025-175 provides important commitment to the mission and values on which PSR was founded and has successfully operated. It offers critical support to both the program and PSR workers. Additionally, it establishes clear avenues for growth and expansion of the program.

Our members appreciate the support from members of this committee and City Council and look forward to continuing to serve the people of Portland to the greatest extent possible. They look forward to a robust PSR program that is an integral part of Portland's public safety system. Most importantly, they believe that PSR will help our vulnerable neighbors, our growing neighborhoods, and our vibrant City to thrive into the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elliot Levin", is positioned above the printed name.

Elliot Levin
PROTEC17 Research Director and Legislative Advocate

Page intentionally blank to separate written testimony attachments

Testimony from Hilary Nichols – In Support of Portland Street Response

Good afternoon Chair Novick, Chair Kanal, and members of the Community and Public Safety Committee,

My name is Hilary Nichols. I'm a resident of District 3 and, more importantly, a deep lover of everyone who lives in our Portland community.

I work as a community organizer at a community health center in Southeast Portland, where I connect daily with patients and neighbors about the social pressures that impact their health. It's from that place of listening and learning that I'm here to urge you to approve the resolution in support of Portland Street Response.

Over and over, I hear how the criminal legal system deepens harm for people in crisis. Incarceration—especially for those struggling with mental health or addiction—doesn't offer healing. It severs connection, interrupts care, increases trauma, and often leads to worse outcomes. These aren't just unfortunate side effects; they are public health failures.

Portland Street Response is one of the few systems we've built that truly aligns with public health values—responding with care, calm, and dignity instead of punishment. But it needs your full support to thrive.

I urge this committee to:

Fully staff and fund PSR for 24/7 citywide coverage

Recognize PSR as a co-equal branch of our public safety system

Restore access to essential tools like naloxone, food, and clothing

Continue expanding the types of calls PSR can respond to

Keep PSR free from enforcement roles like sweeps or forced service

Establish a community advisory group for accountability and guidance

This Council can make its mark by protecting and expanding this program—by delivering on the promised 24/7 coverage and preserving PSR's original mission. Fully funding Portland Street Response in this year's budget is not only the right thing to do—it's smart policy. It modernizes our approach to public safety, relieves pressure on other first responders, and saves money.

Let's choose to lead. Let's choose care. Let's get this right.

Thank you.

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|-----|--|----------|---|------------|-------------------|
| 215 | Philip Chachka | Support | I am so pleased with my experiences with Portland Street Response. I've seen them working on multiple occasions outside my place of employment and in other parts of the city. I've called 911 several times specifically for Portland Street Response services and have seen their professionalism in serving our community. Many times, the presence of an armed police officer would've only escalated the situation but PSR is able to effectively meet needs that don't require a sworn officer of the law. I support the resolution to make PSR a co-equal branch of the first responder system and create a PSR Committee. I want PSR to expand and take over a greater share of the police and fire department's workload. | No | 04/22/25 12:54 PM |
| 216 | Kim Larson | Support | | No | 04/22/25 1:00 PM |
| 217 | C.L. | Support | I'm writing in support of the motion to expand Portland street response. I am someone who is extremely skeptical of sworn officers' ability to resolve low-acuity public nuisance calls safely, arrive in a timely fashion, if at all, I will not call police for any of not all of my needs. A city without a funded street response system is one where I do not call anyone to help those that are in need or times of crisis. Contrary to beliefs some people hold, I want a resolution to public disturbances. The solution to public disturbances is not the harassment of houseless people or the unnecessary bloodshed of those in need. By funding Portland Street Response in an adequate (to our current time) manner, we can work together to remedy the problems we can all see on our streets. Please vote yes on this, it is broadly popular and builds the people of Portland need to be able to receive help, not harm and fear. Vote yes so we can live in a safer happier Portland. | No | 04/22/25 1:10 PM |
| 218 | TG | Support | PSR is good for the city. We have an inordinate amount of people experiencing homelessness, mental health crises and addiction in this city. With the current looming financial crisis coupled with our obscene rent prices, this can easily escalate within a year or two. When you witness a person in crisis and cannot personally help them, you call for help. A police response could lead to incarceration, injury, trauma, or death. An ambulance or fire response is great for physical and medical emergencies, but not mental health. PSR gives the city the ability to respond appropriately with the interventions, de-escalations , and/or care needed by the person in crisis. You have the opportunity here to allow Portland to fully develop a successful program that could even become precedent in major cities across the country.Please do not fumble this. Always take your primary feedback from PSR employees and the people who have been served by them. | No | 04/22/25 2:02 PM |
| 219 | Christian Orellana Bauer (former member of the Police Accountability Commission) | Support | Hello, I would like to fully support this resolution and advocate for its implementation. Alternatives to the police that revolve around de-escalation and connection to social services are incredibly important. Portland Street Response needs to be further supported to reach its true potential which this resolution will do. Much Appreciation, Christian | No | 04/22/25 2:07 PM |

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| Lance Orton, CityTeam Portland | Support with changes | <p>Written Testimony by Lance Orton Executive Director, CityTeam Portland</p> <p>My name is Lance Orton, and I serve as the Executive Director of CityTeam Portland, a nonprofit homeless services provider and addiction recovery organization that has served the Portland community since 1998. I'm submitting this testimony in strong support of continued and expanded funding for Portland Street Response (PSR)—a vital and compassionate part of our city's public safety and health system. However, I urge city leaders not to expand PSR at the expense of the Portland Police Bureau. Both are critical components of a holistic public safety continuum, and both must be adequately resourced.</p> <p>CityTeam works on the front lines every day with individuals experiencing homelessness, addiction, and mental health crises. Portland Street Response plays a uniquely important role in providing care and de-escalation in situations where a police response is not always appropriate or effective. Their presence has helped defuse tense situations and direct people toward the services they need. We see PSR's value clearly.</p> <p>At the same time, I also believe strongly that Portland must increase—not decrease—the number of police officers on our streets. This is not a call for more arrests or punitive enforcement. Rather, it's a call for visible, proactive policing that deters crime, improves community trust, and helps restore a sense of safety for all Portlanders, including our most vulnerable.</p> <p>There is a common misconception that funding one public safety service must come at the cost of another. But this is a false choice. Portland doesn't have the luxury of trading one solution for another. We need both PSR and a well-resourced police bureau working in tandem to create a livable, compassionate, and safe city. The current moment demands investment—not retraction.</p> <p>In short, Portland Street Response should be expanded and elevated, but never at the cost of weakening the Portland Police Bureau. Now is the time to double down on strategies that make our city safer, more responsive, and more humane—not to pit them against each other. I urge this council to fund both systems accordingly and recognize the importance of a comprehensive, collaborative approach to public safety.</p> <p>Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to the future of Portland.</p> <p>Respectfully, Lance Orton Executive Director CityTeam Portland</p> | No | 04/22/25 2:34 PM |
| Christina Horsley | Support | | No | 04/22/25 2:35 PM |
| Bob Joondeph | Support | Everyone benefits if there is an effective response for a person in crisis. The person, the responder, the police, corrections, medical services, and the public budget are all well served. We can keep Portland safer for us all if our public safety array is well designed and funded. | No | 04/22/25 2:54 PM |
| Shawn F | Support | | No | 04/22/25 3:01 PM |
| Tony Greiner, NE Portland | Support | This is an important issue. People with Severe Mental Illness need help, and the police are rarely in a position to provide it. And the mentally ill are no more responsible for their condition than someone who has COVID or cancer. Please support this effort. | No | 04/22/25 3:19 PM |
| Anonymous | Support | | No | 04/22/25 4:10 PM |
| Anonymous | Support | I join an incredible number of Portlanders who believe our investments in and commitment to Portland Street Response will make everyone in our communities safer. Bringing armed police to every first response situation creates opportunities not only for violence but also intimidation and fear. We need a more nuanced, dignified, humane system. Local citizens and leaders have fought hard to create Portland Street Response. Please honor that work and vision. | No | 04/22/25 5:33 PM |
| Carolyn Matthews | Support | I support expanding PSR as stated in the document. It's crucially important to help our houseless neighbors, not only for them, but for our neighborhood. Our neighborhood interacts compassionately with houseless people nearby, but we need help. PSR has already shown it's effective. We all need it. | No | 04/22/25 5:39 PM |

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|-----|----------------------|----------------------|---|------------|-------------------|
| 228 | Anonymous | Support | Please support the expansion and full funding of Portland Street Response! Having a non-armed force that can do wellness checks and mental health response in this city is Vital, and can save lives. Please respect the needs and wants of the most vulnerable members of our city; PSR is one of the best solutions we have come up with to protect and respect everyone. Please prioritize it's funding!! Thank you! | No | 04/22/25 6:59 PM |
| 229 | Anonymous | Support | PSR is a critical piece of the first responder system and should be expanded as a co-equal branch. | No | 04/22/25 9:08 PM |
| 230 | Khريس Soden | Support | | No | 04/22/25 10:06 PM |
| 231 | Anonymous | Support with changes | PSR has to be able to carry out the duties that they were envisioned to do with meaningful outcomes. You have to also create metrics that are results oriented and reflect outcomes related to connecting people to services and not just diverting 911 calls. As a crisis worker, the public doesn't understand why PSR is not effective nor efficient as is. Give them the power to write directors hold | No | 04/22/25 11:41 PM |
| 232 | Anonymous | Support | Please support this resolution. It is incredibly important that we find ways to support our community members without getting more violent approaches involved. | No | 04/23/25 8:29 AM |
| 233 | Anonymous | Support | | No | 04/23/25 9:37 AM |
| 234 | Brian Owendoff | Oppose | Information on this proposal was not released until April 18th. This was a rushed process with obvious collusion by sponsors which lined up testifiers with talking points and even had Seattle based attorney testify in person. There was minimal time for public input. This appears to violate Oregon's Open Meeting Laws. This is second time the Community and Public Safety committee has disenfranchised citizens with inadequate time to review on an issue that does not have a firm deadline. | Yes | 04/23/25 10:50 AM |
| 235 | Elizabeth MWithers | Support | Portland Street Response is a vital resource for all Portlanders. As a city it is abundantly clear that we need an independent, unarmed, alternative to police that responds to people in crisis with compassion and care. PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation. | No | 04/23/25 11:21 AM |
| 236 | Daniel Bullard-Bates | Support | Portland Street Response is a vital part of building a safer community, and it should be given a lot more resources so that we can have more non-violent solutions to community problems from trained, level-headed first responders. | No | 04/23/25 12:03 PM |
| 237 | Emily Bookstein | Support | Portland street response is an amazing resource and I support expanding their services and making them a co-equal branch. I'm thinking of the times I've wanted to call on PSR but was told to call police instead — I refuse to call the police because they have a track record of shooting people experiencing mental health crises, especially people of color. Please expand PSR so we have more safe support for our houseless neighbors. | No | 04/23/25 12:23 PM |
| 238 | Marian Rhys | Support | This is one of the best, and most cost-effective, programs that the City of Portland has ever created. It very much deserves to be expanded, as it will not only provide a safer way of dealing with mental health crises, but also free up the police to deal with real violence. | No | 04/23/25 1:36 PM |
| 239 | Blanchet House | Support | From its inception, Portland Street Response has been a valuable resource for Blanchet House and the people we serve in Old Town. While our staff do an incredible job assisting persons in crisis, there are times when additional help is required. We are grateful to be able to call upon PSR in those instances. Yet, we've appreciated the limitations under which PSR has had to operate, and we've witnessed first hand how those limits have affected people we serve. Accordingly, we welcome recent moves to enhance and improve PSR services, and I strongly support the measure before City Council to further support and expand PSR. What a benefit an expanded PSR will provide to the overnight women's shelter, Bethanie's Room, that Blanchet House seeks to open later this year. We know for our experience with meal services the many challenges that come with low-barrier services to a community struggling with trauma, mental illness, and substance use disorder. We look forward to being able to call upon PSR for assistance overnight when Bethanie's Room guests require their specialized attention. | No | 04/23/25 3:11 PM |
| 240 | Connie Blauwkamp | Support | I support Portland Street Response being a co-equal branch of our first responder system—and of this branch being first amongst equals. Non-violent solutions, trauma informed and focused on human dignity and safety will make Portland a better place to live for all of us. Police response should be a last resort, only when the Portland Street Response branch is maximally funded, staffed and supported. Thank you. | No | 04/24/25 10:13 AM |
| 241 | Ali Jones | Support | this just makes sense- being one of the first responder corp- instead of an appendage especially given the scope and need for that particular type of responder, the PSR | No | 04/24/25 12:33 PM |

Good afternoon, Councilors,

My name is Brian Owendoff. I live and work in District 4, and I appreciate the opportunity to address Councilor Kanal's proposal regarding changes to Portland Street Response (PSR).

To begin: what does it mean for PSR to become a "*co-equal branch*"? Are PSR team members going to undergo the same rigorous background checks, training, and continuing education requirements as Portland Police Officers? That phrase needs clear definition.

My understanding is PPB received few calls to 911 for responses that PSR now handle. Going to a 24/7 model is an added cost. Why does Commissioner Kanal's proposal state "no financial impact"? These costs were never a part of the PPB budget.

This proposal comes at a time when we are facing a constrained city budget, a large deficit, and threats to essential services. All public safety bureaus have requested to *maintain* current staffing and funding levels—so why are we proposing changes that seem to imply *increased* funding or expansion?

Furthermore, we need to talk about funding—specifically, Medicaid reimbursement. This has been a lingering issue for over a year. If PSR is to continue and grow responsibly, the City must have a transparent and public conversation about billing Medicaid through the County.

Portland taxpayers deserve clear, direct answers to the following:

1. How much will these proposed changes to PSR cost?
2. What tangible benefits will they bring to stakeholders?
3. Do PSR staff and leadership actually support this direction to 24/7 operation?
4. What legal liabilities would fall on the civilian committee proposed to lead PSR, especially if they go beyond recommendations and into decision-making?
5. Will the City's unions need to reopen bargaining agreements if these structural changes take place?
6. Lastly, while PSR helps manage certain calls more efficiently, it does *not* eliminate the need for police. We cannot responsibly reduce the

police budget and expect that to translate into faster or more effective 911 response times.

Looking at the bigger picture, the City should explore whether the County is better equipped to manage PSR under the umbrella of *Project Respond*. This approach would offer:

- A dedicated 24/7 crisis line
- Integrated access to Cascadia Health Services
- Eligibility for Medicaid reimbursement
- Transport capacity and insurance—functions currently managed by the County, and which PSR does not fully possess

Duplicating these services at the City level is not an efficient or effective use of limited taxpayer dollars. This proposal is playing “small ball” when a reassessment of overall spending between county and city is needed. The real solution is getting the unsheltered off the streets.

