



Office of Mayor Keith Wilson  
City of Portland

To: Signatories: Organizations and Community Members  
From: Keith Wilson, Mayor of Portland  
cc: Portland Committee on Community-Engaged Policing  
Date: January 15, 2026

I have received and carefully reviewed the letter from representatives of Kat Mahoney Law, Hope & Bread, Roseto Films, All Saints Episcopal Church, PDX Saints Love, and other businesses, nonprofits, and community members.

I am grateful for the longstanding service and legacy of organizations such as PDX Saints Love, with whom we work closely. They have been a strong and influential voice of morality and advocacy, a call that the City of Portland has risen to answer in our work to compassionately address unsheltered homelessness and save lives.

The City of Portland remains committed to transparency, accountability, and public engagement, particularly in the realm of procurement. Our procurement process is guided by an expansive [code of ethics](#) that emphasizes transparency, fairness, avoiding conflicts of interest, and public trust. Additionally, the City of Portland hosted provider meetings and invited all providers from City and County lists, posted information online, and encouraged interested providers to share with others. I would be happy to connect you with our Chief Procurement Officer, Sylvester Donaldson, to address any concerns you may have with our procurement standards, including those of our homelessness service providers.

Please allow me to provide some clarification on an important issue: the City of Portland does not conduct “sweeps.” We lead with outreach, engagement, and resources, always offering individuals a path off the streets as we enforce our existing codes on sanitation, livability, and life-safety. We lead the nation in our safeguards and commitments to the respect and dignity of those we serve at every step of the abatement process.

I would further invite you to engage with Portland’s Emergency Humanitarian Operations Director, Brandy Westerman, to discuss any concerns you may have with our emergency

overnight shelters and day centers, which have been expanded to serve women, families, and those committed to substance use disorder recovery. These shelters are a critical emergency stopgap to ensure that every Portlander has a safe bed, every night. We believe this resource is saving many lives despite representing well under 5% of what our region spends annually on homelessness.

Citations and warrant checks are a critical public health and safety tool. Many are now accepting services for the first time due to these efforts. For some, this process will serve as an opportunity to resolve the issues keeping them on the street. Others must be held responsible for posing serious harm to the community, and no one has suffered more from those harms than our houseless neighbors. Early efforts have resulted in arrests for failure to register as a sex offender, firearm possession, felon in possession of body armor, assault on an officer, and other issues that pose an ongoing life-safety threat to our community. In the interest of transparency, accountability, and public engagement, we will soon deploy a dashboard covering collected data on time, place, and manner citations in greater detail.

Separately, I understand curiosity and speculation remain regarding former Portland Housing Director Hisserich. Please understand that I cannot comment on personnel matters. Thank you again for this opportunity to engage on an important issue that will shape the future of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Wilson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Keith Wilson  
Mayor of Portland