

To whom it may concern,

The streets of our once beautiful city, have become unrecognizable to me. I have lived in Portland since 1979. I am completely familiar with addiction. I had a relative with Alcohol addiction....and sad to say, but true.....you cannot help someone who doesn't want help. You cannot get someone to "follow the rules" if they do not want to. Adult addicts, have to want to change and want to become clean.....but most do not change, unless they have something substantial they will lose...like family, jobs, housing, loved ones, personal freedom. They have to make that decision themselves as adults....we cannot help them.

We desperately need to make our city reputable, clean and safe again....otherwise, I am not sure it will come back. It is not fair to tax paying, contributing members of this city, to not feel safe living here, and definitely being downtown. I worked downtown Portland for many years.....it felt alive, vibrant. I felt so proud to be working downtown. It doesn't resemble at all what it has in the past, and it won't till you remove addicts off the streets, sidewalks, out of public parks and stores.....I don't know why this seems to be so hard to understand. If drug use, is illegal in all public spaces, regardless as to why they are using, they should be arrested, put in jail. It is embarrassing to live here. There is no pride it seems you how the city looks or is perceived by others.

We all have problems at some point in our lives, it is up to each individual to responsible for their own behavior, and choices. These individuals need to take personal responsibility for their lives. But, we as a city need to support and protect the rest of its inhabitants, who do pay taxes, who want to work downtown, who do pick up their trash and throw it away, who don't poop or pee in public spaces, who aren't doing drugs in front of family's and children and elderly.

This measure has to be removed!!!! It is ruining our city. You cannot help someone who doesn't want help. But you can make use of all drugs in public illegal. There's got to be a way to get back to the city that used to be admired my all. Keeping Measure 110 is definitely not going to do it, unless it's completely removed. We need to prohibit public drug use and we need enforcement of laws, consequences, like jail time.....that is a solid place to start.

Hoping for a better city.