Portland residents—housed and unhoused alike—deserve a system that works, is financially responsible, and is built on clear governance and accountability.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brian M. Owendoff

1925 NW Norfolk Court Portland, OR 97229

Brian.owendoff@yahoo.com

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|-----|--|----------|---|------------|-------------------|
| 242 | Anonymous | Support | | No | 04/24/25 12:37 PM |
| | Levi Miller | Support | <p>I am actually a former Portland resident who lived in District 4 during the times when the old form of government was in place. I and testifying in strong support of this ordinance as I unfortunately in my time living there have witnessed a few situations while living downtown where this service was highly needed, but wasn't available during the hours when the situations arose. For example, the first situation occurred when I was living in The Collective on Fourth apartments near PSU on Fourth and Harrison when a resident one night on my floor started having a crisis where he was constantly blowing a rape whistle in his unit causing a disturbance on the whole floor and then came out yelling in the hallway at about three in the morning. The police were called three times, but ended up being useless in that situation as they couldn't really do much about it as they obviously were not the right response in this situation and that PSR should have been available for this. Which is another recommendation I would make is that PSR should definitely have the same access as police and fire to go inside buildings during a call like this as it is not only out on the street where people have mental health emergencies. From what I heard, this individual was apparently also known to the county's behavioral health department for needing certain resources.</p> <p>There was also another situation while I was living there that also occurred at around 1:30am when an individual was standing in front of the Pizza Schmizza on SW Fourth Avenue who was having a severe mental health crisis and was yelling and really did need help as he was clearly not in a state where he could take care of himself. I was trying to get Portland Street Response to come assist him because I didn't feel the police were the best response, but unfortunately I found out that PSR didn't operate during the late hours, which is often when mental health crisis arise and the service is greatly needed. I then ended up calling 911 and told them that there was an individual having a severe mental health crisis and looked like he needed some help. They then told me an officer was on the way and that a security guard on site had requested them. Two PPB officers showed up shortly after and approached the individual, but made very little contact as the person then walked away and the officers basically ended up doing nothing as they are not the ones trained for this situations and that PSR should have been the ones to go check on this person. And a mental health crisis like these is a medical emergency that I feel is no different then a seizure or a diabetic emergency and we do need the right responders to come and address these issues. Another thing I want to add that is personal for me is as a neurodivergent individual, I deal with a lot of triggers and sensory issues where I often have experienced some outbursts and sensory overload. Because of this, I have a very huge fear and distrust towards society and certain authority, which I why I refuse to call for any help when I'm in these moments because I'm not confident in the response I might get. This is another reason why I feel this is a super important resolution because I have seen situations that went bad when the police were called on an autistic person having a meltdown when they should definitely not have been called. And the recent story out of Pocatello, ID were the cops shot and fatally wounded an autistic teenager named Victor Perez, who was also physically disabled and couldn't speak and was having a crisis. This should have never happened as the cops should have never responded and I definitely do not want that situation to occur in Portland or anywhere in Oregon, which is another huge reason why services like this are strongly needed everywhere to assist the most vulnerable members of the population when they need it. I want to thank Councilors Kanak, Morillo and Avalos for addressing this and everywhere needs this change.</p> | No | 04/25/25 2:14 AM |
| 243 | | | | | |
| 244 | Nathan Miller, resident of Portland Oregon | Support | I support the proposal to expand Portland Street Response. This is the most humane and cost effective way to deal with people that are having mental health/drug crisis on our streets. The police are not the best first responders to these events, both regarding training and cost. | No | 04/25/25 10:00 AM |
| 245 | Paige Common | Support | | No | 04/25/25 10:48 AM |
| | Anonymous | Support | | No | 04/25/25 12:54 PM |
| 246 | | | Portland Street Response is an essential program that delivers urgent help to people on the street in distress. They deliver it while treating the individuals with dignity and respect, and without the risk of escalation towards more harm. They deliver a much-needed service in our community, making it safer for all. Please make Portland Street Response a co-equal branch of the first responder system and establish the Portland Street Response Committee. Thank you. | | |
| 247 | Phil Sano | Support | Who wants armed people to show up, like ever? That's just more stress and possibility for violence when what we need is calm. Don't stand in the way of fewer lives being slaughtered by the state. Please support unarmed response, 24/7 | No | 04/27/25 12:10 PM |
| 248 | Alex G | Support | PSR is the best thing to happen to actually improve public safety in Portland in years. Everyone should have an option for getting support that doesn't involve an armed response. | No | 04/28/25 8:01 AM |

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
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| 249 | Bridget Bayer | Support | Our household supports Resolution 2025-175. Without the Portland Street response teams, we wouldn't be able to improve our community spaces and live safely. The City is finally making headway on providing housing access to those who are homeless but the remaining people out there on the streets are really hurting. And most do not have the capacity to deal with the police. Please fully fund the Portland Street Response! | No | 04/28/25 1:51 PM |
| 250 | Tony Greiner | Support | | No | 05/01/25 7:11 PM |
| 251 | Brian Frank | Support | Strong support for this resolution! It's more efficient and better service to not have police doing work PSR can do. | No | 05/03/25 8:32 AM |
| 252 | Michael K Elser | Support | I am in full support of the 2025-175 initiative. I applaud Portland for the work it has done in the past to work with the unhoused population as well as to domestic situations in a way that is compassionate and de-emphasises use of force as a primary intervention. 2025-175 is just that kind of initiative. Almost no one is unhoused by choice. They are unhoused because they can't see an alternative. Drugs, mental health and economic circumstances are often root causes. Much the same could be said of domestic crisis. Demilitarizing our response in these situations will go a long way to finding a non-violent solution that gets at the foundation of the problem - a win/win for everyone. | No | 05/09/25 12:21 PM |
| 253 | Rae Richen of Interfaith Alliance on Poverty | Support | I have seen Portland Street Response at work near places where I volunteer, Rose City Park Methodist Church, Rose City Park Presbyterian Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church and also at a fast food restaurant where the manager twice had offered a young lady food and water which she refused while she lay down in his parking lot with all her belongings surrounding her. I called 911, asked for Street Response and they came talked to her and helped her get to services. She was in danger and the people nearby cared, but it was Portland Street Response that was able to talk to her and get her to help. | No | 06/20/25 10:19 AM |
| 254 | Trinity Episcopal Cathedral and Interfaith Alliance on Poverty | Support | I am a member of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral and also the Interfaith Alliance on Poverty. Portland Street Response has been an effective service to those in greatest need on the street. I strongly urge your support for the expansion of scope and services of PSR. | No | 06/20/25 11:19 AM |
| 255 | Bix Frankonis | Support | In a city that professes a value of "livability", how we define and engage with the idea of public safety matters. To be truly livable for everyone, we must remove the implicit lethal threat of the police from the equation whenever possible. In order to do this, the alternative must be a fully-supported, co-equal branch of our first responder system. This ordinance should be adopted unanimously. | No | 06/21/25 3:52 PM |
| 256 | Sarah Marble | Support | Portland Street Response truly helps our city be safer and healthier. They need to be a co-equal branch of our first responder system. I have interacted with both PPB and PSR. PPB often reads a situation wrong and escalates it. They have a history of physically harming people, resulting in huge settlements and high insurance costs. Vulnerable people end up worse off due to legal system involvement that makes it harder for them to get or stay employed and housed. I don't have to worry about any of this when I call PSR. They provide concrete assistance, deescalation, and have referred people to resources that continue to help them get and stay employed and housed. PSR workers aren't frightening and the insurance and liability to the city are much more cost effective than police. Why wouldn't we make them co-equal? We have the opportunity to improve our community by focusing on meeting people's needs instead of responding with violence and punishment. | No | 06/21/25 3:55 PM |
| 257 | Central Lutheran Church Social Justice Coalition | Support | I am a member of Central Lutheran Church Social Justice Coalition and the Interfaith Alliance on Poverty. Portland Street Response is an extremely effective and compassionate organization caring for our houseless neighbors on the streets. It should be a co-equal branch of the First Responder System. I strongly ask you to support the expansion and services of PRs. | No | 06/21/25 4:54 PM |
| 258 | Lucy | Support | I am writing as a Portlander who lives in SE Portland and works downtown. I strongly support this agenda item. I have seen the cops called many, many times on people who are having mental health crisis, and have myself been in situations where I have seen someone who needs to be checked up on, but I don't want to involve the police because of our police force's reputation of using force on those who really just need support. Expansion of PSR, rather than more cops and more cop overtime, makes sense. We need a humane way to respond to folks in crisis that doesn't put them in more danger by introducing the police. Please support this item. Thank you! | No | 06/22/25 11:24 AM |
| 259 | Anna Brown | Support | Please expand this much needed resource and defund the police! | No | 06/22/25 2:12 PM |

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|-----|----------------------|----------|---|------------|------------------|
| 260 | Amy A. Franco | Support | This resolution builds on years of evaluation and data, as well as the knowledge of those directly served and impacted by PSR. I strongly support the actions outlined in the resolution, which will bring us closer to resourcing and structuring PSR in a way that could allow the program to excel in innovatively addressing priority needs in this city. It has been disappointing to see the potential of the program stymied by council leadership changes over the years and I am hopeful that this resolution will mark a return to more serious consideration of and respect for this important safety tool. As a constituent in Ladd's Addition, I urge the council to approve the resolution. | No | 06/22/25 4:56 PM |
| 261 | Anonymous | Support | PSR is a vital service to our most vulnerable in the community and provides a non violent option for other community members to support those people. i live in inner Se and appreciate the option | No | 06/24/25 9:05 AM |
| 262 | Anonymous | Support | PSR is a vital service in our community. I am asking that you support continued funding of Portland Street Response | No | 06/24/25 9:06 AM |
| 263 | Jane Salisbury | Support | I wholeheartedly support PSR. I have had the occasion to call PSR twice out of my concern for vulnerable people on the street in my quiet residential neighborhood. The scenes that Portlanders witness every single day are heartbreaking and disturbing. We need PSR if only to help us believe that we are decent human beings who care about other people. I can't imagine anything but full support for such a clearly successful service. | No | 06/24/25 9:06 AM |
| 264 | Willow McCormick | Support | This resolution is a necessary step needed to reinforce the original mission of Portland Street Response as an independent, unarmed, alternative to police that responds to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis. It is the responsibility of the City Council to provide legislative policy direction. This resolution is an opportunity for our newly elected leaders to commit their support to the future of PSR and re-establish community trust. Portland Street Response was developed by our community to serve our community. PSR should establish a community advisory group to fulfill the promises made to community. PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services. PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation. | No | 06/24/25 9:07 AM |
| 265 | Lindsay Parks | Support | PSR is such a proven, valuable way to respond to certain types of calls to our emergency system. It deserves to be fully funded. | No | 06/24/25 9:08 AM |
| 266 | Annika Lee | Support | Portland Street Response is so necessary in our city. Unlike other orgs it is independent, it is unarmed, and it provides a comprehensive and much needed alternative to police—one that other cities' community safety organizations can and should learn from. We need PSR and wholeheartedly support it. | No | 06/24/25 9:08 AM |
| 267 | Ben Hedstrom | Support | I fully support funding Portland Street Response. This resolution is a necessary step needed to reinforce the original mission of Portland Street Response as an independent, unarmed, alternative to police that responds to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis. It is the responsibility of the City Council to provide legislative policy direction. This resolution is an opportunity for our newly elected leaders to commit their support to the future of PSR and re-establish community trust. Portland Street Response was developed by our community to serve our community. PSR should establish a community advisory group to fulfill the promises made to community. PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services. PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation. Ben Hedstrom 3710 SE 72nd Avenue Portland | No | 06/24/25 9:08 AM |
| 268 | Laura Lawrence | Support | PSR is one the best things this city has ever done. Thank you Joanne Hardesty for having the vision to see this through. Please keep and expand this essential program that helps those who need it most! | No | 06/24/25 9:09 AM |

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
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| 269 | Anonymous | Support | Portland Street Response is effective and needs to be a co-equal branch of the 1st responder system. It is working, fund it to keep working effectively. | No | 06/24/25 9:11 AM |
| 270 | Ken Steinbacher | Support | I've seen first-hand in my neighborhood the power of PSR as they arrived on the scene and helped someone who was ready to end his life. They not only intervened but they helped connect him to really useful resources. PSR collaborates with those they work with to enrich this community for everyone. And they are an example to all public safety and first responders that it isn't us against them, we are in this together. | No | 06/24/25 9:12 AM |
| 271 | Anonymous | Support | <p>This resolution is a necessary step needed to reinforce the original mission of Portland Street Response as an independent, unarmed, alternative to police that responds to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the City Council to provide legislative policy direction. This resolution is an opportunity for our newly elected leaders to commit their support to the future of PSR and re-establish community trust.</p> <p>Portland Street Response was developed by our community to serve our community. PSR should establish a community advisory group to fulfill the promises made to community.</p> <p>PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services.</p> <p>PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation</p> | No | 06/24/25 9:13 AM |
| 272 | Anonymous | Support | Please support the resolution to support and expand Portland Street Response. This is a vital service and a win-win solution to ensure public safety, respect human dignity, and direct police resources to true safety concerns. | No | 06/24/25 9:13 AM |
| 273 | Daniel morel | Support | I support PSR! They provide valuable services to the community, and moreover can free up police staff to respond to other more pressing calls. I was eating at a restaurant once and PSR arrived and a situation with a houseless person occurred outside, and PSR successfully de-escalated and resolved the situation. | No | 06/24/25 9:14 AM |
| 274 | Kalah McCaffrey | Support | Portland Street Response has been a bright spot through years of dysfunction and I so hope the city will continue funding it robustly. I was excited about the expansion to provide rides for folks who need transportation to a hospital or other services. I've called on PSR several times over the years and feel so confident that they will meet the moment with respect, sensitivity, and a productive mindset. Please provide adequate funding so this vital service can continue. | No | 06/24/25 9:15 AM |
| 275 | John Wolcott | Support | Portland Street Response is a flexible, yet focused solution to real problems facing Portlanders today. It is far more cost efficient than the 911 system, and more effective, at resolving the problems encountered by houseless humans in our city. This legislation ensures that it will be well supported by existing institutions, and will result in an improved quality of life for all the people of Portland. | No | 06/24/25 9:15 AM |

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| Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
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| Kerns Resident | Support | <p>I'm writing to voice my strong support for the resolution reinforcing the mission and independence of the Portland Street Response team.</p> <p>This resolution is not just timely — it's necessary. It reaffirms the original vision of Portland Street Response as an unarmed, non-police alternative that responds to the right 911 calls involving people experiencing mental health crises, addiction, or homelessness. That vision came directly from our community and was developed through years of advocacy and engagement. It must not be diluted or redirected.</p> <p>City Council has the responsibility to provide clear legislative policy direction — and this is one of those moments where your leadership truly matters. This resolution offers a crucial opportunity for our newly elected leaders to recommit to a proven model of public safety that prioritizes care over criminalization. We need you to stand up for PSR, and in doing so, help rebuild trust with the communities most impacted by systemic failures.</p> <p>Let's also be clear: Portland Street Response must remain separate from enforcement. It was never meant to participate in sweeps, enforce camping bans, or coerce people into services. Those actions run counter to the very principles of PSR and erode the trust it has built on our streets.</p> <p>Instead, let's move forward by strengthening PSR through accountability to the community it serves. Establishing a community advisory group would ensure transparency, uphold PSR's values, and keep it grounded in the lived experiences of those it aims to help.</p> <p>Finally, PSR workers need to be fully equipped to save lives and de-escalate crises. That means restoring their access to vital supplies like naloxone, food, warm clothing, and other resources that reflect best practices in trauma-informed care. Denying these tools undermines their ability to do the job we've asked of them.</p> <p>I urge you to pass this resolution, uphold the mission of Portland Street Response, and invest in real alternatives to policing that work.</p> | No | 06/24/25 9:16 AM |
| Katie Emery | Support | <p>This resolution is a crucial step toward reaffirming the original mission of Portland Street Response (PSR) as an independent, unarmed alternative to police, designed to respond appropriately to 911 calls involving individuals in crisis. It is the City Council's responsibility to provide clear legislative policy direction, and this resolution offers our newly elected leaders a meaningful opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to PSR's future and help rebuild community trust. Developed by and for the community, PSR must remain rooted in its founding principles, which include forming a community advisory group to ensure accountability and uphold the promises made to those it serves. PSR should not be involved in enforcement actions such as sweeps, camping bans, or coercive service engagement. To align with best practices in de-escalation, PSR workers must also have restored access to essential, life-saving supplies like naloxone, food, and clothing.</p> | No | 06/24/25 9:17 AM |
| Anonymous | Support | <p>PSR makes me feel secure about getting support to houseless members of our community. They deserve compassionate care.</p> | No | 06/24/25 9:20 AM |
| Kathryn M Midson | Support | <p>PSR can most aspects of life on the streets . Arriving without lethal weapons, they deescalate. They are trained in how to talk and act, avoiding a crisis. We have people on the streets, and they aren't necessarily criminals or evil. PSR knows they are human, and meets them on that level. Lastly, they free the police up to deal with real crime.</p> | No | 06/24/25 9:20 AM |
| Katherine Schwartz | Support | <p>The service provided by PSR is invaluable. It needs to reach more people and requires the appropriate resources.</p> | No | 06/24/25 9:20 AM |
| Peter Drummond | Support | | No | 06/24/25 9:21 AM |
| Molly Hogan | Support | <p>Please support the expansion of this essential first responder system!</p> | No | 06/24/25 9:21 AM |

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| Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|-------------------------|----------|---|------------|------------------|
| JEANA FRAZZINI | Support | <p>I strongly support Council Document 2025-175 to expand and protect Portland Street Response (PSR) as a co-equal, independent branch of our city's first responder system. PSR represents a peaceful, community-building alternative to policing—one rooted in care, not coercion.</p> <p>This resolution is a necessary step to reinforce PSR's original mission: an unarmed, community-led team that responds to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis. As residents of Portland, we asked for PSR because we saw the need. We must now protect it from being co-opted or diluted.</p> <p>It is the City Council's responsibility to provide strong policy direction. This resolution offers our newly elected leaders a chance to affirm their support for a proven, life-affirming solution and to rebuild community trust by returning PSR to its roots.</p> <p>PSR was developed *by* our community *for* our community. Establishing a community advisory group is essential to fulfill the commitments made to those who built and believed in this program. PSR must never be used for enforcement actions like sweeps, camping bans, or involuntary service engagement—such actions run counter to its mission and trauma-informed approach.</p> <p>Finally, PSR responders must have restored access to life-saving tools such as naloxone, food, and clothing. This is the minimum we owe to the people doing this compassionate, front-line work. These supplies are not optional; they are best practices in de-escalation and crisis intervention.</p> <p>Please pass this resolution and ensure PSR continues to reflect the values and needs of our city.</p> | No | 06/24/25 9:22 AM |
| Anonymous | Support | As a mental health professional working in our community, Portland Street Response is invaluable to keeping everyone safe and well. Expanding this service is essential. | No | 06/24/25 9:26 AM |
| Julien Van Wambeke-Long | Support | PSR was a nationally lauded initiative that should be a source of pride for PDX. Instead it has been hamstrung at every corner. Give PSR the budget it needs to bring its important services to Portlanders , allow it to at least try to flourish. Assign metrics, evaluate progress. Don't half implement and then act surprised when it doesn't work. As someone who lives in East PDX near the bottle drop, I see the people who need help every day. Either allow the PSR to exist as it was designed, or stop pretending to care about implementing real measurable solutions for people and just do it. | No | 06/24/25 9:26 AM |
| Anonymous | Support | I am an 83 year old citizen of SE Portland in the Reed neighborhood so I do not witness unhoused folks on our streets but I do know of their existence and I do want to live in a city whose government recognizes the problems of the unhoused and our citizens who need help to stabilize and does not treat them as criminals. I want to live in an inclusive community that treats all our citizens with dignity. I do not believe this is a "pie in the sky" attitude. I believe it is our more duty to care for our neighbors. | No | 06/24/25 9:27 AM |

