



November 1, 2021

Dear Commissioner Stegmann:

Thank you for taking the time on October 20 to meet with us and to listen to our concerns regarding the dangerous conditions in Old Town.

We appreciated learning that the county has approved and budgeted expansion of the Navigation Teams from one unit to four and that the county is committed to adding more housing.

We were dismayed, however, to learn that there are no short-term solutions in the pipeline. Respectfully, we consider four Navigation Teams to be a good start, but hardly adequate for the entire county.

Commissioner Stegmann, 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, city and our leaders would turn their backs on Portland's oldest neighborhood, home to immigrants who overcame decades of discrimination and today home to many who suffer the indignity of living on the sidewalks and streets.

Old Town needs you. The neighborhood, its residents, its businesses and its cultural institutions cannot wait months – or longer – for relief.



Sincerely,

*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