



Collaborating with the Southeast Portland community to build informed, engaged, and participatory neighborhoods that support our social and ecological well-being since 1968.

March 23, 2023

Mayor Ted Wheeler
Commissioner Dan Ryan
PP&R Director Adena Long
1221 SW 4th Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mayor Wheeler, Commissioner Ryan and Director Long:

On behalf of the 20 neighborhoods which make up the Southeast Uplift Neighborhood Coalition district, we write to thank you for your public service and to alert you that we have significant concerns about the city's decision to remove lighting in 12 public parks and open spaces citywide, including eight beloved locations within our SE communities. We acknowledge and appreciate the city's intention to prevent injury from light poles. However, lighting is a proven strategy for deterring crime and reducing the risk of accidents among all who run, stroll, roll and play in our public spaces.

We believe that this light removal plan will *reduce overall public safety* and collectively urge you to take three immediate actions:

1. **Allocate expedited funding to restore lighting** to all parks where light posts have already been removed.
2. **Postpone further light removal** in all remaining targeted parks and open spaces until funding for interim solutions and swift light replacement can be secured.
3. **Pursue a meaningful community engagement process** that invites public input and collaborative solutions, that builds a shared understanding around this project's costs and decision-making process, and that engages preservationists who seek to recover the iconic lamp posts that are part of the historic fabric of our city.

At a time when surging crime and community safety is a top livability concern in Portland, we hope you will seize the opportunity to change course and co-build trust with a beleaguered populace that needs safe, well-lit public parks and open spaces. We look forward to collaborating with you on a path forward that ensures the safest outcome for the greatest number of people.

Thank you for considering this request from our communities.

With gratitude and for the common good,



Brentwood-Darlington Neighborhood Association
Brooklyn Action Corps
Buckman Community Association
Creston-Kenilworth Neighborhood Association, chair
Eastmoreland Neighborhood Association
Foster-Powell Neighborhood Association
Friends of Mt. Tabor Park
Hosford-Abernethy Neighborhood District
Inner SE Action
Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association
Kerns Neighborhood Association
Montavilla Neighborhood Association
Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association
Mt. Scott-Arleta Neighborhood Association
North Tabor Neighborhood Association
NW District Association
PDX Main Streets
Reed Neighborhood Association
Sellwood-Moreland Improvement League
Sellwood Community House
South Tabor Neighborhood Association
Woodstock Neighborhood Association
82nd Avenue of Roses Business Association

Uplifting community advocacy since 1968.

Ardenwald-Johnson Creek • Brentwood-Darlington • Brooklyn • Buckman • Creston-Kenilworth • Eastmoreland • Foster-Powell
Hosford-Abernethy • Kerns • Laurelhurst • Montavilla • Mt. Scott-Arleta • Mt. Tabor • North Tabor • Reed • Richmond
Sellwood-Moreland • South Tabor • Sunnyside • Woodstock