



Lynda GROW <lynda.grow@multco.us>

---

**FW: [Approved Sender] How Many Needles Do You See in the Photo? Thomas Schwenger's concern posted on Nextdoor: Laurelhurst Also my concern...**

2 messages

---

**Moore-Love, Karla** <Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov>  
To: "lynda.grow@multco.us" <lynda.grow@multco.us>

Wed, Sep 20, 2017 at 5:07 PM



**Click with Care** - Be cautious if the message is out of the ordinary, or if you do not know the sender.

---

**From:** Mary Ann Schwab [mailto:[e33maschwab@icloud.com](mailto:e33maschwab@icloud.com)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2017 10:10 AM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla <[Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov)>; Crow Lynda <[Lynda.Crow@Multco.us](mailto:Lynda.Crow@Multco.us)>  
**Cc:** Kleiner Amy <[akleiner@pps.net](mailto:akleiner@pps.net)>; Sunnyside Neighborhood Association Board <[board@sunnysideneighborhood.com](mailto:board@sunnysideneighborhood.com)>; Poppino, Teri <[Teri.Poppino@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:Teri.Poppino@portlandoregon.gov)>; Lomanto, Marianna <[Marianna.Lomanto@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:Marianna.Lomanto@portlandoregon.gov)>  
**Subject:** [Approved Sender] How Many Needles Do You See in the Photo? Thomas Schwenger's concern posted on Nextdoor: Laurelhurst Also my concern...

Good Morning Karla and Lynda:

Children are "at risk" when running on school and park playgrounds. Our Public School Custodians continue to gather spent needles daily... .

I am asking you forward this troubling public safety issue with City Council and Multnomah County Commissioners.

Thank you,

Mary Ann Schwab, Community Advocate

(503) 236-3522

om Schwenger

Tom Schwenger, Laurelhurst

## How Many Needles Do You See in the Photo?

This pile of needles have been here most of the day. My wife called 911 and was hung up on after being told nobody was in imminent danger. She called non-emergency and was told that someone will be out tomorrow. I called 911 and reported an extreme bio-hazard and danger to children. I was told an officer would be out ASAP to pick it up. The officer called me and said they have small "sharps" containers and she would not have room. I called Mult Co. Needle Exchange and was told they are understaffed and do not have staff to do this today but would call me after they arrive tomorrow. All were told the location: under the stairs to the Tri-Met platform as they exit Laurelhurst and head north over the footbridge. Do your children walk by here as they use the school buses that are now being staged at that location while Grant High is being renovated? BTW: The brown splatter on the concrete wall is human excrement . How many needles do you see in this photo? Sorry to disappoint you. There will not be any winners. I have reported this information to the police.



Edited 3d ago · 12 neighborhoods in Crime & Safety

[Thank](#)

[Reply](#)

37 Thanks · [87 Replies](#)

[ustin Bednar](#)

Justin Bednar, Laurelhurst · Edited 3d ago

Contact local news. They might like the story that no one in the local government cares to clean up piles of syringes on the ground <http://koin.com/submit-a-news-tip/>  
<http://www.kptv.com/story/14884120/send-fox-12-your-news-tip>

[Thank](#)

32 Thanks

[eter Ellenby](#)

Peter Ellenby, Laurelhurst · 3d ago

I have called non emergency twice and also called the Sgt. on duty at the East Precinct. Mentioned the school kids as well. Wasn't too encouraged by their responses. And in other news the old homeless guy over the bridge took a huge dump on the sidewalk by 24 Hour Fitness. That could be his spray on the wall. He's a biohazard too. Always pooping, barfing and hacking out phlegm all over the transit center.

[Thank](#)

14 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/8625864/>

Cynthia Hutchinson, Hollywood · 3d ago

I found some in a city park once and a park employee was sent out immediately to remove them. But this brings up San Diego and the Hepatitis Outbreak there. Wake up Portland! The Hepatitis Outbreak could come to our community soon too. It spreads by needles, feces etc. Scary!!

[Thank](#)

7 Thanks

[ebi Madden](#)

Debi Madden, Irvington · 3d ago

Did you try Trimet?

[Thank](#)

3 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/21054277/>

Jenny Dodson, Irvington · 3d ago

That photo is so awful I want to move to the Shetland islands. Thanks for making the calls. That is an extreme hazard to children. Honestly wtf.

[Thank](#)

7 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/21054277/>

Jenny Dodson, Irvington · 3d ago

Should we all call and be a bit of a nuisance? I'm happy to call as well.

[Thank](#)

4 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/16189643/>

Austen Popiel, Outer Buckman · 3d ago

Absolutely report it to the news. They should've been there immediately to clean that up. It's a danger to ourselves, children, our pets. Why is this even an issue??

