



November 1, 2021

Dear Commissioner Mapps:

Thank you for taking the time on October 14 to meet with the leaders of the four cultural organizations located in Old Town to discuss the unsafe conditions for everyone in our neighborhood.

We truly appreciated hearing that you support more funding through the fall budget process to provide more (and accountable) policing, mental health services and trash pickup. We will take the time to evaluate and provide feedback on proposals emerging this week.

However, we are dismayed that the solutions you identified during our October 14 meeting will take months, if not years, to put into place.

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 city and its leaders would turn their backs on Portland's oldest neighborhood, home to immigrants who overcame decades of discrimination and indignity. If this city gives up on Old Town, on the desperate human beings who are currently living on the sidewalks and streets, then we fear we have lost the Portland we all loved.

Commissioner Mapps, please don't give up on Old Town.

Sincerely and in service to our city,



*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