

I am writing about the increase in drug use in my community of Hollywood in Portland, OR. I am sure you are aware of it. The shop keepers in the area are closing and others are closing earlier than normal due to thefts by these losers. And, I mean LOSERS!

They are not incapacitated at all. The high they receive from these drugs must be very short lived so they are immediately back on the streets looking for money to buy more. Rite Aid is just closing on NE 41 Avenue, Target has closed on NE Halsey and Aunt Tillie's Deli is now closing at 7 pm and earlier because of the druggies hanging around the area. Just three examples. The empty storefronts are making my neighborhood an eye sore not to mention causing me to go elsewhere to purchase items. They are driving people away from our area. If you multiply this by every neighborhood in Portland, you have an idea of the city.

I encourage you to do the following:

Make possession of lethal drugs such as fentanyl, heroin and methamphetamines a misdemeanor crime again.

Give Law enforcement the tools to steer addicts toward mandatory treatment and away from jail.

Prioritize diversion programs that put drug users on the path to recovery and a clean criminal record

Increase penalties for drug dealing and public drug use. Take Legislative action in February. People are dying each day under Measure 110

Thank you and I sincerely mean these words.

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cc: People for Portland, P.O. Box 8272, Portland, OR 97207