



**WATERFRONT ORGANIZATIONS OF OREGON**  
[www.waterfrontoregon.com](http://www.waterfrontoregon.com)

October 22, 2021

Mayor Ted Wheeler  
Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty  
Commissioner Mingus Mapps  
Commissioner Carmen Rubio  
Commissioner Dan Ryan

Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury  
Commissioner Susheela Jayapal  
Commissioner Sharon Meieran  
Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson  
Commissioner Lori Stegmann

District Attorney Mike Schmidt

### **Request for Immediate Return to Law and Order**

The Waterfront Organizations of Oregon want to communicate **STRONGLY** the community need for protection and security of our families, employees, customers; our homes, businesses and properties. Law enforcement, incarceration, prosecution and punishment is needed for breaking the laws our society needs. Anything short of that will promote and continue the lawlessness spurred by prior decisions.

Our neighborhoods, our homes and our properties are being overrun by criminals who have no impunity for their actions knowing that, at most, they will be given a citation, won't be jailed, likely not prosecuted nor convicted or punished. To watch them smash the windows of cars at Delta Park while the parents of the children playing sports are seated right next to the vehicle illustrates how out of control these criminals are.

We are paying a heavy price for the drop in law enforcement staffing seen with the increase of private security services and infrastructure as well as a heavy cost for losses in theft, damage and vandalism and the psychological damage from not feeling safe.

We support the efforts on sheltering, dealing with drug addiction and mental illness. These need not be conflicting goals. We strongly request the immediate focus on doing anything and everything possible to bring back law and order to our city. Some ideas include rehiring retired police, staffing the positions needed to fast track new hires and training, funding private security for neighborhoods and business district associations as a stopgap. The City has the funding available from the budget surplus (\$62M less \$32M set aside). We ask that you invest it in returning law and order.

We ask Multnomah County to restore the law enforcement on the water. The MCSO River Patrol Units have been cut back from two boats and two shifts all the way to one boat and one shift and 25% of that time they are called off for serving papers. Our MCSO RPU protects over 110 river miles, is partially funded by the OSMB and is needed for the crime that is escalating on the water.

Along with the staffing for law enforcement, it is imperative that the criminal justice system be supported including jails, prosecution, conviction and punishment. We ask the city, county and state work together to ensure all areas are robust and effective. We ask District Attorney Mike Schmidt to restore prosecution of all crimes with more resources provided by Multnomah County and the State of Oregon.

While WOOO is a statewide organization and our out of city members are benefitting from the exodus of customers from Portland member businesses, we do support the Portland waterfront and the city itself in thriving and becoming the best it can be. We ask that immediate action be taken before another life is lost, another job impacted because family transportation was taken, another family goes homeless because of the economic impact of crime, another business closure because of increased costs and loss of revenue from customers fleeing or another family leaves fearful to live any longer in a town they once felt safe in.

Please take immediate action.

Sincerely,



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