[Thank](#)

7 Thanks

[eter Ellenby](#)

Peter Ellenby, Laurelhurst · 3d ago

I emailed three TV stations and two reporters at the Oregonian with a photo my wife took.



[Thank](#)

24 Thanks

[eter Ellenby](#)

Peter Ellenby, Laurelhurst · 3d ago

[newstips@katu.com](mailto:newstips@katu.com) [news@koin.com](mailto:news@koin.com) [fox12news@kptv.com](mailto:fox12news@kptv.com) Can't hurt for them to get more emails.

[Thank](#)

6 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/19991922/>

Wise Buys, Sullivan's Gulch · 3d ago

I agree it is disgusting and a health hazard but ALL of our city/county agencies are overwhelmed with issues related to homelessness and/or drug problems. It is OUR - PORTLAND'S problem. What can WE do about it? We keep trying to deal with the fallout but we need to address the CAUSE OF HOMELESSNES. It is like one homeless person said not too long ago, Meth is our antifreeze, it helps us stay up at night so we can keep moving to stay warm.

[Thank](#)

3 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/21054277/>

Jenny Dodson, Irvington · 3d ago<sup>New</sup>

So it is. You're right, but it's the response by the experts that's troubling. as well. I agree it's many shades of gray but whilst I'll give clothes to the goodwill and work at a foodbank, and take in homeless animals I draw the line at needles. Some of us have compromised immune systems. Not arguing here but I think making it known to the public is a good start, a proper warning and a start to a conversation we all need to have.

[Thank](#)

10 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/7487198/>

Meg Hartley, Sunnyside · 3d ago New

I recommend posting this to Twitter and @mentioning city hall and that you've had no help from the city to clean this up by a public park after contacting multiple agencies. That's what it took for an Emerson school mom to get the city to take action on the crime and drug use in front of the school.

[Thank](#)

9 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/7487198/>

Meg Hartley, Sunnyside · 3d ago New

I also recommend as many of us as possible reporting this to one point of contact. Numbers matter. This is unacceptable. Portland has become disgusting. The city should be ashamed.

[Thank](#)

8 Thanks

[hris Forsberg](#)

Chris Forsberg, Sunnyside · 3d ago New

I count a helluva party's worth.

[Thank](#)

[eter Ellenby](#)

Peter Ellenby, Laurelhurst · 3d ago New

Result. News crew on the way.

[Thank](#)

28 Thanks

[heryl Thomas](#)

Cheryl Thomas, Alameda · 3d ago New

This situation is very upsetting. It's clearly a hazard and needs to be cleaned up ASAP.

Thank

3 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/16189643/>

Austen Popiel, Outer Buckman · 3d ago New

This is about making people aware that the city would allow these needles to sit there. There is an issue that we have to address, but it shouldn't mean that we all need to watch out for human excrement and needles while walking around in our city.

Thank

4 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/7487198/>

Meg Hartley, Sunnyside · 3d ago New

What is the location of these needles? I'm reporting as well.

Thank

3 Thanks

[eter Ellenby](#)

Peter Ellenby, Laurelhurst · 3d ago New

NE Senate and NE 42nd Ave just south of 84 under the MAX stairs. Another TV station emailed me back. They may also run the story.

Thank

9 Thanks

[eter Ellenby](#)

Peter Ellenby, Laurelhurst · 3d ago New

Neighbor who is a nurse believes they stole a "sharps" box from a medical office in hopes of finding some usable needles to shoot up with. Left the ones they didn't want. Also a... [See more](#)

[Thank](#)

5 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/21054277/>

Jenny Dodson, Irvington · 3d ago New

I just called the non emergency number. They said whomever saw the actual needles needs to call and give the exact location call the non emergency line, to which I said has already been done, but I think this is a squeaky wheel thing. I did tell my son, through text to, tell his people and all kids on the bus/max coming back from Marshall to stay the hell away from them, if he came across any. The non emergency people said they'd be out right away. Bizarre, so if you could call again Tom, it would be helpful. Maybe. I hope.

[Thank](#)

2 Thanks

[aura Mundt](#)

Laura Mundt, Laurelhurst · 3d ago New

Thank you for the amount of effort you went to report this to the authorities.

[Thank](#)

8 Thanks

[eter Ellenby](#)

Peter Ellenby, Laurelhurst · 3d ago New

Needles are gone. Cup that probably brought them in still there.

[Thank](#)

4 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/12326673/>

John Aitchison, Outer Buckman · 3d ago New

Send a tweet with photo and note to #tedwheeler

[Thank](#)

4 Thanks

[anc Hawver](#)

Nanc Hawver, Hollywood · 3d ago New

Have seen them regularly shooting up there. On the other side, also . Told 24HourFitness when leaving MAX. They went out and for druggies to move as they know it us not great for... [See more](#)

[Thank](#)

1 Thank

[ue Tackmier](#)

Sue Tackmier, Laurelhurst · Edited 3d ago New

two police here at 4:45, may have been others earlier, do not know, needles were already gone . told them about needles 75-100. they said they get the needles for free,

[Thank](#)

2 Thanks

[hris Forsberg](#)

Chris Forsberg, Sunnyside · 3d ago New

Of course they get the needles for free. That's the point. We don't want an epidemic of blood-borne disease spreading through Portland.

