



Dear Chair Kafoury:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us on October 22 to discuss the deteriorating conditions in Old Town.

We appreciate that you recognize our neighborhood is in crisis. We were encouraged to learn you are in talks with the City to use additional dollars available to local governments to strengthen mental health treatment and housing programs.

We were dismayed, however, to hear that the assistance our neighborhood and neighbors need today may not come until sometime next year. With all due respect, those who are suffering mental health crises cannot wait until fall 2022 for the county's Behavior Health Center to open.

Chair Kafoury, the situation in Old Town is urgent, unsafe and desperate for leadership.

Now that you've had a chance to hear from us and from others who care deeply about Old Town, we are writing again to ask you to identify what you can do right now to ease the suffering that is only becoming worse every day. We need action now and strongly urge you to develop 30, 60, and 90-day plans so that we know that more immediate solutions are being considered.

It's heartbreaking to think the county and its leaders would turn their backs on Portland's oldest neighborhood, home to immigrants who overcame decades of discrimination and indignity and today home to many who are fighting hard just to survive.

Please don't give up on Old Town.

Sincerely and in service,



*Lynn Fuchigami Parks Elizabeth Nye Judy Margles Anna Truxes*

Lynn Fuchigami Parks, Executive Director of Japanese American Museum of Oregon; Elizabeth Nye, Executive Director of Lan Su Chinese Garden; Judy Margles, Director of Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education; Anna Truxes, Interim Executive Director of Portland Chinatown Museum

*Connie Masuoka Raymond Cheng Jeff Mazer Harris Matarazzo*

Connie Masuoka, Board President of Japanese American Museum of Oregon; Raymond Cheng, Board President of Lan Su Chinese Garden; Jeff Mazer, Board President of Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education; Harris Matarazzo, Board President of Portland Chinatown Museum

Cc:

Therese Bottomly, The Oregonian  
Helen Jung, The Oregonian  
Nigel Jaquiss, Willamette Week  
Pat Dooris, KGW  
Dan Haggerty, KGW  
Maggie Vespa, KGW

Jeff Gianola, KOIN  
Elizabeth Dinh, KOIN  
Wayne Garcia, KPTV  
Pete Ferryman, KPTV  
Steve Dunn, KATU  
Lincoln Graves, KATU  
Kirk Johnson, New York Times