



November 1, 2021

Dear Commissioner Hardesty:

As the leaders of the four cultural organizations based in Old Town, we were disappointed to learn that your schedule was too full to allow you to meet with us until November 22.

We very much want to discuss the unsafe conditions for everyone in our neighborhood. Commissioner Hardesty, the situation is urgent. From our meetings with the mayor and other commissioners, we understand there are a number of proposals under consideration, including additional spending as part of the fall BMP. However, we are deeply concerned that what we've heard is too little and too late.

We strongly urge you to develop 30, 60, and 90-day plans so that we know that more immediate solutions are being considered.

We recognize there are other Portland neighborhoods also experiencing crime and disruption. That should not stop you from taking immediate action to save Portland's oldest neighborhood, home to immigrants who overcame decades of discrimination and indignity and today home to many who are desperately fighting hard just to survive.

Please don't give up on Old Town.

Sincerely and in service,

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