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| Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
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| Cara Rozell, DO | Support | <p>Dear Council Members, I'm writing as a concerned Portland resident to urge you to support the upcoming resolution to reaffirm the original mission of Portland Street Response (PSR). This resolution is a vital step toward preserving PSR as an independent, unarmed alternative to police, designed to respond to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis.</p> <p>It is the City Council's responsibility to set strong legislative policy direction. This resolution gives our newly elected leaders a clear opportunity to show their support for PSR and take meaningful action to rebuild community trust.</p> <p>PSR was created by our community to serve our community. I believe it's essential that PSR form a community advisory group to ensure transparency and keep the program aligned with its original purpose.</p> <p>I also want to express strong concern about any involvement of PSR in enforcement-related activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forcing people into services. These are fundamentally at odds with PSR's mission and could damage its effectiveness.</p> <p>Finally, I urge you to ensure that PSR responders regain access to critical life-saving supplies, including naloxone, food, clothing, and other essential resources that support de-escalation and compassionate care.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this issue, and for your commitment to the safety and well-being of all Portlanders.</p> <p>Sincerely, Cara Rozell, DO Buckman Neighborhood, 97214</p> | No | 06/24/25 9:28 AM |
| Barbara Walden | Support | <p>Full status for PSR is greatly needed. It needs to be coequal to the rest of the first responder system. I live near NE 122d and Halsey and I see the good they do every day. .Because they are unarmed and sensitive to troubled people they are able to assist and defuse and create trust. I have seen this personally,as I was nearby on Halsey when a person seemed to have a mental health crisis and was assisted with kindness and humanity and needed food by PSR. They do this every day. They are important to my neighborhood's wellbeing. Not only unhoused people but people living in houses and apartments benefit from their work. They make my neighborhood, and Portland, better. Give then the coequal status they need to carry out their important work.</p> | No | 06/24/25 9:31 AM |
| Diana H. | Support | PSR is vital. Please fund and expand. | No | 06/24/25 9:31 AM |
| Chris Chaplin | Support | Please continue funding and expanding this program, so that it can function the way it was initially designed to. | No | 06/24/25 9:31 AM |
| Lisa Jamieson | Support | I am writing in support of expansion of Portland Street Response. It is a great program, benefits the community greatly in many ways. PSR frees up law enforcement to do law enforcement, fire fighters to fight fires, and gives folks who are not endangering anyone except themselves, appropriate assistance and referrals. It is a good use of resources. Thank you. | No | 06/24/25 9:31 AM |

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| Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
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| Cristin Hinesley, owner of Flutter | Support | <p>I am writing to express my strongest support for the resolution to support and expand Portland Street Response. I own a small business on Mississippi Avenue and I have been so grateful for the help they have been able to provide. This resolution is a necessary step needed to reinforce the original mission of Portland Street Response as an independent, unarmed, alternative to police that responds to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the City Council to provide legislative policy direction. This resolution is an opportunity for our newly elected leaders to commit their support to the future of PSR and re-establish community trust. Portland Street Response was developed by our community to serve our community. PSR should establish a community advisory group to fulfill the promises made to community.</p> <p>PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services.</p> <p>PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation.</p> <p>This resolution, coupled with City Council fully funding PSR, is about returning a program that was once considered a national model back to a point of pride for Portland.</p> <p>This Council can make that their legacy if they support this resolution and follow through with the promised 24/7 expansion of Portland Street Response. We are grateful that after years of neglect, we have a Mayor and majority of City Council who vocally support Portland Street Response. Mayor Wilson has also made positive policy changes and proposed a budget that added 14 positions to PSR.</p> <p>Now – passing this resolution and fully funding the 24/7 expansion of Portland Street Response should be an easy decision that will modernize public safety, streamline effectiveness, free up additional first responders, and save taxpayer dollars.</p> <p>Every business owner and neighborhood resident I speak to agrees that PSR is a valuable resource that makes a huge difference to the safety and livability of our city. Please do the right thing and move forward with a fully funded and expanded PSR.</p> | No | 06/24/25 9:32 AM |
| Bill Cunninghame | Support | I volunteer for an organization that offers showers to houseless individuals (Shower Project at First Unitarian Church). I've heard many stories where police responded to a houseless call for help, when PSR would have been the better response. I strongly support PSR and am requesting the City Council reinforce its commitment to this vitally important program, and, fully fund it so it can operate 24/7 at least throughout downtown if not the entire city. | No | 06/24/25 9:32 AM |
| Kim Thomas | Support | Please fully support Portland Street Response. It's THE most critical public safety service for our city. Invest fully in this rational effective and preventative response service, and make it an independent body. | No | 06/24/25 9:34 AM |
| Jeff Zucker | Support | As a longtime Portland resident I feel that Portland Street Response is a much needed program and believe it should be expanded. It should be a co-equal branch because they can address many community problems that do not call for force. | No | 06/24/25 9:34 AM |
| Philip Bowser | Support | I've seen PSR help disoriented people settle down without anybody getting hurt. It's obviously a superior response to sending armed police who do not have sufficient training for these types of situations. So long is not enough affordable housing, mental health problems, and available street drugs, we will need PSR. | No | 06/24/25 9:36 AM |
| Anonymous | Support | We need common-sense ways of dealing with people in need in this city. Using basically untrained armed police for everything is nonsensical. We can't let the police union and their supporters dictate how we deal with our neighbors in crisis. | No | 06/24/25 9:37 AM |

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| Cynthia Palermo | Support | <p>Dear Mayor Wilson and City Council Members,</p> <p>I'm writing as a concerned and hopeful Portlander who believes deeply in the mission and impact of Portland Street Response. PSR has shown that there's a better way to respond to people in crisis—one that centers compassion, care, and real connection.</p> <p>As you consider decisions about the future of our city's safety systems, I urge you to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Fully staff and fund PSR so it can operate citywide, 24/7. •Establish PSR as a co-equal part of our community safety system alongside police, fire, and EMS. •Restore access to life-saving supplies like naloxone, food, and clothing—tools that help with de-escalation and dignity. •Explore ways to expand the types of calls PSR responds to as staffing and funding grow. •Keep PSR completely separate from enforcement activities like sweeps, camping bans, or forced service engagement. •Establish a community advisory group to ensure transparency and community input. <p>PSR is working. It makes our community safer, stronger, and more humane. Please keep supporting and expanding this critical service.</p> <p>Thank you, Cynthia Palermo Hayden Island</p> | No | 06/24/25 9:37 AM |
| Tiffany Spahn | Support | <p>This resolution is a necessary step needed to reinforce the original mission of Portland Street Response as an independent, unarmed, alternative to police that responds to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis. PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services.</p> <p>PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation.</p> <p>Passing this resolution and fully funding the 24/7 expansion of Portland Street Response should be an easy decision that will modernize public safety, streamline effectiveness, free up additional first responders, and save taxpayer dollars.</p> | No | 06/24/25 9:40 AM |
| Jane Ancel | Support | <p>As a Portland citizen, it is critical to my safety and that of my community to support PDX Street Response at the highest level.</p> <p>One of the main reasons for this is that it takes pressure off Police & Fire so that they can focus on their critical work.</p> <p>This resolution is a necessary step needed to reinforce the original mission of Portland Street Response as an independent, unarmed, alternative to police that responds to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the City Council to provide legislative policy direction. This resolution is an opportunity for our newly elected leaders to commit their support to the future of PSR and re-establish community trust.</p> <p>Portland Street Response was developed by our community to serve our community. PSR should establish a community advisory group to fulfill the promises made to community.</p> <p>PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services.</p> <p>PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> | No | 06/24/25 9:41 AM |
| Anonymous | Support | | No | 06/24/25 9:43 AM |
| C A Raphael | Support | | No | 06/24/25 9:44 AM |

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| 303 | Carole Most | Support | This resolution is a necessary step to reinforce the original mission of Portland Street Response as an independent, unarmed, alternative to police that responds to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis. We need PSR! | No | 06/24/25 9:45 AM |
| 304 | Anna Belew | Support | Street Response is a much-needed component of our city's public safety and wellness. Its continuation and expansion is one of the best things we can do to keep our neighborhoods safe and healthy. I wholeheartedly support PSR and strongly urge you to continue and expand its funding. | No | 06/24/25 9:50 AM |
| 305 | Jess Smith [Former PSR Crisis Responder] | Support | I'm submitting this testimony to express my strong support for the proposed resolution to expand and deepen the role of Portland Street Response in our city. As a mental health therapist and former PSR crisis responder, I've witnessed how this team meets moments of crisis with a sense of care, belonging, and human dignity that too often goes missing from traditional approaches. This resolution is both an investment and a statement about who we are as a city and how we want to show up for one another when it matters most. By elevating Portland Street Response to stand alongside other branches of public safety, we recognize that moments of crisis deserve more than enforcement or containment. They deserve responses rooted in trust, understanding, compassion, and belonging. Expanding and resourcing PSR acknowledges that crisis is a human experience that calls for honoring the dignity of every resident of the city. It also reflects a commitment to using city resources wisely and effectively, ensuring that people in crisis are met by those best trained to help, while allowing other first responders to focus where their expertise is most needed. Enriching PSR benefits both the individuals who call for help and their most vulnerable community members. This proposal is a chance for Portland to live up to its best aspirations, and to build a public safety system rooted in care, accountability, and respect for every person, regardless of circumstance. | No | 06/24/25 9:50 AM |
| 306 | JANICE LYNN MILLS | Support | <p>This resolution is common sense action. We need a level of response that is not the police. The police need to be free to respond to crises in the city.</p> <p>This resolution is a necessary step needed to reinforce the original mission of Portland Street Response as an independent, unarmed, alternative to police that responds to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the City Council to provide legislative policy direction. This resolution is an opportunity for our newly elected leaders to commit their support to the future of PSR and re-establish community trust.</p> <p>Portland Street Response was developed by our community to serve our community. PSR should establish a community advisory group to fulfill the promises made to community.</p> <p>PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services.</p> <p>PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation.</p> | No | 06/24/25 9:51 AM |
| 307 | John T. Stevenson | Support | | No | 06/24/25 9:51 AM |
| 308 | Jackson | Support | PLEASE KEEP PSR! The people need services like this that help keep police away from situations they would inflame as well as help vulnerable people get the help they need! | No | 06/24/25 9:52 AM |
| 309 | Paul Cienfuegos | Support | I strongly support full funding for Portland Street Response (PSR). Prior Councils have tragically not given it the funding and support and trust that it needs and deserves to do its job well. We desperately need alternatives to police in certain high anxiety situations in our city. And I urge you to allow PSR workers to have their access restored to naloxone, food and clothing, in line with best practices of de-escalation. Thank you!! | No | 06/24/25 9:54 AM |
| 310 | Anonymous | Support | Essential services. Do not defund | No | 06/24/25 9:55 AM |
| 311 | Lynn Ferber | Support | We NEED Portland Street Response. Desperately. The original mission of Portland Street Response was as an independent, unarmed alternative to police that responds to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis. The need is still here. | No | 06/24/25 9:59 AM |
| 312 | Anonymous | Support | The Portland Street Response is an essential service that makes everyone in our city safer. They need funds and support to continue their work. Please keep PSR alive and able to do their essential work! | No | 06/24/25 10:01 AM |

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
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| 313 | Ero Gray | Support | I've often felt a need for PSR in my community -- there are so many urgent needs in our city that need a non-punitive response. I've personally called PSR once and it is such a relief to know that it exists. The stronger PSR is, the safer and healthier Portland will be. | No | 06/24/25 10:05 AM |
| 314 | Thomas H Fuller | Support | I have been following PSR since its inception and I always thought it was a good idea. We need to move away from old models of policing and towards more humane, targeted and compassionate responses towards people in need in our community. Please pass resolution 2025-175 to strength PSR and give it the resources it needs to continue the excellent job it has already been doing to support our community. | No | 06/24/25 10:08 AM |
| 315 | LeAnn Waggoner | Support | Community is important. Portland Street Response was developed by our community to serve our community. PSR should establish a community advisory group to fulfill the promises made to Portland. This resolution is a necessary step needed to reinforce the original mission of Portland Street Response as an independent, unarmed, alternative to police that responds to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis. As a mental health provider in this community I encourage city council to support this resolution as a necessary step needed to reinforce the original mission of Portland Street Response as an independent, unarmed, alternative to police that responds to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis. | No | 06/24/25 10:11 AM |
| 316 | Theresa Brown | Support | The few times I have been able to reach a dispatcher to request a Portland Street Response, I have been relieved to know that PPR was on its way. I believe that PPR not only provides an important service, but helps relieve police and ambulance of dealing with crises which they are not always trained to respond to. My only frustration with PPR has been their unavailability due to underfunding. Thank you passing a budget to support them better. Please also pass this resolution to help steer its path. | No | 06/24/25 10:12 AM |
| 317 | Anonymous | Support | PSR provides a valuable service. We know that have a super track record for effective interventions. The skill set is different from Portland Police, and have PRS enables the police to respond to criminal activities. | No | 06/24/25 10:13 AM |
| 318 | Alex Ulrich | Support | | No | 06/24/25 10:15 AM |
| 319 | Portland Animal Welfare Team | Support | Please continue to fund and expand Portland Street Response! This is a service that is invaluable to our community. I work at Portland Animal Welfare Team and get to see, first hand, how Portland Street Response positively affects our community. We need more compassion driven crisis intervention and less police action in our city. | No | 06/24/25 10:17 AM |
| 320 | Anonymous | Support with changes | I've reached out the the street response team when there have been folks in crisis or in need of support and it has been met with a fairly timely and responsive. I've seen a change in the community and it seems folks are getting more help than they once were. That being said, resources and support still needs to increase and continuing this service is so needed because in doing so all members of community benefit. | No | 06/24/25 10:19 AM |
| 321 | Jamie Halvorson | | PSR is the best thing to happen in this city in the last 15 years. Expand it, make it permanent. It's the only program that increases the odds of transitioning shelter resistant people into housing. | No | 06/24/25 10:20 AM |
| 322 | Nan Bobernac | Support | Pls fully fund PSR as it is a necessary service in our city. Thank you! Nan | No | 06/24/25 10:24 AM |
| 323 | Lise B Glancy | Support | Portland Street Response has been a godsend for our community. I have personally witnessed intervention in my neighborhood that kept houseless and homeowners safe. I have heard countless stories from others. Kindness, compassion, intervention and safety for all. Keep funding for this program!! | No | 06/24/25 10:26 AM |
| 324 | Anonymous | | Hello, As a Portlander who wishes we lived in a less carceral, less armed community, I wholeheartedly support giving ALL THE THINGS to Portland Street Response. The way we have been doing things for far too long - putting all public behavioral health in Portland Police's basket - is not helping us be a better society. We know how to do better than that, so please support this! | No | 06/24/25 10:26 AM |
| 325 | Ellen Wilde | Support | Expand support for Portland Street Response! They are every bit as valuable as the rest of the first responder system. | No | 06/24/25 10:29 AM |
| 326 | Anonymous | Support | Hello, I live in 97215. I am in full-hearted support of PSR, and have been since I saw the movement grow out of Eugene's example. Not only do I support the work of PSR, I support the expanded growth and funding. What our community needs is to focus on community-based systems of support to further facilitate the culture shift to mutual aid. PSR builds trust in a care-based system, which ultimately encourages people to seek assistance instead of avoid it (for fear of physical and/or emotional harm). PSR makes our community stronger. In a time when our federal government is actively working to tear communities apart, Portland needs to lead the way by actively pursuing care for all community members. Thank you. | No | 06/24/25 10:32 AM |

