

Submitter: Pete Colt
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1573

I do not have children - but I am the eldest of 6.

Maybe because I was tasked with the safety of my 2 younger brothers and 3 even younger sisters - or maybe because I have no child of my own - I see your child - and every child - as my own and in the very core of my being I am bound to protect your child and every other child as if my own.

For 18 years I have gone out every day to pick up garbage like used condoms - bottles - cans - cigarette butts for 4 square blocks around a K-8 school across the street from me.

Suddenly - as a result of voter approved legislation - I was finding dozens of bloody syringes and burnt Fentanyl foil and clothing caked with feces around and on school property. (a local dentist gave me sharps containers as required by law).

One paper bag of syringes (some bloody) I found at a McDonald's near the school had a bright clown's face drawn on it in crayon - irresistible to a 3 or 4 year old.

Another bag of syringes was literally hidden up in a sign on school property.

And there were drug deaths - even on the school property itself.

PPoP - a multi-layered shell organization run by medical professionals from OHSU and by an employee of Booze Allen Hamilton - and supported by Multnomah County - was setting up shop every Friday night at 8pm on NW 19th between W Burnside and NW Couch - directly across the narrow street from the walk-up window of McDonald's W Burnside near the soccer stadium and just 200' from the school.

Sometimes up to 40 people were shooting up or snorting Fentanyl right on McDonald's property.

Jim Monroe the franchisee was/is aware of the crime and created "optics" to give the impression he cares.

Enough is enough.

Thanks to Monsignor Gerard O'Connor and Andreas Loeffler I was given a room in their school to hold a public safety meeting.

And thanks to the efforts of Allan Classen, owner of the NW Examiner to get the word out about the meeting, the turnout was unexpectedly high - parents - grandparents - child advocates - child daycare centers - schools - had had enough.

As a result of that meeting some of us got together.

We drew a new neighborhood boundary to include 2 high schools - 2 elementary schools - and a birth to pre-school day care.

We called the new neighborhood "StadiumHood".

We gave it that name because the main sports venue for 1.2 million people is in StadiumHood.

Thousands and thousands of children each year walked to the stadium either through clouds of Fentanyl smoke or through PPoP on the sidewalk as it handed out syringes on NW 19th between W Burnside and NW Couch.

We plead with The Portland City Council for help.

Councilor Olivia Clark heard our pleas.

The rest of the Portland City Council did nothing.

They will be replaced.

We plead with the Multnomah County Commission for help.

Chair Jessica Vega Pederson walked through StadiumHood. She witnessed dozens of syringes on school property.

She did nothing.

Through the pressure put on her by StadiumHood in open meetings - and its effective use of television and Social Media she announced she will not run again.

Senator Christine Drazen alone in the legislature heard our pleas.

She worked with StadiumHood to craft one of the most important and most needed child protection bills in recent Oregon history.

Momentum for StadiumHood and its "scrappy" independence is building - people from outside our physical boundaries are asking to become part of StadiumHood.

StadiumHood will now run/endorse candidates who we believe work for the greater good - not self interest or ideologies.

We will not stop - we will not rest - we will defeat you just like we defeated the well-funded Multnomah County Chair - if you don't put public safety first.

Every child - disabled person - elder - woman - man - tourist - has the right to be safe on our sidewalks.

We strongly encourage you to vote to pass SB 1573

Pete Colt