

I own Giffords Flowers and the space we're located in on Broadway and Jefferson in downtown Portland. We've been downtown, in the same family, since 1938. My Niece and her husband are running the business now as I am a full time caregiver for my wife who recently had a stroke. I still manage to get downtown most days, at least briefly. But, I had been downtown 6 days a week since 1974. I have Never seen conditions this bad. That includes the crack epidemic of the 80's and 90's. I also have 3 longtime close friends who are recovering addicts. Heroin and meth. They've all been clean for over 15 years. All of them only stopped using after they were arrested, assault, theft etc. Granted they put in the work, went to meetings, lived in sober living houses. Reconnected with loved ones. But all 3 agree that they would not have stopped had they not entered the justice system. And in one case a locked psychiatric unit at Good Samaritan in Corvallis. BM 110 must be repaired or repealed. It is an utter failure of government on all levels. I've had my store broken into 3 times. Had crazed people in the throes of fentanyl psychosis attack my employees. One woman was bitten! PPB arrested the guy. He was booked and released the same day. The deputy DA assigned called and said there was No Point pressing charges! The same thing happened the other time. The officer was searching to find a charge that the DA would hold them on. He shared his rap sheet with me. 80 contacts with Portland Police! I believe in Portland, I volunteer with SOLVE cleanups when I'm able. My neighbors, small business owners all have similar stories to tell. Almost none of this was happening prior to 2019. It's Fentanyl! The people who work hard and play by the rules are being forgotten. We need more Police, more mental health services, the ability to commit people who are a danger to themselves or others. Criminals need to be held accountable! I'm a lifelong progressive Democrat! But this is not a partisan issue. It's about saving our city and state. Many ordinary citizens are out here volunteering. Our elected officials need to step up. No more talk. We need action now. Thanks for listening. Jim Gifford, SE Portland. 503-407-5616