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| 327 | Mark Remy | Support | Portland Street Response is one of the best things ever to happen in Portland. I have seen firsthand the compassion and professionalism of its staff, and the impact they have on our city. These guys deserve as much support as they can possibly get. | No | 06/24/25 10:40 AM |
| 328 | Hyung Nam, Portland Metro People's Coalition | Support | We need to expand PSR because we can't police our way out of this crisis that only exacerbates problems individually and systemically. This will modernize public safety, streamline effectiveness, free up additional first responders, and save taxpayer dollars. Thank you, Hyung Nam Bluesky icon Instagram icon Facebook icon Twitter icon This resolution is a necessary step needed to reinforce the original mission of Portland Street Response as an independent, unarmed, alternative to police that responds to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis. It is the responsibility of the City Council to provide legislative policy direction. This resolution is an opportunity for our newly elected leaders to commit their support to the future of PSR and re-establish community trust. Portland Street Response was developed by our community to serve our community. PSR should establish a community advisory group to fulfill the promises made to community. PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services. PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation. After robust community support, a successful pilot, citywide expansion, and a unanimous vote to expand Portland Street Response to 24/7 coverage in 2021, the future of PSR was looking bright. | No | 06/24/25 10:55 AM |
| 329 | Gianna Simon | Support | Now more than ever it's time to build Oregonians up, not succumb to the hateful messages of the federal government. We must show up and support each other. We must not fall to fascism. Portland Street Response is vital in the effort to uplift ourselves. | No | 06/24/25 10:55 AM |
| 330 | Maureen NSh | Support | PSR is essential to support those with serious mental illness and behavioral problems related to drug use. We have had too many police incidents injuring or killing those with mental illness symptoms. Not good for police and tragic for those with mental illness and their families/friends. It will take decades to rebuild a functioning mental health system and it is unlikely to occur. PSR is vital!!! | No | 06/24/25 11:10 AM |
| 331 | Sally Mueller | Support | I am writing in support of Portland Street Response. As an outreach worker who spends many hours on the streets with our community members who are unhoused and witnessing mental health emergencies, I know that PSR is a valuable and extremely necessary service to continue funding. I support more funding so that they can continue to improve the invaluable work that they do. | No | 06/24/25 11:11 AM |
| 332 | Marco Ortiz | Support | This resolution is a necessary step needed to reinforce the original mission of Portland Street Response as an independent, unarmed, alternative to police that responds to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis. This resolution is an opportunity for our newly elected City Council leaders to commit their support to the future of PSR and re-establish community trust. PSR was developed by our community to serve our community and should establish a community advisory group to fulfill the promises made to community. PSR should not be there to help with the cruel and depraved actions known as sweeps, or camping bans, or forced engagements that harm. PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation. Thank you, Marco Ortiz, proud supporter of PSR and foe to the violent arm of the state. | No | 06/24/25 11:12 AM |
| 333 | Bobbee Murr | Support | I walk a lot, and each time I've seen PSR in the city center, I've been relieved and grateful that PSR staff are on duty and helping others. Asking city government to fully fund PSR and do anything else to support this needed and effective program. | No | 06/24/25 11:13 AM |
| 334 | Elizabeth Martin | Support | | No | 06/24/25 11:17 AM |

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| 335 | A Portland mother and public school teacher. | Support | If all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail. Portland needs multiple tools in its metaphorical belt to help our residents when they are in crisis. Portland Street Response is a cost effective and humane program to provide first responders to our Portland community. It's common sense. | No | 06/24/25 11:17 AM |
| 336 | Chris Smith | Support | PSR should be expanded to 7/24! | No | 06/24/25 11:21 AM |
| 337 | Kristina Donnelly | Support | This resolution is a necessary step needed to reinforce the original mission of Portland Street Response as an independent, unarmed, alternative to police that responds to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis. It is the responsibility of the City Council to provide legislative policy direction, and this resolution is an opportunity for our newly elected leaders to commit their support to the future of PSR and re-establish community trust. Portland Street Response was developed by our community to serve our community, and PSR should establish a community advisory group to fulfill the promises made to community. PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services. PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation. | No | 06/24/25 11:33 AM |
| 338 | Becca Reyes-Geislinger | Support | Portland Street Response is saving lives -- and saving money. Intervening and deescalating situations before they grow reduces the burden on our police force and emergency rooms. By not being involved in enforcement activities, PSR is able to build relationships with community members least likely to engage with first responders. PSR serves the most vulnerable Portlanders and does terrific work that benefits everyone in the city. Please fund PSR fully. Please make PSR a co-equal branch of the first responder system. | No | 06/24/25 11:36 AM |
| 339 | Katharine Salzmann | Support | I fully support Portland Street Response. They should have permanent generous reliable funding; the services they provide are invaluable and we should show that we value their work. I believe in expanding their territory and their budget. | No | 06/24/25 11:36 AM |
| 340 | Gareth Page | Support | <p>I support the proper funding and continued expansion of Portland Street Response. I have worked in Mental Health my entire career spanning over the last 35 years. I have lived in Portland since 1999. Before Portland Street Response was initially rolled out, I saw many instances where people who were homeless or suffering from mental illness were criminalized in situations that could have been diffused or handled much more appropriately with trained first responders.</p> <p>I have also witnessed homeless persons on our street who have received harassment from neighbors and the resultant arrival of Portland Street Response proved to be essential in supporting all persons in a dignified manner without any further problematic outcomes. Mental illness and homelessness will be of significant public concern for years to come and appropriate solutions must be funded.</p> <p>It is essential that we do not criminalize mental illness and place burdens on our mental health system that is already overwhelmed from admissions to jails and Oregon State Hospital that could have been otherwise diverted with appropriate first response intervention. The cost and burden placed on taxpayers to support both the Mental Health and judicial system in our State will continue to be substantially larger than any investment that we are looking to fund Portland Street Response and similar support services.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.</p> | No | 06/24/25 11:51 AM |
| 341 | Anonymous | Support | PSR is one of our most important city services. They should be given what they need to succeed. | No | 06/24/25 11:54 AM |

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| 342 | Stefanie Nagorka | Support | Portland Street Response is saving lives -- and saving money. Please fund PSR fully. Intervening and deescalating situations before they grow reduces the burden on our police force and emergency rooms. By not being involved in enforcement activities, PSR is able to build relationships with community members least likely to engage with first responders. PSR serves the most vulnerable Portlanders and does terrific work that benefits everyone in the city. Please make PSR a co-equal branch of the first responder system. This resolution is a necessary step needed to reinforce the original mission of Portland Street Response as an independent, unarmed, alternative to police that responds to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis. It is the responsibility of the City Council to provide legislative policy direction, and this resolution is an opportunity for our newly elected leaders to commit their support to the future of PSR and re-establish community trust. Portland Street Response was developed by our community to serve our community, and PSR should establish a community advisory group to fulfill the promises made to community. PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services. PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation. | No | 06/24/25 11:55 AM |
| 343 | Lloyd Vivola | Support | Anyone like myself who uses public transit and travels Portland's streets on foot knows that Portland Street Response is a much needed human service that will increase the quality of life for all Portlanders. To do its work effectively and holistically, research has demonstrated that PSR requires the mandate and funding to operate as a co-equal branch of our Public Safety System, and to do so as a 24/7 citywide service with independent oversight by the likes of PSR Committee or Advisory Board. Only then can persons-in-need, communities, and neighborhoods have full confidence to access and rely on PSR services and personnel. Expanding and clarifying the role of PSR should also increase the confidence and trust that Portlanders have in our police and fire-fighters who will be relieved of responding to circumstances and events for which they are not best suited. Please support Council Document 2025-175. PSR is popular with Portlanders and doing the program justice is long overdue. | No | 06/24/25 11:56 AM |
| 344 | Ashley Schofield | Support | <p>Thank you so much for putting this vote on the docket. I am writing enthusiastically to support the proposal to support and expand Portland Street Response as a co-equal branch of the first responder system and establish the Portland Street Response Committee.</p> <p>As a former member/co-chair of the Portland Committee on Community Engaged Policing (PCCEP) I had the honor and first row seat to learn how important the PSR program is to our city's public safety system. I even heard police officers exclaim support for the program as it helps them do their job better.</p> <p>There is no better time than now to expand PSR as part of our dialed in first response system that will help keep our communities safe.</p> <p>Thank you in advance for your support and vote for this important matter.</p> <p>Ashley Schofield 4821 SW Seymour Court, 97221</p> | No | 06/24/25 11:56 AM |
| 345 | Jeffrey R Sens | Support | This is the most successful local govt program we've had in a decade. It would be an immoral stance to reject the success in favor of the status quo. We homeowners complain about homeless neighbors and people in mental health crisis. You don't succeed with cops and more policing. This is the same as paramedics and fire fighters. Support it. | No | 06/24/25 11:57 AM |

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
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| 346 | Kelly Janes | Support | <p>I voted based on candidates support for PSR. After years of neglect, Portland Street Response is still operating with a budget that is less than what PSR had been allocated in 2021, when City Council unanimously voted to expand Portland Street Response 24/7.</p> <p>This resolution is a necessary step to reinforce the original mission of Portland Street Response as an independent, unarmed, alternative to police that responds to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis. It is the responsibility of the City Council to provide legislative policy direction. This resolution is an opportunity for our newly elected leaders to commit their support to the future of PSR and re-establish community trust. Portland Street Response was developed by our community to serve our community. PSR should establish a community advisory group to fulfill the promises made to community. PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services. PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation.</p> | No | 06/24/25 12:09 PM |
| 347 | Jesse Weeg | Support | <p>I am in support of expanding the Portland Street Response. We have seen countless examples of how police are not equipped to safely handle mental health crises. We need trained staff that specialize in working with people who are experiencing crisis. Portland Street Response has been successful in its pilot program and has shown how it can be a positive tool for our community. We need PSR to expand so it can continue serving our community.</p> <p>Not only will expanding Portland Street Response help to safely bring aid to those experiencing mental health crises, but it will lighten the load of police who are telling us they are overburdened. It doesn't make sense to put additional training and workload on an already stretched department.</p> <p>Portland Street Response will make our community safer and actually provide what people in crisis need.</p> | No | 06/24/25 12:12 PM |
| 348 | Meghan Formel | Support | <p>After years of neglect, Portland Street Response is still operating with a budget that is less than what PSR had been allocated in 2021, when City Council unanimously voted to expand Portland Street Response 24/7. This resolution is a necessary step to reinforce the original mission of Portland Street Response as an independent, unarmed, alternative to police that responds to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis. This resolution would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish PSR as a Co-Equal Branch of our Public Safety System; Commit to Expanding PSR to 24/7, citywide service; Provide the supplies required to be most effective; Expand Call Types that PSR can respond to; Ensure PSR is not used in sweeps and other enforcement activities; Establish a PSR Community Advisory Committee; and Re-establish an independent program evaluation for PSR. <p>I urge you in the strongest possible terms to pass the resolution for our city.</p> | No | 06/24/25 12:12 PM |
| 349 | Anonymous | Support | <p>PSR is a critical resource for our community and this resolution is a necessary step to reinforce Portland Street Response's mission as an independent, unarmed, alternative to police. This resolution is an opportunity for our newly elected city leaders to commit their support to the future of PSR and re-establish community trust.</p> <p>In order to fulfill this mission, PSR should be established as a co-equal branch of our Public Safety System, focused on responding to 911 calls involving people in crisis. Additionally, PSR needs access to life saving supplies like naloxone, food, clothing, and de-escalation best practices.</p> | No | 06/24/25 12:14 PM |
| 350 | Christa McDermott | Support | <p>We need PSR citywide and with a budget that adequately supports the necessary work they do to do the social work that police cannot and should not do.</p> | No | 06/24/25 12:27 PM |

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
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| 351 | Do Good Multnomah | Support | <p>My name is Matthew Harvey, and I have been a peer support specialist and case manager at Do Good Multnomah, a shelter organization in the Portland metro area, for the last four years.</p> <p>Having worked at shelters during that time - Portland Street Response is VITAL to the health and the well-being of our street society. Having traumatically-trained first-responders to help out on the streets (and not police, who actively cause trauma) is literally the most helpful thing right now that the City of Portland could do.</p> <p>Fund Portland Street Response. Fund it more than its original levels.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> | No | 06/24/25 12:40 PM |
| 352 | Reed Coleman | Support | <p>Portland Street Response has been the welcome and necessary option my neighbors and neighborhood need. I have called 911 to request PSR several times when there were people in our neighborhood who were in need to help given their current mental or physical state. Each time it gave us reassurance that these people would be treated with dignity AND that they would be given the help they needed, instead of being hauled off to jail or cited.</p> <p>Furthermore: This resolution is a necessary step needed to reinforce the original mission of Portland Street Response as an independent, unarmed, alternative to police that responds to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the City Council to provide legislative policy direction. This resolution is an opportunity for our newly elected leaders to commit their support to the future of PSR and re-establish community trust.</p> <p>Portland Street Response was developed by our community to serve our community. PSR should establish a community advisory group to fulfill the promises made to community.</p> <p>PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services.</p> <p>PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation.</p> | No | 06/24/25 12:42 PM |
| 353 | Steven Fleischman | Support | <p>This resolution is needed to reinforce the original mission of Portland Street Response (PSR) to serve as an independent, unarmed, alternative to traditional policing that responds to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis. In addition, in order to preserve its mission, PSR should not be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services. Finally, the Council should establish a PSR community advisory group to fulfill the promise of providing a safe, effective, appropriate, and needed alternative to traditional police enforcement. These actions not only meet the needs of those who benefit from PSR intervention but also helps to focus police on other needed public safety issues, such as arresting drug dealers, reducing street racing, and protecting private property.</p> | No | 06/24/25 12:48 PM |
| 354 | Anonymous | Support | <p>PSR is a critical and crucial resource for Portlanders to ensure livability for all and uphold humanity of those in crisis. This resolution is a necessary step needed to reinforce the original mission of Portland Street Response as an independent, unarmed, alternative to police that responds to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis. It is the responsibility of the City Council to provide legislative policy direction. This resolution is an opportunity for our newly elected leaders to commit their support to the future of PSR and re-establish community trust.</p> <p>Portland Street Response was developed by our community to serve our community. PSR should establish a community advisory group to fulfill the promises made to community.</p> <p>PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services.</p> <p>PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation.</p> | No | 06/24/25 12:57 PM |
| 355 | Phil Goldsmith | Support | | No | 06/24/25 1:00 PM |

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
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| 356 | Life Skills Resource | Support | I write as a provider for many residents of Portland living with serious mental illnesses. PSR is an evidence-based program with early success. It is critical to prevent the need for higher levels of care, de-escalate crises, connect people with needed services, and prevent tragic encounters between police and those with behavioral health problems. It is a great investment! | No | 06/24/25 1:01 PM |
| 357 | John Hall | Support | Please help PSR in their mission. It's so critical, now more than ever. I beseech you: do the right thing. | No | 06/24/25 1:03 PM |
| 358 | Kristina N | Support | PSR is an essential part of our community. | No | 06/24/25 1:04 PM |
| 359 | Leslie Worthington | Support | Police are already overburdened and are not trained to handle the types of calls that PSR responders can. It is better for everyone in the city to fully fund and establish PSR. Take the strain off PPB, greet citizens of Portland with with empathy, improve the lives of everyone. | No | 06/24/25 1:05 PM |
| 360 | Carissa Albin | Support | | No | 06/24/25 1:06 PM |
| 361 | Linda Jay Stewart, elder, | Support | Please s add support this thoughtful and effective city service that benefits us all. Thank you! | No | 06/24/25 1:08 PM |
| 362 | Anonymous | Support | This resolution is a necessary step needed to reinforce the original mission of Portland Street Response as an independent, unarmed, alternative to police that responds to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis. | No | 06/24/25 1:13 PM |
| 363 | Anonymous | Support | <p>Dear Esteemed Members of the Portland City Council,</p> <p>I write in full-throated support of the proposed bolstering and expansion of Portland Street Response as a co-equal branch of the first responder system. In addition, establishing the Portland Street Response Committee is a wise way to make sure the program continues to flourish at the highest level.</p> <p>I view this resolution as a thoughtful reinforcement of Portland Street Response's original mission as an independent, unarmed, alternative to police that responds to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis. As a longtime volunteer with Portland's unhoused population, I have seen this program work effectively, bringing compassion and even panache to the streets of our city. Creating a community advisory group will help advance the program's ideals as we move into uncertain political times.</p> <p>I would like to add that, in my informed opinion, Portland Street Response should never be folded into law enforcement activities like sweeps or enforced camping bans. Also, let's help the program fly by supplying workers with life-saving supplies such as naloxone, food, and clothing. These supplies assist massively with de-escalation endeavors. I've seen this with my own two eyes and done my fair share of "coffee diplomacy" over the years.</p> <p>This resolution is a chance to harness the positive spirit of Portland as a forward-thinking city that cares about all its residents. Let's become a national leader in public safety by expanding this vital, evidence-driven program so that all Portland residents can thrive.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and for all your hard work,</p> <p>Jules Boykoff Professor and Department Chair Pacific University, Department of Political Science</p> | No | 06/24/25 1:18 PM |
| 364 | Jeremy Salmon | Support | As a long-time Portland resident, I support the PSR program and call for full funding and establishment. It saves money and it saves lives. | No | 06/24/25 1:34 PM |
| 365 | Nina | Support | I am shocked that anyone would want to cut this program. We are failing huge, huge swaths of people if we cut this program. It is unconscionable that wealth and access to support are being funnelled to those who already have far, far too much. | No | 06/24/25 1:37 PM |
| 366 | Jory Aronson | Support | My adopted son, (got him at age 9; he's now 42), served in the army for 5 years, including 16 months in the Iraqi War. He came home with serious mental illness and PTSD. I am constantly worried he'll become psychotic again and be shot. PLEASE expand Portland Street Response!!! | No | 06/24/25 1:41 PM |

