



August 6, 2014

Mayor Hales and distinguished Commissioner's of City Council. My name is Mark Schlesinger, I am a principal partner in the Schlesinger Companies, a 4th generation family real estate development and holding company that has been doing business in our wonderful city since my grandfather first acquired his first parcel of commercial real estate at the corner of SW 6th Avenue and Washington Streets in 1935. By the way, that "piece of dirt" is still a part of our family's real estate holding today! I am here today to share my concerns with all of you regarding our city's livability challenges including sidewalk management.

Last week I was afforded the opportunity to attend a briefing by the Portland Police and social service agency representatives regarding the current program that has increased the visual presence of our Portland Police officers "walking the beat" both downtown and through the SE Hawthorne District. While the initial impact of this program appears to be having some positive results I believe the City's current approach to addressing the issues related to sidewalk management in many Portland neighborhoods is not effective and needs to be strengthened.

I walk the streets of our wonderful City as well and constantly find myself having to "step around" and pick up after groups of aggressive panhandlers, often times with unleashed, unlicensed and sometimes aggressive dogs. Often times they leave garbage and debris including their "why lie???? I need spare changes for beer and drugs" signs behind when they move on to another location. Our company has supported and will continue to do so the incredibly successful programs offered by Central City Concern, Downtown Clean & Safe as well as other service providers who work with individuals who want to make a change in their lives and the communities they live in. These types of programs deserve our support both through taxes and donations because they assist the individual that wants to change their own lives but needs the programs and tools to effect that change.

The City and you as our governing body do need to address the elements in our society that do not want to make a change in their lives but are here solely to prey on innocent victims, to vandalize our property and to take advantage and abuse the services and systems set up to help those that truly need it.

- Lax regulations regarding management of sidewalk space is causing many neighborhoods to be unsafe.
- Unlawful activities result from the lack of effective sidewalk regulation, including assaults and drug dealing.
- Individuals and businesses are impacted by the city's inability to effectively address these issues.
- Recruiting new businesses and retaining employers in these areas is more difficult because workers and customers do not feel safe.
- A distinction must be made between people who need and want services and those who don't.
- We need a broad package of tools that includes a city ordinance that establishes clearer rules for sidewalk behavior and improved services for people in need.

Within the past few weeks, once again I had the opportunity with the assistance of Securitas Bike Patrol Services to personally trespass two street people shooting up drugs on our private property. In order for property owners such as ourselves to continue to pay our share of city taxes and special assessments which afford the community the services and programs to help the people who truly need and want services we need to have a active, safe and inviting city where businesses want to be located. We need the rental income.....NO TENANTS.....NO INCOME.....NO tax base and assessments to fund the programs and support services. It's that simple!

I will continue to be vocal and advocate for and financially support the programs that help those that want to turn their lives around and be a positive contributing member of our city and community.

Mr. Mayor and members of Council, PLEASE show good stewardship and be proactive leaders and give the Portland social service organizations, Portland Police Department and our community at large better tools such as stronger sidewalk management ordinances to assist in making Portland a vibrant, safe and thriving city we can all be proud of.

Thank you,

Mark Schlesinger

Parsons, Susan

Aug 6

From: Mark Schlesinger <Mark.Schlesinger@schlesingercos.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2014 4:09 PM
To: Parsons, Susan
Subject: City Council public testimony

Dear Susan,

I am interested in testifying in front of City Council:

1. My full name is: Mark Reid Schlesinger
2. My Address is: 610 SW Alder Street Suite 1221 Portland, Oregon 97205
3. My Phone number: 503-223-4128
4. I would like to testify before City Council regarding our city's livability challenges include sidewalk management.
5. I wish to testify on August 6, 2014.

Thank you for the opportunity, I look forward to your reply.

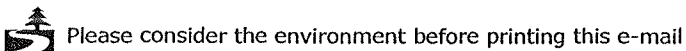
Best Regards,

Mark Schlesinger

Please note my new direct dial number is:
(971) 200-4900



Mark Schlesinger
Partner / Senior Property Manager
610 SW Alder Street, Suite 1221
Portland, Oregon 97205
Phone: 503.223.4128
Fax: 503.223.1877
mark.schlesinger@schlesingercos.com



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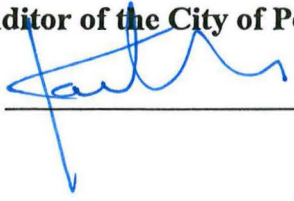
Request of Mark Schlesinger to address Council regarding City livability
challenges including sidewalk management (Communication)

AUG 06 2014

PLACED ON FILE

Filed AUG 01 2014

LaVonne Griffin-Valade
Auditor of the City of Portland

By 

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Novick		
Hales		