



November 1, 2021

Dear Commissioners Vega Pederson and Jayapal:

We want to thank you both for taking the time to meet with us on October 20 and to discuss our concerns about the dangerous conditions in Old Town.

We appreciate that you are considering allocating surplus budget dollars to mental health and social service agencies in our neighborhood. We also appreciate that the county may be willing to underwrite some of the additional security costs our non-profit organizations have incurred as a result of the escalating crime and violence.

We are dismayed, however, that we did not hear any immediate actions or solutions from you. Commissioners Pederson and Jayapal, the situation we and our neighbors face in Old Town is urgent, unsafe and desperate for leadership.

Please do whatever you can to ease the suffering that is only becoming worse every day. Please identify actions that you can take right now. We 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.

Please don't give up on Old Town. The neighborhood, its residents, its businesses and its cultural institutions cannot wait months – or longer – for relief.



Respectfully,

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