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
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| 367 | Tina Morgan | Support | <p>As a community member, I strongly support Portland Street Response as a humane alternative to police engagement. I believe PSR makes our communities safer for everyone, including those in our community who are in crisis. I am eager to see what a properly funded, independent entity could achieve, and I wholeheartedly support the actions described by PSR:</p> <p>This resolution is a necessary step needed to reinforce the original mission of Portland Street Response as an independent, unarmed, alternative to police that responds to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the City Council to provide legislative policy direction. This resolution is an opportunity for our newly elected leaders to commit their support to the future of PSR and re-establish community trust.</p> <p>Portland Street Response was developed by our community to serve our community. PSR should establish a community advisory group to fulfill the promises made to community.</p> <p>PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services.</p> <p>PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation.</p> <p>Best,</p> <p>Tina Morgan</p> | No | 06/24/25 1:44 PM |
| 368 | Anonymous | Support | <p>I'm a homeowner in Hazelwood and I feel less safe with more police patrolling our streets, I do feel safe with PSR here.</p> <p>Living in a neighborhood where police have killed or injured neighbors, I would prefer that nonlethal, deescalation services be sent out first before irresponsible police with guns, escalation tactics and extrajudicial-execution-style responses. Please keep people alive, support PSR, and help the folks living on the streets instead of punishing them!</p> | No | 06/24/25 1:45 PM |
| 369 | Donovan Scribes | Support | <p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>My name is Donovan Scribes - I am a writer, communications consultant and own a home in District 1.</p> <p>Portland Street Response is vital to our city's public safety system. It's critical that we pour into these services, as our city experiences record housing instability, homelessness, and an addiction-continuum of services that has only recently began to find some firm footing due to Measure 110 funding. PSR is vital to ensuring that public safety calls are directed to the right people at the right time, who have the training, knowledge and community connections to make sure everyone remains safe. Let's strengthen PSR, keep them out of already costly and deadly sweeps, and continue to show the country what strong community can look like when it has the right resources and vision.</p> | No | 06/24/25 1:48 PM |
| 370 | Jeffrey Mills | Support | <p>I strongly support PSR and consider it to be a critical service in providing for the public safety in Portland. PSR should be considered a co-equal partner in public safety along with PPB and other services. In order to preserve and enhance the respect it has for the community it services it's important that it not be involved in camp sweeps and the like. I urge the council to fund PSR for success.</p> | No | 06/24/25 1:49 PM |
| 371 | Anonymous | Support | <p>I wholeheartedly support the resolution, which will finally allow PSR to become the co-equal branch of our first-responder system that it has always been intended to become. PSR is already doing life-changing work: once properly established and resources, I know it will do so much more. Thank you for your time.</p> | No | 06/24/25 1:55 PM |
| 372 | Dave Gray | Oppose | <p>I don't see what we get from this proposal that we don't already have, except another bureaucracy. PSR is great but there's no reason to stand it up as a separate branch. It's a cost and bloat to the bureaucracy that we don't need.</p> | No | 06/24/25 1:58 PM |
| 373 | Kate Thompson | Support | <p>I have called PSR several times when I saw people on the street who were in trouble. PSR responded with skill and compassion. The service they offer is an important part of our city's safety net.</p> | No | 06/24/25 2:00 PM |

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
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| 374 | Kimberly Williams | Support | I fully support a citywide Portland Street Response operating 24/7. I would be more willing to call emergency response for individuals in mental crisis if I knew an unarmed, trained team were going to respond. Last year, there was an individual sleeping on neighborhood porches including my own. I and others expressed concern about calling for help for fear of causing the individual more harm. | No | 06/24/25 2:00 PM |
| 375 | Reese Giberson | | Portland Street response is a vital resource for unhoused folks and should be funded to allow greater functionality to the team. Please vote to expand and refund the portland street response to allow a non-police response to mental health crisis. | No | 06/24/25 2:01 PM |
| 376 | Audrey moss | Support | | No | 06/24/25 2:05 PM |
| 377 | Chehalis Kincaid | Support | <p>I am writing in strong support of the proposal to make Portland Street Response (PSR) a co-equal branch of the first responder system and to establish the Portland Street Response Committee. This is a critical step toward creating a more responsive, compassionate, and effective public safety system in our city.</p> <p>For too long, we have relied almost exclusively on police to address a wide range of public safety concerns—many of which do not require a law enforcement response. Mental health crises, substance use issues, and non-violent emergencies are best addressed by trained professionals who are equipped to de-escalate, provide support, and connect people to services. PSR has already proven its value in these areas, reducing police call loads, improving outcomes for vulnerable individuals, and building trust in communities that have often felt marginalized by traditional systems.</p> <p>Elevating PSR as a co-equal branch of our first responder system sends a clear message: public safety is about more than policing. It is about care, prevention, and the right response at the right time. Establishing a dedicated committee will ensure continued accountability, transparency, and investment in the long-term success of this program.</p> <p>This is a necessary evolution in how we care for one another as a city. I urge the Portland City Council to adopt this proposal and fully integrate PSR as an essential pillar of our public safety system.</p> <p>Kind regards, Chehalis Kincaid</p> | No | 06/24/25 2:06 PM |
| 378 | Cormac Burke | Oppose | This is an unnecessary change that will only add to the city bureaucracy and costs. Reject this, it makes no sense. | No | 06/24/25 2:07 PM |
| 379 | John Nettleton | Support | Portland Street Response is a valuable program with proven results. If properly funded as a 24/7 service it would be even more effective, reducing the need for a police presence in many situations. Please support and fund this useful program. We will all be safer. | No | 06/24/25 2:09 PM |
| 380 | Jan Mancuso | Support | Now, more than ever in the history of our city, we need PSR! 24/7 & city-wide. This is one of the ways we can all help people help themselves. Let the police & fire do their special jobs & let the compassionate, calming, helpful PSR folks do theirs. This is a proven effective way to help those in crisis. To meet them where they are in a non-threatening way & help them. | No | 06/24/25 2:16 PM |
| 381 | dwayne hedstrom, neighbors checking on neighbors | Support | go all in for portland street response. it literally saves lives. psr has broad support of the citizens of portland and as such i feel it's an opportunity to reinforce the people's will and therefore be modeling what am actual democracy looks like. unlike what is happening on both the federal level and here in multnomah county where gov koteck is trying to subvert the people's will by getting rid of preschool for all | No | 06/24/25 2:18 PM |
| 382 | Anonymous | Support | PSR is one of the best programs and examples of how to support neighbors suffering from mental health crises without sending armed police to respond to these situations. PSR saves lives, prevents tragedies, and saves money. I fully support the expansion of PSR. | No | 06/24/25 2:18 PM |

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| Anonymous | Oppose | This resolution is a necessary step needed to reinforce the original mission of Portland Street Response as an independent, unarmed, alternative to police that responds to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis. It is the responsibility of the City Council to provide legislative policy direction. This resolution is an opportunity for our newly elected leaders to commit their support to the future of PSR and re-establish community trust. Portland Street Response was developed by our community to serve our community. PSR should establish a community advisory group to fulfill the promises made to community. PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services. PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation | No | 06/24/25 2:24 PM |
| Betsy Zucker | Support | Thank you for considering expansion of Portland Street Response, and moving it into a co-equal branch of our first responder system. Portland Street Response is a superb, compassionate and appropriate answer to so many of the needs of our community. Let's prioritize real community safety over police response - and continue to support and grow Portland Street Response. | No | 06/24/25 2:32 PM |
| Manny Frishberg, South West Outreach | Support | These comments and opinions are solely my own. I moved to Portland from Seattle four years ago, after working as a journalist and covering the homelessness crisis there among other subjects. I attended the inauguration of the 10-year Plan to End Homelessness, and ten years later when the number of homeless in the One Night Count was higher than ever. IN contrast to the general neglect of the issue in Seattle, I have always been impressed by the compassionate and frequently helpful, dedicated people of PSR. I myself help provide mutual aid and material support to homeless neighbors in Southwest Portland, and in contrast to Rapid Response and too often the police, who can offer little by way of help getting off the streets and instead end up treating them punitively (even when that is not the intent). PSR is and should be an integral part of the Public Safety solution for Portland, one that is informed by the compassion of the city's residents, as evidenced by the ongoing support for PSR in the community. The homeless campers will not disappear in and of themselves, and the problem will not go away if we turn our backs to it -- witness Seattle. Dealing with the homeless people will take the same person-hours, whether it is a street responder or a cop. If you were alone on the streets, who would you prefer? | No | 06/24/25 2:47 PM |
| Au Nguyen, Friends of PSR | Support | PSR is humane. PSR is cost effective. PSR is popular with the voters. It needs to be reinforced and expanded. Please vote YES on this resolution. | No | 06/24/25 2:48 PM |
| Bob Joondeph | Support | A primary role of city government should be to keep Portland safe. This means using the most effective tools including a strong and capable police force and a robust, well-trained street response service. In a modern city with our population's needs, both are necessary to achieve the city's goal of safety, from which leads quality of life and economic health. | No | 06/24/25 2:49 PM |
| MKBK.Ilc | Support | I wholeheartedly support this, as a home owner, a business owner, and as the treasurer of my neighborhood association. I have seen first hand how Portland Street Response has helped support our growing city's struggles with compassion and care. Without their presence when we had issues with people with wandering into our office space in mental crisis it was terrifying and only escalated with police present and raised our whole office buildings anxiety to truly unhealthy levels. Now, if this happens I know I can trust calling to get support from Portland Street Response and they will be able to give them the kindness they need. Please support the continued success and growth of this vital resource for our community. | No | 06/24/25 2:54 PM |
| Anonymous | Support | Cops keep failing even though crime is down, time to try something different that's already working better. | No | 06/24/25 2:56 PM |
| Amy - Community Member | Support | I am an active member of North Portland. I have seen on many occasions the impact Street Response has had during mental health episodes in our community. It has been a success and should be continued. As a member of District 2, two of my elected council members took the pledge during the last election. Portland has a long history of empty promises. Don't let us down! | No | 06/24/25 3:08 PM |

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| 391 | Sisters of the Road | Support | In 2019, Sisters of the Road participated in a PSU and Street Roots survey that grew into the foundation of Portland Street Response. We asked our houseless neighbors what they need, and the success of the program speaks for itself. Portland Street Response has consistently been under-resourced compared to other unarmed response programs, competing against Fire & Rescue and PPB despite its glowing results. Mayor Wilson's decision in March to expand PSR's response capacity correspondingly requires additional resources. Portland Street Response is not a leap of faith. It is an organization sprung from the specific requests of the community it serves, modeled after successful groups in other cities, and backed by well-supported data showing its impact in our city. At a time when services for our housing-insecure communities are teetering on the brink, this program will only become more needed. | No | 06/24/25 3:11 PM |
| 392 | Suresh Paranjpe | Support | I support Portland Street Response as coequal branch of the first Redpnder system and establish Portland Street response committee | No | 06/24/25 3:14 PM |
| 393 | Anonymous | Support | Please support and expand Portland Street Response. Our communities need PSR. We do not need to go back to police handling sensitive issues they are not trained to handle. | No | 06/24/25 3:16 PM |
| 394 | Janet Stein | Support | Let's do this thing, which is *strongly supported by Portlanders, *saves lives, *saves money, and is *simple common sense, as well as *compassionate governance. Please pass it as written. Thank you for protecting all our residents, with a program that truly supports *public safety. | No | 06/24/25 3:25 PM |
| 395 | Anonymous | Support | This resolution is a necessary step needed to reinforce the original mission of Portland Street Response as an independent, unarmed, alternative to police that responds to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis. | No | 06/24/25 3:28 PM |
| 396 | Paul E. Riek | Support | I am a resident of close-in NE Portland, and I formerly worked with an organization that supported day laborers. Day laborers spend a lot of time on street corners waiting for work, in all kinds of weather. Having the option of sending Portland Street Response to respond to a crisis on the streets is a cost-effective use of our tax money and a humane way to solve problems that makes me proud to be a Portlander! | No | 06/24/25 3:37 PM |
| 397 | Brian Frank | Support | So glad to see this coming to fruition! Strongest support from a Portland resident since 2003. | No | 06/24/25 3:41 PM |
| 398 | Carol Fenton | Support | As a community member, I strongly support Portland Street Response (PSR) as a humane alternative to police intervention, believing it enhances community safety, especially for those in crisis. I am enthusiastic about the potential of a well-funded, independent PSR and fully endorse its outlined actions. The resolution is essential to reinforce PSR's mission as an independent, unarmed alternative to police for appropriate 911 calls involving individuals in crisis. City Council must provide legislative policy direction, and this resolution offers a chance for new leaders to commit to PSR's future and rebuild community trust. I urge the council to prioritize funding for Portland Street Response to ensure its success and effectiveness. This investment is crucial for enhancing community safety and providing compassionate assistance to those in crisis. | No | 06/24/25 3:47 PM |
| 399 | Rachael Volker, Faculty at University of Oregon - Portland Campus in NE (Previously Old Town) | Support | I urge to expand Portland Street response. I've seen first hand this team help SO many people and ultimately create city and neighborhood environments that feel safe to EVERYONE. When people feel safe...they are more likely to ask for help and trust that help. Economically our city relies on foot traffic, having our streets supported by this group specifically will only boost and help our economy as well as give business owners peace of mind. | No | 06/24/25 3:56 PM |
| 400 | Robin A Johnson | Support | PSR is a critical piece of helping our unhoused population to get the help that they need. If anything the program should be expanded even more. Thank you. | No | 06/24/25 4:01 PM |
| 401 | George W Feldman, M.D. | Support | PSR is vital to our community's safety. It has a proven record of efficacy and it should have full funding. Thank you. | No | 06/24/25 4:01 PM |

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| Felipe Conejo | Support | <p>Councilmembers,</p> <p>Supporting the Portland Street Response as a co-equal branch of our city's first responder system is a vital and necessary step toward building a more humane and equitable approach to public safety.</p> <p>Traditional policing is deeply rooted in systems of racism and classism, two of the most harmful legacies our city continues to confront. By expanding and fully supporting the Portland Street Response, we have the opportunity to begin healing from an approach to public safety that has often been cruel and punitive.</p> <p>This expansion would position Portland as a national leader in showing how cities can reasonably care for all people, including our most vulnerable, with compassion and dignity.</p> | No | 06/24/25 4:06 PM |
| Laura Feldman | Support | <p>It's evident now that the country is devolving quickly. We are headed for some hard times. Portland Street Response is integral to getting through these times, if we do get through them, with some humanity and efficacy intact. Please do the necessary thing and support Portland Street Response!</p> | No | 06/24/25 4:21 PM |
| Maggie Rounds | Support | <p>PSR is a vital service I have called for people experiencing various issues in my neighborhood. I know that when I call for help, the person going through crisis will be met with mental health services not a police officer. PSR should be fully funded and equal to other first responders.</p> | No | 06/24/25 4:28 PM |

| Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
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| 405 Angel O'Brien | Support | <p>Portland Street Response is a vital and much needed part of public safety in Portland. The police are often not the best equipped folks to handle a situation and it's great to have folks who are trained and compassionate when dealing with Portlanders who are in a time of crisis.</p> <p>As the manager of two Lloyd center adjacent apartment buildings, I had many occasions in which I had a situation involving someone that needed mental health assistance. I was always grateful that I could call 911 and know that I was not creating a situation in which someone who was in need of help was going to potentially "get in trouble" with the police. I wanted to get that person the help they needed, not cause them more trouble on top of the stress and struggles that they were already facing in their life.</p> <p>Portland has a huge "houseless folks problem" right now. That problem is NOT solved by sweeps (which are catastrophic and injurious, at times even fatal) to the folks who are being evicted. These folks are out there on the streets and doing the best they can in really crappy conditions, sometimes they break, physically or mentally, and need immediate help. PSR has been an amazing resource for these situations, as well as times when houses folks end up breaking as well. None of us are immune to the vagaries of life. Having the right kind of support systems in place to provide proper help in times of need is incredibly important and so very critical to our city functioning properly.</p> <p>We have seen far too often across the country, and here in our beloved home, the tragedies that can occur when the police, with their guns and their assault tactics, are sent to handle a situation where someone is having a mental health crisis.</p> <p>From MindSite News - "22 people in Portland with mental health issues who were killed by police between 2004 and 2019 – eight of them shot by AR-15s – according to a city review of police use of force. Another 15 were shot but survived.</p> <p>A separate MindSite News-Medill Investigative Lab-Chicago analysis of police department data shows that another 880 were subject to non-lethal force while experiencing a mental health crisis between 2017 and the fall of 2024. Almost 40% of them – including Delgado – were unhoused, according to the department's public records dashboard." https://mindsitenews.org/2025/05/12/social-worker-or-ar-15/</p> <p>Truly, we are all Portlanders, regardless of whether our home is a fancy mansion in the West hills or under a bridge next to train tracks. We are all human beings worthy of compassion and understanding. Period. All cities should be judged by how they treat their citizens who are having the worst days of their lives, not their best.</p> <p>I won't even get into the subject of police brutality and their seeming need to be fatal in their shootings of fellow Portlanders instead of just shooting to disarm someone. But please, please, please fully fund PSR so that they can continue their great work in helping all the folks who call Portland home. Whether that help is directly or indirectly, we are all connected in this beautiful city and we are only as strong and healthy as the weakest and most vulnerable amongst us.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, please vote to pass this important item to fund PSR.</p> <p>-Angel O'Brien</p> | No | 06/24/25 4:28 PM |
| 406 Anonymous | Support | | No | 06/24/25 4:31 PM |
| 407 Michael Dressman | Support | <p>As a resident of Portland and mental health professional, I support the expansion of Portland Street Response and encourage representatives to pass this agenda item. PSR is widely supported by residents, continues to be a successful unarmed alternative to police, and accurately and safely addresses mental health crisis and supports to vulnerable individuals and communities where typical police response results in harm and incarceration. Crises do not follow a schedule and exist 24/7, so should PSR!</p> | No | 06/24/25 4:39 PM |
| 408 Laura Moulton, Street Books | Support | <p>Hello. Please see my attached letter.</p> <p>Thank you, Laura Moulton</p> | Yes | 06/24/25 4:49 PM |
| 409 marianne mauldin- St Charles | Support | | No | 06/24/25 4:55 PM |

24 June 2025

Dear City Council:

If our society can be measured by how we treat those most vulnerable among us, the need to fully fund and implement Portland Street Response is essential. For the past 15 years, I've been part of Street Books, a bicycle-powered mobile library serving people who live outside. Our team has seen all kinds of suffering up close, and it's clear to us that the appropriate response to a person's mental health crisis is an independent, unarmed alternative to police.

