



November 10, 2021

Dear Mayor Wheeler and City Council Members,

The Central Eastside Industrial District is an essential part of the economic health and vibrancy of Portland's Central City. Through the foresight of City leaders and the Central Eastside Industrial Council (CEIC) wanting to build on our area's industrial legacy, we have maintained this area as a job center, providing median wage income and ensuring our City is prosperous for everyone. Pre-COVID, CEID was home to over 20,000 jobs and 1300 businesses

While much of our City was closed, we still had many manufacturing and distribution facilities open. The CEIC continued operating our Enhanced Services District, Central Eastside Together Safety and Cleaning teams, which today contract 31 workers, many of them with lived experience of homelessness. In 2020 and 2021, our teams responded to over 5000 safety and cleaning dispatches and our Safety for All teams have had over 30,000 interactions with businesses, visitors, and residents (housed and unhoused). We distributed hygiene kits, COVID information, and connected unhoused to medical and health appointments, food and clothing, and shelter and housing lists. Our services are in more demand than ever, and we have increased safety services to nearly 24 hour coverage. Our businesses, residents, and the people living on our streets need more support.

We need to ensure that this district is a strong economic center for all. This starts by guaranteeing access to resources for our most vulnerable and safety for everyone, from the person living on the sidewalk, to the visitor discovering area makers and muralists, to the essential worker commuting to the area.

Portland is at a turning point. This Fall BMP process is our City's chance to show that we are building back better. We feel that our community is being heard when we see the types of investments being put forth in the partnership between the County and City, particularly in these

areas: more shelter and types of shelter, better shelter coordination, more trash services for people living outside, more outreach and more mental health services including the behavioral health unit of Portland Police and the services coordination team.

In addition, we urge for improvements to the 911 system, the immediate expansion of Portland Street Response in coordination with Project Respond, and the hiring of PS3 officers. We also support the Portland Police retire to rehire program, with assurance that there will be a careful vetting process for bringing officers back on.

The Central Eastside Industrial Council is a willing partner in bringing vitality to Portland's streets. We showed this in our commitment to Central Eastside Together, the first Enhanced Services District in Portland in nearly 20 years. The City's commitment to basic services like cleaning and safety are crucial to the recovery and success of our businesses, employees, and residents. Our partnership with the City, Central Eastside Together, relies on it. Thank you for making this your top priority throughout the Fall BMP process and into the future.

Sincerely,



Kate Merrill
Executive Director

Central Eastside Industrial Council

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