

Hello,

I've lived in Portland since 1992. After saving money to build a house and much thought about where to build it, I decided to build in NE Portland near Sandy and 70th. Despite Portland being messier and more dangerous than recent years, I didn't want to abandon a city I love and where I've built two careers - one as a musician/writer, and another as an engineer.

The house is currently in construction. Here is what has occurred in the last two years:

My neighbor's house (while being renovated) was robbed of all tools

Two different neighbors (next to me and across the street) had their trucks stolen. During one of those robberies, I stood on the sidewalk and watched them steal it and couldn't do anything. I called the police, of course, but they arrived too late to do anything.

My catalytic converter was stolen and I had to quickly buy a new vehicle to continue doing business as an engineer.

I have asked multiple people to leave my partially built house. In one case, they were openly using drugs while I made this request.

Even though my new garage is boarded up for security, at least once that I know of, the wood was pried open and people entered the house.

I feel like I'm living in a war zone. When I go running, I open carry a pistol for my safety.

I can't prove that Measure 110 has contributed to these incidents, but I can tell you I'm doubting my decision to stay in Portland. My engineering business is doing well and the amount I pay in city taxes and bond taxes is truly incredible. I am one of those high earners who is eyeing other cities and counties and wondering what I get out of staying in Portland.

It's not lost on me how lucky I am. After spending my early years on welfare with a single, disabled mom I have worked very hard to create that luck. I do feel compassion for people less able to pull themselves out of poverty and who are weighed down by addiction. The reality, though, is that if we only focus on those people we are ignoring the well-being of people like me who also deserve to be safe.

Please know that I'm not the only high earner seriously considering leaving our beloved city. I feel forgotten, used, and exhausted.

Sincerely,
Christine McKinley