When PSR was being created, houseless Portlanders weighed in on what they believed would be the most appropriate response, (we helped ensure their voices were heard, distributing surveys at the library shift, and letting people know about a number of town hall-style events to solicit their suggestions). They helped shape the program and we owe it to them to keep it going as the vital, life-saving resource it's intended to be.

Portland Street Response should not be attached to any enforcement activities like sweeps, enforcing camping bans or forced engagement in services. Its workers should have access to life-saving supplies like naloxone, food, clothing and more in line with best practices in de-escalation.

Our city has the opportunity to meet people at the street level (who are scared, sick, tired, worn-out, so weary) with compassion, water for hydration, a snack to help stabilize blood sugar, calm words to help de-escalate an amplified day. Portland Street Response is what we need in order to take care of one another as we work toward a future where each person has safe, affordable place to live and a place to belong.

Thank you for your work and for reading my letter.

In solidarity,

Laura Moulton
Executive Director, Street Books
laura@streetbooks.org



STREET BOOKS

www.streetbooks.org

a bicycle-powered,
mobile library
for people
living outside.

A 501c3 non-profit
Tax ID: 45-4081674

Street Books
PO Box 13642
Portland, OR 97213

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
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| 410 | Crystal Tompkins | Support | One of the things that makes me proud to be a Portlander is our adoption of the Portland Street Response. I wholly support a service that offers much needed assistance to our community, while taking some of the work burden off of the shoulders of police, EMTs, and firefighters. As a member of the general public, I am comforted knowing that I can call on the Street Response team if I encounter someone who needs assistance. I very much endorse establishing PSR as a co-equal branch of our first responder system. Please move forward with this agenda item. Thank you. | No | 06/24/25 5:00 PM |
| 411 | Ellen Hamingson | Support | A fully funded, 24/7 Street Response program would make me and my community feel much safer, would address the needs of many more Portlanders in crisis than can currently be handled, and, because it would open up the option for Medicaid reimbursement, would very much be more fiscally responsible than the part-time system we have at present. I urge you to take the prudent and necessary step of creating a full-time Street Response System as a crucial component of our public safety program. | No | 06/24/25 5:08 PM |
| 412 | Anonymous | Oppose | I agree that PSR provides a valuable service, however, we do not need this resolution. The hours and scope of their services can be changed; it is not necessary to create another bureau. This resolution claims that having PSR respond to a call is 4 times less costly than having police respond. Much of this cost savings will be erased by creating a new bureau and designating PSR employees as first responders. PSR is an addition to the public safety system and needs to coordinate with the other public safety programs in order to be effective, and it should not be funded at the expense of other programs. The City of Portland already has severe budget deficits and it is irresponsible for City Councilors to increase costs at this time. Councilors also have a responsibility not to make decisions that reduce public safety. This proposal really looks like a back door attempt to funnel money away from the police bureau. Councilors, please do your job and vote against this harmful proposal. | No | 06/24/25 5:11 PM |
| 413 | Charyl Cathey | Support | Portland Street Response has been key to keeping safe those who access food At Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. They are able to escalate conflict effectively. | No | 06/24/25 5:15 PM |
| 414 | Anonymous | Support | this is great for portland, both for those who are unfortunate enough to need the services of PSR and those of us who are compassionate and want to help. It is even good for those obnoxious people who just want clean, quiet streets, whatever it takes! Prioritize non-violent, gun-free services for the most vulnerable. Provide hope, patience and compassion, not anger, impatience and annoyance. Vote yes on 2025-175! | No | 06/24/25 5:16 PM |
| 415 | Victoria Ekk, PhD | Support | This resolution is a necessary step needed to reinforce the original mission of Portland Street Response as an independent, unarmed, alternative to police that responds to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis. It is the responsibility of the City Council to provide legislative policy direction. This resolution is an opportunity for our newly elected leaders to commit their support to the future of PSR and re-establish community trust. | No | 06/24/25 5:37 PM |
| 416 | Laura Willingham Milne | Support | I've seen Portland Street Response in action as they dealt with a partially naked woman on NW 21st. This team was effective and compassionate. Our city NEEDS PSR and the Portland Police need the relief that PSR can provide for non-criminal calls. Please expand their funding. | No | 06/24/25 5:43 PM |
| 417 | Joana Kirchhoff | Support | PSR has saved lives in Portland with its ability to intervene and provide medical and emotional care to those in crisis. Deaths from drug overdose have decreased according to a 2023 report. I don't doubt that interventions by PSR are a part of that decrease It is much more cost effective to provide immediate treatment than to rely on police, jails, and courts to end drug overdose deaths. Mental and emotional crises can not be the responsibility of police. PSR fills a very important niche in the social construction of Portland Thank you | No | 06/24/25 5:44 PM |
| 418 | Jill Spencer & Arthur Dye | Support | We live in the Lloyd/Sullivan's Gulch area, and we enthusiastically support the expansion and full support of Portland Street Response. They provide the best response to many situations in the City, and will take pressure off the police department. | No | 06/24/25 5:45 PM |
| 419 | Diana Richardson | Support | I completely support the expansion of Portland Street Response to continue, with adequate funding to meet all its needs, as a compassionate anti-discriminatory service to all the people of Portland. When we help those in greatest need, we help all of us become more human. | No | 06/24/25 5:49 PM |

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
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| 420 | Jessi Presley-Grusin | Support | Please vote to support and expand Portland Street Response as a co-equal branch of the first responder system and establish the Portland Street Response Committee. We need to invest in unarmed alternatives to policing and this is an excellent opportunity to do so. Everyone loves PSR. Please vote in support of its expansion. | No | 06/24/25 5:52 PM |
| 421 | Ted Dreier | Support | Please support this resolution, a necessary step needed to reinforce the original mission of Portland Street Response as an independent, unarmed, alternative to police that responds to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis. It is your responsibility to provide legislative policy direction. This resolution is an opportunity for our newly elected leaders to commit their support to the future of PSR and re-establish community trust. Portland Street Response was developed by our community to serve our community. PSR should establish a community advisory group to fulfill the promises made to community. It should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services. PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation. Sincerely, Ted Dreier, PhD | No | 06/24/25 5:53 PM |
| 422 | Luci Longoria | Support | | No | 06/24/25 6:15 PM |
| 423 | Bill Scott | Support | In my personal experience, this is such an efficient, humane way to deal with distressing mental health crises; it obviously relieves demand for conventional first responders. | No | 06/24/25 6:22 PM |
| 424 | Betsy Toll | Support | Yes! As a Portland homeowner and resident for 37 years, I strongly favor the proposal to expand Portland Street Response (PSR) and position it as a vital, co-equal branch of Portland's Public Safety operations. Strengthening PSR is a strong, forward-thinking opportunity for Portland. We know a majority of public disturbances are caused by unarmed individuals, often frightened, lost, distressed individuals. Strengthening the branch of our public safety that consists of well-trained, skilled, unarmed PSR teams is a win-win way to address that verifiable reality. Let's focus our public safety efforts and dollars in ways that can further reduce the need for armed officers and enhance the real sense of safety and wellbeing of all in our community. We know that bully pulpits and bully power pose an increasing threat to our public safety. Time and again, heavily armed local police forces and militias present a grave danger to public trust, public stability, and even to our bodies and homes as Americans. We live in an unsteady time awash in weaponry. Angry, unhinged individuals do at times pose urgent public dangers. Having a reasonably modest corps of well-disciplined armed officers ready to respond may meet those emergency needs. But as a city, Portland too often pays a terrible price morally, economically, and practically when we prioritize the potential for violence rather than the potential for skilled, realistic, peaceful responses to trouble. Now is the time to flip that balance so Portland is safer and our city can benefit from a fully empowered Portland Street Response system. | No | 06/24/25 6:26 PM |
| 425 | Harriet Shaklee | Support | I hope you will see the wisdom of continuing to support Portland Street Response. This is a service critical for our unhoused residents, but also for law enforcement and for those in the community seeking to support the distressed residents we encounter on Portland's streets. I am often on the MAX, downtown, and in my Kenton neighborhood when I encounter people who need support but I have no idea how to connect them with available resources. It is a great comfort to me to know that I can call Portland Street Response and they can respond appropriately to the individual's needs. This approach also gives our marginalized residents the best opportunity to have their needs met so they can move forward to a productive future. Thanks for your good work for Portland families. | No | 06/24/25 6:44 PM |
| 426 | Eve Heidtmann | Support | I strongly support the expansion of Portland Street Response and the establishment of the Committee. PSR is a valuable service that helps decrease violence in the city. Let's make it available around the clock. | No | 06/24/25 6:56 PM |
| 427 | Melissa Delzio | Support | Thank you for saving and prioritizing non-policing tactics for dealing with our homeless and mental health crisis. As we build more infrastructure, PSR will be a vital connector. | No | 06/24/25 7:40 PM |
| 428 | Steve Bozz | Support | Fully fund and empower PSR for 24-7 services. We know the model works, let's invest in our city with the proven tools and services PSR provides our neighbors. For public safety, public health and less dependence on armed officers to take calls they are not qualified or equipped to deal with adequately. Thank you. | No | 06/24/25 7:50 PM |

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| 429 | Anonymous | Support | Portland Street Response is one of the best programs this city has ever adopted. It's working well, and needs to be EXPANDED citywide. This program not only helps individuals in crisis, it also makes Portland as a whole safer, for everyone. | No | 06/24/25 8:03 PM |
| 430 | Gluten Free Gem Bakery | Support | As a business owner in the Lloyd district, I have called upon PSR several times to help my customers & employees feel safe. We are regularly confronted with people in crisis. PSR is a critical intervention for my business, but overall for the community. Thank you for continuing to support Portland Street Response. | No | 06/24/25 8:04 PM |
| 431 | David Labby MD PhD | Support | Having spent several decades building outreach programs for high risk Oregon Medicaid members, many of whom were houseless, it is clear that the sort of outreach that Portland Street Response provides is one of the key elements in addressing the behavioral, medical and social needs of this population. PSR will provide a critical service; PSR will help transition many who need help into stable and supportive environments; PSR will improve the livability for our community; PSR will save the city money. Your support of this evidence based work shows that you understand the needs of our homeless citizens. Please support this PSR expansion. David Labby MD PhD, retired. Former Medical Director, CareOregon Former Chief Medical Officer, Health Share of Oregon | No | 06/24/25 8:30 PM |
| 432 | Adam Mclsaac | Support | Dear Friends: When I helped vote this goddamn thing in—what was it?—three years ago? Four? I expected it to be executed as it was described in the voter's pamphlet. I did not expect the Portland Police Bureau to wail like a baby because some of their precious funding was being redirected towards a job that they didn't want to do anyway. I was not expecting those sitting on this august council to take every god-damned step they could take to nullify the voters' will. I am, frankly, infuriated that I have to—year over year— re-iterate my vote in support of PSR. Gentle people: get it done. FUND AND EXPAND PSR. And while you're at it, why don't you set up a separate line for PSR calls so that those having issues with non-police events don't have to wait FIFTEEN MINUTES on 911 to get the call placed. Government is a god-damned SERVICE, not a business. Provide SERVICE in exchange for tax revenue and we won't have to go through this EVERY GODDAMN YEAR. And yes: you CAN afford this, if you want to. | No | 06/24/25 9:15 PM |
| 433 | Betsy power | Support | | No | 06/24/25 9:20 PM |
| 434 | Anonymous | Support | I fully support continuing to improve and expand Portland Street Response in order to help take care of our communities better. We don't have better options currently on the table. We need to continue to improve the programs that have shown promise. We need to support PSR. | No | 06/24/25 9:22 PM |
| 435 | Maurine Canarsky | Support | City Council needs to provide legislative policy direction. It is time to commit support to the future of PSR. This resolution does that. By expanding PSR to 24 hours, 7 days a week, citywide, Council can show that the City is behind providing effective resources to our most vulnerable people. PSR is about building trust with people who need guidance to resources. Don't use PSR in sweeps or other enforcement activities. How will they trust us if this is done? Provide required supplies to PSR to be effective. There has been an overwhelming positive response to PSR. Don't stop an effective program. Pass this resolution. | No | 06/24/25 9:33 PM |
| 436 | Mark Baugher | Support | Portland Street Response is a crucial part of our public safety system that needs to be expanded to a 24/7 citywide service. More types of calls should be assigned to PSR, and we should grow the involvement of the community to advise the program. | No | 06/24/25 9:41 PM |

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|-----|---|----------|---|------------|-------------------|
| 437 | Liz Sauer | Support | <p>Hello. I'm writing in support of expanding Portland Street Response and to establish the Portland Street Response Committee. This resolution is a necessary step needed to reinforce the original mission of Portland Street Response as an independent, unarmed, alternative to police that responds to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the City Council to provide legislative policy direction. This resolution is an opportunity for our newly elected leaders to commit their support to the future of PSR and re-establish community trust.</p> <p>Portland Street Response was developed by our community to serve our community. PSR should establish a community advisory group to fulfill the promises made to community. PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services.</p> <p>PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation.</p> <p>Now more than ever our community needs support. It's past time for Portland Street Response to be expanded in support of our community!</p> | No | 06/24/25 9:44 PM |
| 438 | Andrew Leyva | Support | Totally support PSR. There are so many needs in the city and PSR is so much more equipped to solve them than PPB. Great folks work in PSR and have the empathy and understanding to help those in need. I've seen folks with drug challenges and someone OD (we were able to get the EMTs there in time) and someone who tried to hang himself (again EMTs arrived quickly and he was alive when they transported him to the hospital). I was woefully unequipped to help in both situations but was fortunate others were there too. I want to see more trained professionals helping out in Portland (ie PSR). | No | 06/24/25 9:51 PM |
| 439 | August "Gus" Kroll | Support | As someone who has spent the majority of my adult life in homeless support work it is frustrating that we are having to have the same conversations over and over again. Throwing people in jail is an expensive way to not fix many of Portland's major problems. A person having a mental health crisis where they aren't a threat to others isn't going to be helped by a person trained to respond with guns and pepper spray. They need someone with a different set of skills. Portland needs tools that can respond to different kinds of problems instead of one size fits all solutions - "solutions" that often make the problem worse instead of better. | No | 06/24/25 9:53 PM |
| 440 | Mila M. | Support | | No | 06/24/25 10:32 PM |
| 441 | Jude Eda | Support | I support all the elements in the resolution. Thank you. -- Jude in Cully | No | 06/24/25 10:40 PM |
| 442 | Tia Palafox, Rahab's Sisters, PCCEP, PEAC | Support | I am in agreement that PSR be fully staffed and able to be trained to allow them to do as much as they can when they arrive to the scene. I also think it's a great idea to not be housed under Fire or Police and to have their own Council or Committee. If they have to be housed under Fire or Police that there is a continual training of 911/BOEC on appropriately routing mental health crisis calls to PSR. | No | 06/24/25 10:41 PM |
| 443 | Mary Emerson | Support | <p>I support resolution 2025-175, to "Support and expand Portland Street Response as a co-equal branch of the first responder system and establish the Portland Street Response Committee."</p> <p>Portland Street Response serves a critical function in our city - providing an independent, unarmed alternative to police that responds to the needs of people in crisis. This Council has the ability and the responsibility to provide legislative direction to the city that will ensure the city provides appropriate levels of support for PSR - ensuring stable management, proper staffing and full funding for this vital service.</p> <p>Please vote "Aye" on this critical resolution.</p> | No | 06/24/25 10:43 PM |
| 444 | Kelly Tadlock | Support | Please support/ fully fund and expand Portland Street Response. This is urgently needed in the disabled low income communities \. Police resources are better used on criminals than folks having a mental health crisis | No | 06/24/25 10:45 PM |
| 445 | Bonnie McKinlay | Support | I urge our hard-working, humanity-focused Portland City Council to honor Portland Street Response. Please support and expand Portland Street Response as a co-equal branch of the first response system and establish the Portland Street Response Committee. Our community is fortunate to have this effective and necessary service. | No | 06/24/25 10:54 PM |

