

Coalition to Save Portland

September 24, 2020

Dear Portland,

Something is very wrong in our city. In your heart, you know it's failed. In your heart, you know something must be done to save our city.

We are a coalition of citizens that is fed up. Fed up with the crime. Fed up with the arson. Fed up with the destruction. Fed up with the mismanagement.

Fed up with not feeling safe on the streets of Portland.

We see it all around us. Smashed windows, boarded up businesses, closed shops, violence, arson, crime. It's not just downtown. It's showing up everywhere.

Arson is up 400% across the entire city of Portland. As of August 2020, there have been 116 shootings in Portland. There were 41 in all of 2019. In just July 2020 alone, there were 15 homicides in Portland. There were 31 in all of 2019. .

And the leaders of Portland? Some are nowhere to be found. Others are surrendering to the lawlessness and violence. Still others are trying to rationalize and justify it, or even reward it. They would rather worsen public safety by defunding and neutering law enforcement, than to face up to and solve our city's many problems.

Problem is, we've already tried that. Portland has defunded the police since the 1990s. What do we have to show for it? Policies that promised to make the Rose City a better place to live have instead brought more crime, less livability, rampant homelessness, widespread riots and arson, and violence spreading across the city.

Ask yourself: do you really feel safe going downtown? Walking in your neighborhood after dark? Taking a bus or MAX?

The Coalition to Save Portland grew out of months of searching. We have fielded dozens of pleas to find an alternative candidate for Mayor of Portland. We hear an endless refrain from Portlanders that we need a better choice. One candidate, Sarah Iannarone, declared herself the Antifa candidate. The other, incumbent Ted Wheeler, has utterly failed to show any leadership - as mayor, as well as in his campaign.

Neither candidate inspires trust that they can lead Portland out of this mess. Indeed, most of us believe things will get far worse under either choice for mayor.

If you search your heart, you know you believe it too.

Portland needs change. Portland needs leadership. Portland needs real solutions to the problems we face. The alternative is to watch Portland die. Our current choices for mayor simply represent a choice of how quick that death will be.

And yet, we haven't given up on Portland. We haven't given up on real solutions. We want to see the Portland that we all fell in love with, whether we were born here, or chose to live here because Portland was so cool, so hip, so loveable.

We also haven't given up on seeking answers to our concerns from the current candidates. The Coalition to Save Portland will talk with any candidate. What we will not accept is more failure to take action.

We invite Ted Wheeler, Sarah Iannarone, and any write-in candidates to meet with us to talk about actions they will take. We don't want platitudes or doublespeak. We want solutions to the problems that are killing Portland.

And if the Coalition to Save Portland finds those talks unsatisfactory, we will be forced to support a write-in candidate. This candidate would be well-known in the community, would have significant backing from a diverse group of community leaders, and would have a groundswell of support from Portlanders and Oregonians who are embarrassed by Portland's current leadership and want to see real change.

What Portland's leaders are doing is inexcusable. We want to talk to current leaders about how they will solve Portland's downward slide. If they don't give Portland what it needs to survive, they need to be replaced.

It's that simple. You know in your heart it's true.

If Ted, Sarah, or any of the other city leaders can't provide the Coalition to Save Portland a meaningful, living plan of action by Monday, September 28, we will have no choice but to support a write-in candidate that will.

Sincerely,

The Coalition