

Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair of Multnomah County;

Ted Wheeler, Mayor of Portland, Oregon

To Everyone This Concerns,

When is enough going to be enough? Everyday when one turns on the news, or opens the paper, all they hear about is another killing, another business leaving downtown, or how Portland, Oregon has become the armpit of America. Why is that you ask? Do you think that perhaps it's because the drug law that was voted in brought people from across the country to utilize their freedom to do drugs, openly, while causing financial harm to the taxpayers that keep paying for them to live the "free" life? Now, here you are proposing giving these same individuals \$1000.00 a month so they can continue destroying what once used to be a beautiful city. Guess what? That will just bring more people from across the country to live off the taxpayers. Did you ever stop to think about the consequences of even proposing that idea and the consequent financial harm it will cause the taxpayers?

We, the taxpayers of Multnomah Country that live in Portland and Gresham, have grown tired of our taxes getting raised and NOTHING being done to protect us from financial harm or to create a balance between the givers and the takers. The takers just seem to keep taking, have no respect for themselves let alone others, refuse to stay out of and stop destroying parks, wetlands, and other natural areas taxpayers have paid to have built. These are the same parks, wetlands, and natural areas the taxpayers can't seem to use because the takers have taken over. These takers trash out nature and do not care about anyone or anything but their next high. The taking and disrespect of said takers toward the taxpayers is at an all-time high and the time has now come to change that.

The givers are tired of seeing all the garbage and natural areas that are continuously getting trashed out as well as feeling unsafe going anywhere in nature for fear our lives are going to be ended by some drugged out person who is out of his or her mind. The givers are also tired of paying more and more taxes yet must drive on roads that are not car worthy let alone horse and buggy worthy. The givers are tired of being financially harmed and failed by Multnomah County and the city of Portland every time we turn around.

With all the above said, the need for taxpayer protection from financial harm and a balance between the givers and the takers has become much more prominent. Perhaps the time has come for a class action lawsuit against Multnomah County and the City of Portland, for failure of said entities to protect their citizens and constituents from the financial harm being caused us by theft from our businesses, property damage, theft of cars and catalytic converters, etc., etc. Every time we must turn a claim into our insurance for whatever theft or damage is incurred, our insurance premiums go up. We are taxed to death, but all that money seems to go to enable those who choose to live outdoors, do drugs, and be a menace to society. Enough is enough! We are mad, therefore a plan to create this balance between the givers and the taker must be addressed sooner than later.

Here are a few suggestions that could possibly help:

1. Repeal that hideous drug law and let these people know they can no longer live in tents with needles stuck in their arms while taxpayers are paying to keep their garbage picked up on a regular basis, pay for their upkeep, and whatever else we are paying for so these individuals can continue to live the “free” life.
2. Instead of releasing them from jail put them to work on a road crew picking up their own garbage pits, cleaning up graffiti, or just keep them in jail until they get clean then give them a choice to either go to a rehab center or be provided with a ticket home.
3. Ban tent camping in downtown Portland, in ALL parks, natural areas, wetlands, and any other areas that have been paid for by taxpayers. If anyone gets caught in these areas, then they need to be sent to jail for trespassing. While incarcerated they can earn some self-respect by cleaning up said natural areas that have been destroyed.
4. Most of all. DO NOT provide them \$1000.00 a month unless you plan on giving every Veteran, Disabled Veteran, and Senior Citizen in Multnomah County the same amount of money to help us make ends meet.
5. If you find you are having a hard time finding the balance between the givers and takers just bear in mind, the taxpayers are paying for this group of people you are giving precedence to over us, and we are tired of being told we must be “nice” to people who are not even remotely nice to us. Also remember that this group of people are just here for a free ride. They offer nothing to society yet always want something for free. Start holding them responsible. I mean housed people can’t pile up garbage on and around their property, lest we get fined. Why should they be any different? They do not pay rent for the land they trash

out, nor do they do not pay taxes on said piece of property. It's about their freedom to live a "free" life at the expense of the taxpayers and you, the elected officials who are supposed to protect us, have not done one thing to protect us from the financial harm being caused us. What a shame that people who choose to live outside get more protection from the city of Portland and Multnomah County than those who have chosen to live a meaningful life.

If a class action lawsuit needs to be brought about to end this madness and create that balance between givers and takers, while protecting the taxpayers from further financial harm, then so be it.

Thank you,

Marilyn Peterson

Disabled Veteran, Senior Citizen, Tree Hugger, Nature Lover

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