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
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| 446 | Adrienne Pass | Support | Thank you City Council for treating Portland Street Response with the respect and priority that it deserves. I picked my votes for my City Councilors based on this issue because I am so proud of our PSR program and it's historic continuation of peaceful unarmed response. Through de-escalation and support, those undergoing mental health emergencies will have a much better experience than if they were to interact with police. Please allow the police to handle crimes and let PSR provide humane assistance to people in need of redirection and services. Please continue to fund PSR, expand PSR, and allow PSR to operate itself co-equal to and independently from the police. I also support the idea to have an advisory group of experts to monitor the program and make recommendations. | No | 06/24/25 10:56 PM |
| 447 | Della Mueller | Support | I urge you to support this resolution as a critical step in restoring the original purpose of Portland Street Response: an unarmed, compassionate alternative to police that responds to the right calls—calls involving mental health crises, not enforcement. This is a moment for our City Council to lead with integrity and vision. Supporting this resolution affirms your commitment to real solutions and rebuilds community trust in public safety alternatives. PSR was created by the community, for the community. To honor that, we need a community advisory group to ensure transparency, accountability, and alignment with the values that shaped its creation. PSR must never be used for sweeps or enforcement—doing so betrays the program's core mission. Instead, let's fully equip responders with life-saving tools like naloxone, food, and warm clothing—resources proven to de-escalate and support dignity. Let's protect what makes PSR work. Please vote yes on this resolution. | No | 06/24/25 11:10 PM |
| 448 | Walter Lersch | Support | I we are serious about working to solve our Portland homeless problem we need to invest in services that help get people off the streets and into appropriate environments that help them thrive. | No | 06/24/25 11:11 PM |
| 449 | Jennifer Robinson | Oppose | I can not support this idea. The City is entering a period of multi year decreases in projected revenues. It is fiscally irresponsible to be taking on more uncertainty at this time. We do not need to complicate matters with council proposing a new bureau. It will require future funding increases in upcoming fiscal years. This contradicts the planned efforts being made by the city administrator to rightsize the city's current enterprise model. This item can be revisited when the city is in a more robust position to take on this amendment. As a taxpayer, it is painful to watch the "power of the purse" wage reckless power plays with my money. It makes me want to move. The public deserves better decorum and less impropriety from the freshman class of 2025. The budget circus was painful to watch this year. I am really hoping we have a majority of "ones and dones" in the next election cycle. | No | 06/24/25 11:31 PM |
| 450 | Andrew Berka | Support | As a social work student, I literally dream of working for Portland Street Response. I have heard as well that many people are entering EMT programs to be able to work for PSR. PSR is the future and is inspiring young people to pursue essential careers. Supporting this ordinance is essential to strengthening PSR and insuring the future Portlanders deserve. | No | 06/24/25 11:58 PM |
| 451 | Dylan Hinson | Support | As a former staff member at a homeless shelter I got to experience first hand how the homeless community interacts with city services. As the system stands, homeless community members rely heavily on ambulance and police services having few other options to turn to when they need help, even if the situation is non-emergency. Elevating the Portland Street Response to a coequal branch of first responder services will help divert care of homeless community members into the hands of folks who are better equipped to care for the homeless. This not only helps the homeless but it also helps our police, paramedics and fire fighters focus on emergencies where their services are actually needed. | No | 06/25/25 12:14 AM |
| 452 | Anonymous | Support | PSR is such an incredible, humane, and effective resource. The more funding and support it can receive, especially with corresponding reduction to the PPB budget, will increase the wellbeing of all Portlanders and set a shining example for other cities. | No | 06/25/25 1:06 AM |

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
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| 453 | Mary Ann Barham | Support | <p>I am writing in support of the full funding of Portland Street Response (PSR). The City of Portland needs to reinforce the original mission of PSR as an independent, unarmed, alternative to police that responds to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis.</p> <p>It is also important that PSR never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services and that PSR staff have access to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation.</p> <p>It's time to fully commit to the original intent of this essential service.</p> | No | 06/25/25 5:26 AM |
| 454 | Audra McCabe | Support | | No | 06/25/25 6:50 AM |
| 455 | Diane Meisenhelter, XRPDX | Support | Please support ALL of the recommendations associated with this important ruling as a critical step forward in enhancing a true public safety system. My multiple experiences with PSR have reinforced my belief that this is what is needed in the majority of mental health and other crisis calls to deescalate and provide an empathetic, humane, caring response to move the situation towards actual resolution and addressing the underlying issues. For that reason, I would also like to see that PSR have access to material support for folks in crisis. Thanks for taking this important step forward towards a full spectrum public safety system. | No | 06/25/25 7:16 AM |
| 456 | Dustin Kearns | Support | <p>This resolution is a necessary step needed to reinforce the original mission of Portland Street Response as an independent, unarmed, alternative to police that responds to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis. It is the responsibility of the City Council to provide legislative policy direction. This resolution is an opportunity for our newly elected leaders to commit their support to the future of PSR and re-establish community trust. Portland Street Response was developed by our community to serve our community. PSR should establish a community advisory group to fulfill the promises made to community.</p> <p>PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services.</p> <p>PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation.</p> | No | 06/25/25 7:21 AM |
| 457 | Matt Chorpenning, MSW | Support | <p>It has never been more difficult to survive outside and/or while experiencing deep poverty than it is right now. While many cities across this country - even some that claim to have "progressive" leadership - are swiftly moving to criminalize poverty, City Council has an opportunity today to institutionalize compassion by elevating Portland Street Response to the level of a co-equal first responder.</p> <p>We need to support PSR monetarily and make sure their hardworking staff has the skills they need to work effectively with our most vulnerable neighbors. Please make this investment in PSR as an investment in the Portland we all deserve.</p> | No | 06/25/25 8:13 AM |
| 458 | Taffy Everts | Support | 24/7 PSR is vital to the health of our city by relieving PPB of non-criminal tasks and freeing the police up to fight crime and enabling people trained to help disoriented, addicted, mentally unstable but non-violent people to appropriate services. Please fully fund PSR to keep Portland and Portlanders safe. | No | 06/25/25 8:25 AM |
| 459 | Ashlie M Mole LPC | Support | As a licensed mental health provider, serving children and families in Multnomah County, I support the expansion and creation of committee. I have continued to read updates and outcomes from this project and have been witness to the positive impact it has had for community I work and live in. I hope that lawmakers honor the promises that they ran on and at a time when mental health supports are being cut at a federal level that we as a county continue to prioritize them. | No | 06/25/25 8:30 AM |

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|-----|----------------------|----------|---|------------|------------------|
| 460 | Michael Mintz | Support | <p>To the Portland City Council,</p> <p>I have lived in Portland since 2000. I follow local issues to the extent my work schedule will allow. I can't think of a program that's had a larger positive impact on our city than PSR.</p> <p>I'm sorry to say that I call to PSR almost every week, sometimes much more often than that, depending on where in town I'm working. There are so many people on the street that need help-- people that I can do nothing about, other than call PSR. And these are not law enforcement-related calls. When I make these calls, I'm grateful and relieved that perhaps these people can get some assistance. Sometimes these are life and death situations-- when someone is passed out in the hot sun on a hot day, for instance. PSR is one of the few things that makes me feel that as a City, we're doing anything to help those less fortunate than ourselves. It is crucial to maintain and expand this critical program. Without it, we go back to the days of being able to do nothing except call the cops. This is not an option for a city that holds our humanity in high esteem. Please fund PSR. Fund and expand PSR. The health of our city depends on it.</p> | No | 06/25/25 8:33 AM |
| 461 | Anonymous | Support | I support the Portland Street Response. It is a much better use of our tax dollars than giving more to the corrupt, violent, prone-to-losing-excessive-force-lawsuits, bloated and over-funded police. Trump is installing a fascist police state. We want Portland to do better. | No | 06/25/25 8:34 AM |
| 462 | Marcella Brady | Support | Portland needs PSR | No | 06/25/25 8:38 AM |
| 463 | Anonymous | Support | As someone who has called PSR multiple times while at work, going to my classes at PSU, or walking through my neighborhood, I support expanding PSR. It has been a comfort to know that there are trained individuals who can better where I cannot and hopefully give someone the support they need. | No | 06/25/25 8:46 AM |
| 464 | BETSY MCCARTHY | Support | | No | 06/25/25 8:48 AM |
| 465 | Kristen Sartor | Support | <p>We need Portland Street Response!!</p> <p>This resolution is a necessary step needed to reinforce the original mission of Portland Street Response as an independent, unarmed, alternative to police that responds to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the City Council to provide legislative policy direction. This resolution is an opportunity for our newly elected leaders to commit their support to the future of PSR and re-establish community trust.</p> <p>Portland Street Response was developed by our community to serve our community. PSR should establish a community advisory group to fulfill the promises made to community.</p> <p>PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services.</p> <p>PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation.</p> | No | 06/25/25 8:58 AM |
| 466 | Brandi Stack | Support | I am happy to have PSR get more support and for it to grow as is obviously needed. My main concern is them working with the police. Hopefully they are able to maintain their separate goals and PSR only accompanies the police as a matter of community protection. PSR has been successful thus far but obviously needs to be much better supported and established to see the real results it can bring to our city. I am truly optimistic this will change how things are done at a national scale eventually. | No | 06/25/25 9:20 AM |

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|-----|------------------------------|----------|--|------------|------------------|
| 467 | Kindred Heart Counseling LLC | Support | <p>Thank you for taking the time to read my written testimony. I am a mental health counselor in Portland who works primarily with low income residents and I know very well how important this service is to the community. I want to express full support for PSR. Please consider the following points as you approach funding and changes to this critical service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This resolution is a necessary step needed to reinforce the original mission of Portland Street Response as an independent, unarmed, alternative to police that responds to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis. - It is the responsibility of the City Council to provide legislative policy direction. This resolution is an opportunity for our newly elected leaders to commit their support to the future of PSR and re-establish community trust. - Portland Street Response was developed by our community to serve our community. PSR should establish a community advisory group to fulfill the promises made to community. - PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services. - PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation. <p>Thank you for your consideration,</p> <p>Madison Unsworth, LPC</p> | No | 06/25/25 9:27 AM |
| 468 | Dylan Tomberlin | Support | <p>I don't want my barber to also be my dentist. Why would I want my police officer to also be my mental health professional?</p> <p>I strongly support this resolution to expand and improve PSR. While treating Portland residents with more respect and humanity should be enough reason to pass this resolution, it also just makes financial sense with our current budget crisis. Properly funding PSR limits the necessity of over staffing police just to respond to situations they aren't trained for. Reduce police duties and therefore expensive overtime.</p> | No | 06/25/25 9:34 AM |
| 469 | Anonymous | Support | <p>As a resident of Portland living in the King neighborhood, it is in the best interest of me and my neighbors, housed and unhoused, to support Portland Street Response's full development. The new City Council has the opportunity to make a decision that will benefit all Portlanders by voting to support this resolution. It is a well understood fact at this point that the use of police force to maintain order is not effective in improving the wellbeing of the communities they purport to serve. In order to actually improve the health and safety of all Portlanders, we need a different solution. As an independent, unarmed, alternative to police that can respond to people on crisis, PSR is this solution.</p> <p>But PSR is not able to carry out their full mission without legislative policy direction. This City Council must commit their support to the future of PSR by passing this resolution which will usher in the next phases of their work supporting people in crisis. PSR cannot carry out their lifesaving duties without access to the supplies needed to do this work such as naloxone, food, clothing, and more. They cannot be seen as a trustworthy source of support for people who need it if they are involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps and enforcing camping bans.</p> <p>I know you all want to see Portland thrive. I know you all want to see each and every Portlander given the opportunity to live their fullest lives. So support this resolution. Support the future of crisis response. Help PSR set an example for how to respond out of humanity, not out of violence, repression, and erasure. Thank you.</p> | No | 06/25/25 9:39 AM |
| 470 | Allen Duarte | Support | PSR is a critical element of providing necessary care and support for Portland residents. We leave no one behind. No one is disposable. | No | 06/25/25 9:41 AM |
| 471 | Karen Shawcross | Support | | No | 06/25/25 9:42 AM |

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|-----|---|----------|---|------------|-------------------|
| 472 | Anonymous | Support | <p>This resolution is a necessary step needed to reinforce the original mission of Portland Street Response as an independent, unarmed, alternative to police that responds to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the City Council to provide legislative policy direction. This resolution is an opportunity for our newly elected leaders to commit their support to the future of PSR and re-establish community trust.</p> <p>Portland Street Response was developed by our community to serve our community. PSR should establish a community advisory group to fulfill the promises made to community.</p> <p>PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services.</p> <p>PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation.</p> | No | 06/25/25 9:50 AM |
| 473 | Lynne Duddy, Portland native living in NE | Support | <p>The burden on our Police and emergency services to support noncriminal activities is a drain on the budget, the skill set of the people serving the city, and the system that can make our community stronger, safer, more livable. Let's take this opportunity to create something sustainable and valuable to our community. 24/7 PSR is vital to the health of our city by enabling people trained to help disoriented, addicted, mentally unstable but non-violent people to appropriate services. Please fully fund PSR. Let's build a better Portland together.</p> | No | 06/25/25 9:50 AM |
| 474 | Anonymous | Support | <p>Portland Street response is essential in supporting community safety and reducing risk of violence. As a mental health provider, so many of my clients with oppressed identities are afraid of calling for emergency services, and Portland Street Response is one of the core resources that help them utilize our community safety support. We must continue funding this project and improving policing alternatives in Portland if we want to support our vulnerable populations.</p> <p>It is the City Council's responsibility to build our city better than it is, and keep our people safe. We have got to provide safe alternatives for emergencies for people in mental health crisis. We also have to support Portland Street Response in having access to naloxone and other life-saving emergency equipment, and keep them out of sweeps and violent enforcement against homeless people.</p> <p>Please keep building nonviolent options for safety in our city by supporting and expanding Portland Street Response!</p> | No | 06/25/25 9:55 AM |
| 475 | Emily Platt | Support | <p>Portland citizens voted to establish Portland Street Response, a program that provides compassionate and competent support for individuals experiencing crises on our streets. In previous City administrations and City councils, the program has not been adequately supported. The resolution introduced by councilors Avalos, Kanai, and Morillo will reverse misguided priorities.</p> <p>Specifically, This resolution is a necessary step needed to reinforce the original mission of Portland Street Response as an independent, unarmed, alternative to police that responds to the right 911 calls involving people in crisis.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the City Council to provide legislative policy direction. This resolution is an opportunity for our newly elected leaders to commit their support to the future of PSR and re-establish community trust.</p> <p>Portland Street Response was developed by our community to serve our community. PSR should establish a community advisory group to fulfill the promises made to community.</p> <p>PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or forced engagement in services.</p> <p>PSR workers should have their access restored to life saving supplies including naloxone, food, clothing, and more in line with best practices in de-escalation.</p> | No | 06/25/25 9:59 AM |
| 476 | Amira Schultz | Support | <p>Hello, Please expand PSR. It seems so logical, human, and smart to grow a program that has had success with immediate and long-term results.</p> <p>Thank you!</p> | No | 06/25/25 10:02 AM |

