

From: [Marian Drake](#)
To: [City Auditor, Mary Hull Caballero](#)
Subject: PUSH PAUSE on renewing the Downtown Clean & Safe ESD
Date: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 8:50:40 AM

City Auditor Mary Hull-Caballero,

Next week, you will be asked to renew a multi-year, \$5 million/year contract for the Downtown Clean & Safe enhanced services district (ESD). As you know, "Downtown Clean & Safe" is managed by the Portland Business Alliance (PBA) and funded by mandatory fees leveraged on all properties within a 213-block district. Portland's City Auditor concluded that: "Without the City monitoring district activities, there is no way for the community to obtain information, and to influence or hold districts accountable."

Given the impact of ESDs on our communities — especially those who are unhoused, who disproportionately experience the negative effects of ESDs — we urgently need a public process prior to the Clean & Safe contract renewal. By prioritizing the renewal of the Downtown Clean & Safe contract over the comprehensive review recommended by the City Auditor, you, as a Council, have turned your backs on our community.

You have failed to address data that shows that within ESDs, arrest rates of houseless individuals are 22 times higher than the city average. You have ignored the Portland Committee on Community Engaged Policing, which called for the removal of private security from public space and an end to Clean & Safe-funded police officers. By excluding the public from a transparent, comprehensive review and negotiation process, you have effectively barred the housed and unhoused residents who live and work in the district from having any input on the ESD operations, and system of holding them accountable, that they are forced to live with every day.

Over the past year, your constituents have repeatedly and loudly demanded justice. The City Auditor paved a clear path for you to heed that call. We need you to commit to accountability and transparency now. We urge you to push pause on this renewal process until the full review of the districts' purpose and operations can be completed with meaningful public input.

Respectfully,

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