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|-----|-----------------------------|----------|---|------------|-------------------|
| 477 | Rod Such | Support | Please support Council Document 2025-175 to support and expand Portland Street Response as a co-equal branch of the first responder system. Councilors Kanal, Avalos and Morillo are to be congratulated for embracing this badly needed reform after former Councilor Joann Hardesty first introduced it. Given Portland's long history of excessive and even murderous use of force against people having mental health crises, it is long overdue. Remember Keaton Otis and others by ensuring the full implementation of Portland Street Response. | No | 06/25/25 10:04 AM |
| 478 | Anonymous | Support | Please keep portland street response fully funded and not under Police or Fire control. It's an important Public Health Service. | No | 06/25/25 10:08 AM |
| 479 | Jo Durand, MSW | Support | As a long term volunteer with Friends of the South Park Blocks and a resident living across the street from one of the South Park Blocks, I have had occasions to call Portland Street Response. I know other volunteers and my neighbors have also made calls to PSR. We are so glad this program was established. As a retired social worker, I really support the model PSR is using in their work. My only disappointment with the program is that it is not adequately funded, causing the 911 operator to sometimes warn me that PSR will be slow in responding because they have several calls ahead of mine. I worked in the City's human services programs for 20 years and am very familiar with the struggles to fund our Parks programs adequately in competition with Police and Fire for General Funds. I strongly believe that having bureau status and input from community-based committee will help PSR develop further, giving this important program a better chance to secure the city funding, and more importantly, the community funding it needs to meet more of the needs for their services. I believe the proposed plan will increase both the Portland Street Response program's important contribution to the livability of Downtown and the rest of Portland. Please support this proposal. Thank you. | No | 06/25/25 10:16 AM |
| 480 | Deb Whitcomb | Support | Citizens of Portland voted to establish PSR as a necessary tool to help with issues not suitable for a PPB response. It is long past time to commit the funds needed to make this a 24/7 service for the entire city of Portland!! | No | 06/25/25 10:21 AM |
| 481 | Anonymous | Support | For many communities in Portland, the Police continue to present a greater chance of making an emergency situation worse than better (https://bikeportland.org/2025/06/17/portland-man-hit-intentionally-by-driver-on-pedalpalooza-ride-shares-his-story-395016). Since Portland Street Response was created, I've regularly witnessed scenarios in which they might have helped but the Police definitely wouldn't have, usually outside of PSR's service area or operating hours. Frankly, this is one of those situations that feels like we do not have a complete and functioning government. | No | 06/25/25 10:30 AM |
| 482 | Neal Sand-Yellow Brick Road | Support | As someone who has been doing street outreach in this community for more than 20 years, I strongly support Portland Street Response and providing full funding so they can do their excellent work 24-7 as an independent part of the cities emergency response system. I have had excellent experiences with Portland Street Response providing compassionate, effective response to folks in crisis, in cases where I probably would not have been comfortable with a police response. It is important that Portland Street Response maintain it's independence and not be involved in enforcement, or camp cleanup efforts in order to maintain credibility with the folks it's designed to serve. | No | 06/25/25 10:35 AM |
| 483 | Harlan Shober | Support | I support PSR. A minority of interventions need an armed response. Policed are not social workers or nurses. Let's not ask them to do those jobs. PSR is a valuable means to civilizing life in our City. | No | 06/25/25 10:38 AM |

| Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|-------------------------|----------|---|------------|-------------------|
| 484 Spencer J Thayer | Support | <p>To the City Council, and more importantly, to the people of Portland:</p> <p>We are here not to thank you for this resolution, but to remind you of its purpose. Portland Street Response was not born in this chamber. It was born on the streets, from the love and rage of a community that was tired of watching our neighbors be brutalized, arrested, and killed by the state's armed response to poverty and mental health crises. We, the people, created this. Now we must protect it from the very system it was meant to challenge.</p> <p>So, let us be clear.</p> <p>Yes, PSR must remain unarmed and operationally independent. This is the bare minimum. A badge and a gun are tools of coercion, not care. Independence from the police is not a preference; it is a precondition for trust. Any attempt to dilute this is an act of betrayal.</p> <p>Yes, PSR must be barred from participating in sweeps. Let's call sweeps what they are: a war on the poor. They are the violent enforcement of a social order that values property over human life. Forcing PSR to assist in these acts of police violence would make them an arm of the state's cruelty, not an alternative to it. It would destroy everything the program stands for.</p> <p>Yes, PSR must be fully staffed by individuals with lived experience and equipped with life-saving supplies. When this city banned the distribution of tents and tarps, it revealed its true priorities. It chose the aesthetics of order over the survival of human beings. We demand that PSR not only maintain but also expand its ability to provide essential tools for survival, including food, water, clothing, naloxone, and shelter. This is not charity. This is solidarity.</p> <p>But this resolution also contains immense danger. Your intention to make PSR a "co-equal branch" and integrate it into the city's bureaucracy is a blueprint for co-optation. You are attempting to institutionalize a radical act of community care, and in doing so, you domesticate it. Do not let the state swallow our creation whole. Do not turn a tool of community care into just another department managed by city administrators who serve the powerful.</p> <p>The search for a Program Manager must not be a nationwide hunt for a bureaucrat. It must be a community-led process that centers the voices of those most impacted, the unhoused, those with mental health struggles, and the people who built this program from the ground up. This must be an elected position. Power must belong to the people, not to City Hall.</p> <p>This isn't about creating a "better" first responder system. It's about building a world where the police and the brutal logic of capitalism they enforce become obsolete. This is a step toward abolition. PSR is a wound in the side of a violent state, a glimpse of a future where our safety comes not from coercion, but from collective care and mutual aid.</p> <p>Our power built this program. Our love sustains it. And we will not let you take it from us. Pass this resolution, but know that our fight is not for a seat at your table. Our fight is to build a new world altogether.</p> | No | 06/25/25 10:41 AM |
| 485 Laura Frizzell | Support | <p>I am completely in support of PSR. While the majority of police do the best they can, I believe, in responding to situations like the ones PSR helps, it is no secret the police are stretched thin. PSR teams offers skilled training, resources and compassion; they "look" like the person they are trying to help, no guns or uniforms in sight, which can be triggering or escalate the situation. PSR is a tremendous and, let's face it, courageous resource; these are folks who truly care about assisting those in crisis. It takes a special person to take on these fraught situations and bring some peace to the moment. Please fully support the resolution, expand their workforce, pay them well, and help PSR continue its work. Helping PSR thrive helps our police, too.</p> | No | 06/25/25 10:42 AM |
| 486 Mary Ellen Grace | Support | <p>When we have issues with people in our neighborhood who are having mental health crises, I don't want to call the police. I want to call Portland Street Response. PSR staff are trained in deescalating situations. Our city can regain its identity as a vibrant, healthy, cool city that it has been in the past by expanding PSR and making it a co-equal branch of the first-responder system. Yes, it costs money that it seems we don't have - but as an investment in our city - which is all of us the people - this investment will reap huge benefits for our communities.</p> | No | 06/25/25 10:44 AM |

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|-----|----------------------|----------|---|------------|-------------------|
| 487 | Debbie Kitchin | Support | Portland Street Response is a vital community resource and should be fully-funded. We need to provide resources and structure to manage the program effectively and to the best service of our community. | No | 06/25/25 10:47 AM |
| 488 | Steve Cheseborough | Support | Sending PSR instead of cops saves money and often saves lives! This is one of the best programs Portland has, and it needs all the help it can get, after being neglected and opposed by previous councilors and mayor. Please pass this resolution and fully fund Portland Street Response. Thank you. | No | 06/25/25 10:50 AM |
| 489 | Anonymous | Support | This is a much needed and significant support for humanely responding to folks on the street who need our first responders. | No | 06/25/25 10:51 AM |
| 490 | Mary Kinnick | Support | Absolutely expand PSR!! This is one of the best initiatives to ensure a safer, more humane and effective responder system in Portland. | No | 06/25/25 10:53 AM |
| 491 | Mary Stewart | Support | I support continued financial support and increased financial support for Portland Street Response services. PSR services are essential to addressing and ending homelessness in the city of Portland. | No | 06/25/25 11:07 AM |
| 492 | Harriet Cooke | Support | Portland Street Response is a necessary partner for public safety. Not only are they trained to respond to non-violent citizens, as a co-equal branch, they will be eyes on the ground helping to keep excessive force in check, bringing out the best in Portland Policing. When the only tool you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail. PSR is another tool that has demonstrated its efficacy and value. They need to be supported and sustained. | No | 06/25/25 11:08 AM |
| 493 | Nico Abgrall | Support | The people of Portland fully support PSR and ask of you to make everything possible for PSR to expand their action and have control on what measures they deem necessary to put in place. PSR provides immense relief to the unsheltered population by adopting a trauma informed approach to their work. Please support PSR and give them full agency. | No | 06/25/25 11:35 AM |
| 494 | Dedrick Sprick | Support | Dear Council, I am in full support of making sure Portland Street Response is an equal service in our first responder system for Portland. I've seen my neighborhood get better over the last few years, and I am sure it could be even better with a stronger Portland Street Response service. It feels like this service is critical to addressing needs of people While the population experiencing lack of shelter can find the support they need. Please support this change to make this service even better. | No | 06/25/25 11:46 AM |
| 495 | Adele Thompson | Support | Community-supported, cost-effective, situation-calming. These are convincing reasons to support expansion of Portland Street Response. | No | 06/25/25 12:04 PM |

| Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|----------------------|----------|--|------------|-------------------|
| 496 Kip Silverman | Support | <p>I want to put my voice in as a 25-year Plus resident of Portland Oregon and as the co-chair of the Portland committee on community engaged policing policy and reform subcommittee, that Portland Street response needs to become a co-equal first responder organization if the city of Portland is ever going to truly move beyond its decades long history of lethal outcomes of Portland Police engaging with people in crisis. The narrative that Portland Street response just shows up and hands out water and leaves is tiresome, PSR unlike other first responder agencies, often needs to build a trust relationship with people who are unhoused and/or do not have the support they need to get coordinated care. The most direct comment to date that I've heard supporting this as a solution was from PPA President Aaron Schmautz stating in a forum that the Portland Police are not equipped to deal with people in crisis for the most part, and their nexus of options are extremely limited. When we have police chief Bob Day and other advocates for expanding the Portland Police Force yet a large percentage of police calls are responding to people in crisis and not focused on issues of crime and other potential public safety issues, one would hope that as a city that has been under a lawsuit for over 13 years for use of force against people in crisis, there would be more willingness to embrace the idea that we need a first responder system that is fully integrated so that people in our city get the right help they need when they need it without barriers with a clear path to dispatching the best possible responder given the situation that is called in and being able to do warm or hot handoffs if the assessment of the situation is different than the initial call. The only way this happens effectively is if we do make Portland Street response a code equal first responder branch and fund it fully now, to expand and grow to be able to recruit and train responders to meet the demands of the city.</p> <p>With your time and again that we're in an explosive crisis of mental health, drug use, and unhoused people and yet the solution that keeps being promoted by the same old people that never address the problem in the first place is the same solution they're promoting now which is more Draconian laws and more police.</p> <p>If more police and tougher laws would have solved the problem, we wouldn't need Portland Street response. But the reality is over the last 70 years that I've been able to research back through articles from the Scanner, the work cop watch has done, and other resources both verbal and written, that more police and more Draconian laws have no effect other than harming the people we claim we want to help.</p> <p>I implore the city council to pass this, I'd love to see unanimously but I don't expect it, and to have some hard conversations about how many police do we actually need and who should be responding to what crisis is happening at any given time.</p> <p>If 20 to 40% of police calls and 40% of fire calls are dispatched based on somebody in crisis or having a medical issue, then we are doing something very wrong as police should be dealing with crime and fire should be dealing primarily with fire.</p> <p>We have to do better we should be a leader in this country of what empathetic thoughtful and compassionate first responder systems could look like.</p> <p>Let's make it happen let's be a model for everyone else.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> | No | 06/25/25 12:04 PM |
| 497 John Morrison | Support | <p>Dear Council: Supporting and expanding Portland Street Response (PSR) is one way we can truly make our city one to be proud of. More than just being an efficient use of resources, PSR is evidence of our city's deep and abiding compassion. Thank you! John Morrison 3334 NE 25th Ave Portland, OR 97212</p> | No | 06/25/25 12:05 PM |
| 498 Linds Tallon | Support | | No | 06/25/25 12:10 PM |
| 499 Salem Heideman | Support | Portland Street Response is a vital service that myself and many friends and coworkers frequently need. It is imperative that it receives appropriate funding and status. | No | 06/25/25 12:12 PM |

| | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|-----|----------------------------|----------|---|------------|-------------------|
| 500 | Sara S-B | Support | This resolution is an important step toward reaffirming the original purpose of Portland Street Response (PSR): to serve as an independent, unarmed alternative to police for 911 calls involving people in crisis. It's the City Council's role to set clear policy direction, and this resolution gives Portland's new leadership a chance to show their commitment to PSR's future and rebuild community trust. PSR was created by the community, for the community, and should include a community advisory group to ensure it remains accountable and aligned with its founding vision. PSR should not be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, camping bans, or forced service engagement. Its teams must also regain access to essential, life-saving supplies—like naloxone, food, and clothing—to effectively respond to people in crisis using best practices in care and de-escalation. | No | 06/25/25 12:22 PM |
| 501 | Barbara Bochinski | Support | PSR are the appropriate people to send when someone is having a mental health crisis. I have seen PSR responders deal with people and they are low key and talk with the person; deescalation not drama. Please expand their hours so I can call when I see someone in distress. Thank you. Barbara Bochinski | No | 06/25/25 12:49 PM |
| 502 | Bradley Dirlam | Support | i fully support realizing the original promise of PSR as a true alternative for folks experiencing emotional and mental health crises in our city! | No | 06/25/25 12:55 PM |
| 503 | Shirley Reynolds | Support | | No | 06/25/25 1:37 PM |
| 504 | Kat Mahoney | Support | I have called 911 multiple times asking for Portland Street Response to help someone. Every time I have seen them arrive, they address the person, the problem, and resolve it with care, empathy, and professionalism. They are much needed in our city as an alternative to police who may appear as threat with weapons and armor to someone. Portland Street Response was developed by our community to serve our community. PSR should never be involved in enforcement activities such as sweeps, enforcing camping bans, or other violent actions against our neighbors and citizens. Having PSR alleviates burdens on PPB, which then saves tax paying dollars from the first encounter to jail, holding, and judge appointed times. PSR needs to become a co-equal first responder organization if the city of Portland is ever going to adequately and positively address those in need. Even Aaron Schmautz said PPB is not equipped for some types of emergencies. It's long past time - please do the right thing. | No | 06/25/25 1:40 PM |
| 505 | Jeremy Beausoleil Smith | Support | We must make Portland Street Response a co-equal branch of the First Responder System and Establish the Portland Street Response Committee. I urge you to please support this resolution. We can achieve Sustainable Public Safety without more police. | No | 06/25/25 1:48 PM |
| 506 | Dave King Climate Jobs PDX | | I support Portland Street Response. As a retired mental health worker with years of out patient experience I know that when mentally ill people see police they experience fear, some with symptoms of Post Traumatic stress Disorder. So since we have decided that mentally ill people should be treated in the community, we need to provide them with sheltered but meaningful work and the minimal support they need from community oriented professional case managers. At this time, as organized society we work with mentally ill people with armed police and jails. Very little case management or day treatment exists. Our Police are oriented trained and excited to catch criminals and enforce laws and rules. They don't understand mental illness and they often fear people. And they don't like that part of their job. So Portland Street Response is an excellent program totally appropriate, and a good start toward a treatment model like I described above. | No | 06/25/25 2:06 PM |
| 507 | Jennifer Coleman | Support | This system and committee makes good sense for people, community, business, economy, first responders -- for Portland. I strongly encourage Council support. | No | 06/25/25 2:08 PM |
| 508 | Charlie Michelle-Westley | Support | This is simply the right thing to do and is way over due to respect the original mission of the PSR as independent, UNARMED, alternate to potentially violent unqualified police response to people in crisis and mostly in a trauma survival mode. PLEASE SUPPORT THIS AGENDA ITEM!!! | No | 06/25/25 2:21 PM |
| 509 | Anonymous | Support | Portland Street Response is making a huge, positive change in helping people in crisis outside of the carceral system that furthers trauma and punishment. I support PSR becoming a co-equal branch of the 1st responder system and it should be fully funded for 24/7 operation. | No | 06/25/25 3:00 PM |

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| Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|----------------------|----------|--|------------|------------------|
| Babs Vanelli | Support | Life long Portlander here; had planned to testify virtually but had limited time today. I am a strong advocate for Portland Street Response. I IMPLORE you to vote YES on Document 2025-175. A Story for you.... Recently @ Hollywood West Fred Meyer there were 2 PSR Vans. Found out they were helping a man who was so disheveled I could not tell his age. I learned he had no weapon; he did not know who is was or where he was. The PSR team had been there for over an hour; when I was leaving the store yet ANOTHER hour later, 2 PSR employees were continuing to talk with him calmly and gently. They had provided him with food and water. It was heartbreaking. I was overwhelmed as I observed the compassion and courage of the PSR employees as well as their DETERMINATION to NOT GIVE UP on this man as likely many others had done so in his lifetime. PLEASE VOTE YES!!! | No | 06/25/25 3:34 PM |
| Gayle Kauffman | Support | Strongly support this needed team | No | 06/25/25 4:35 PM |

Portland City Council, Community and Public Safety Committee
Tuesday, April 22, 2025 - 2:30 p.m.
Verbal Testimony List

| Document Number | Name |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| 2025-175 | Mary Emerson |
| 2025-175 | Au Nguyen |
| 2025-175 | Kaia Sand |
| 2025-175 | Aric Clark |
| 2025-175 | Odelia Zuckerman |
| 2025-175 | Hilary Nichols |
| 2025-175 | Tim Pitts |
| 2025-175 | Jules Boykoff |
| 2025-175 | Benjamin Coleman |
| 2025-175 | Casey Chaffin |
| 2025-175 | David Gray |
| 2025-175 | Bradley Dirlam |
| 2025-175 | Babs Vanelli |
| 2025-175 | Alan Comnes |
| 2025-175 | Brian Owendoff |
| 2025-175 | Heather Riggs |
| 2025-175 | Isaac McLennan |
| 2025-175 | Loretta Guzman |
| 2025-175 | Karen Chirre |
| 2025-175 | Michelle Milla |
| 2025-175 | Todd Littlefield |
| 2025-175 | Kip Silverman |
| 2025-175 | Sandeep Divekar |
| 2025-175 | Concerned Citizen 5000 |
| 2025-175 | Aiden Summers |
| 2025-175 | Benjamin Fisco |

Portland City Council Meeting
June 25, 2025 - 1:30 p.m.
Testimony List

| | Name | Document Number |
|----|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Sarah Hobbs | 2025-175 |
| 2 | Amanda Rose Prezioso | 2025-175 |
| 3 | Paul Cone | 2025-175 |
| 4 | Kaia Sand | 2025-175 |
| 5 | Jeremy Smith | 2025-175 |
| 6 | (Margaret) Lynne Smouse | 2025-175 |
| 7 | Odelia Zuckerman | 2025-175 |
| 8 | Kathleen Swift | 2025-175 |
| 9 | Benjamin Gilbert | 2025-175 |
| 10 | Kip Silverman | 2025-175 |
| 11 | Jordan Lewis | 2025-175 |
| 12 | Albert Kaufman | 2025-175 |
| 13 | Amy Barden | 2025-175 |
| 14 | Jackie Yerby | 2025-175 |