[Thank](#)

5 Thanks

[om Schwenzer](#)

Tom Schwenzer, Laurelhurst · Edited 3d ago<sup>New</sup>

I was very persistent with Mult Co Needle Exchange. I rec'd a call later from them saying they had found an available worker and that they went out to fix (did I just type "fix"?) the problem. The person who worked hard on this today was Erin Browne, a Mult Co. employee. Thank you to any neighbors reporting. One is never enough.

[Thank](#)

12 Thanks

[Tom Schwenzer](#)

Tom Schwenzer, Laurelhurst · Edited 3d ago<sup>New</sup>

Chris Forsberg, Do you think you are funny calling it a "helluva party"? How completely obnoxious. If you can't help at least don't troll. "Go away kid. You bother me." ~ W.C. Fields

[Thank](#)

3 Thanks

[Chris Forsberg](#)

Chris Forsberg, Sunnyside · 3d ago<sup>New</sup>

Maybe I can help while sharing some gallows humor about a tragic (literally shitty) situation...but I'll probably stay off your lawn Gramps.

[Thank](#)

11 Thanks

[Amela Schwenzer](#)

Pamela Schwenzer, Laurelhurst · 3d ago<sup>New</sup>

If anyone needs someone to talk to anyone else about this, I originally spotted it and called on it about 12:20 today. Sitting amongst the mountains of needles was a man who appears to live with a bunch of other addicts and dealers on the ODOT property behind 24 Hour fitness. One guy climbing through a cut cyclone fence and I said do you know you are trespassing?

He said "I LIVE HERE, MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS," Neighbors, this IS my business. And, no, I will not collect 30 or 40 dirty, uncapped needles and dispose of them. And to those of you who still want to cry foul about 'doing something' to get the homeless off the street, get out there, get some experience and you will eventually be educated enough to know that most of these who remain want to! I am not going to get into a word match with folks but I have walked my ass off in our hood, talked to folks, park staff, cops, etc. Even getting the harmless homeless to move indoors is a challenge, but the addicts trashing my neighborhood, stealing from all of us, screaming at us to fuck off, could care less about services. I am fed up with being told I am not doing enough! This is MY neighborhood and I shouldn't have tolerate needles, feces, and young people with a habit being hostile on MY street!

[Thank](#)

29 Thanks

[amela Schwenger](#)

Pamela Schwenger, Laurelhurst · 3d ago New

Redicrous.



[Thank](#)

2 Thanks

[amela Schwenger](#)

Pamela Schwenger, Laurelhurst · 3d ago New

Second time in as many weeks a huge pile of feces has been on the sidewalk by 24 Hour Fitness. Their staff and management don't care, make excuses, etc. It's city property...close to opening in the fence to the ODOT property. Dread walking to TJ's or 24 Hour...



Thank

2 Thanks

amela Schwenzer

Pamela Schwenzer, Laurelhurst · 3d ago<sup>New</sup>

Regarding free needles, apparently Outside In is so inundated with addicts they are needing to step up the number of needles they distribute. Good grief, Portland!

Thank

2 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/22824714/>

Adam Mcwhorter, Outer Mount Tabor · 3d ago<sup>New</sup>

What's the point of this post? Nextdoor isn't an app for people to come together and complain. Deal with it! Or tell me the address and I'll come by and pick up this crap after work!

Thank

9 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/2228111/>

Matt Kelly, North Tabor · 3d ago<sup>New</sup>

Here?



Thank

2 Thanks

an and Ellen Wasil

Dan and Ellen Wasil, Laurelhurst · 3d ago New

Adam, you ask an important question: What, indeed, is the point? I'm going to read into your question a series of things, and since we don't know each other, I am likely to get wrong. And for starters, Nextdoor is precisely the correct place. The obvious point, to me, is the scream: the actual human recoil from the horror and cancer growing in our community, in our country. Mixed in with the horror is frustration: the tangible evidence of our social failure is not a recent development. This most recent, let's say last three years, rapid devolution of our culture still catches many people by surprise. Ask yourself if folks at the Tanasbourne Metro stop experience hundreds of heroin tainted needles, piling up on the sidewalk, where the children step over them on their way to school. Or the Nike campus. Or Chapman. The point, then, is to see if someone, anyone, in a position of power, notices. If there is someone who can DO something, can bust one move, can move the needle (sorry) just a little bit so we address the WHY of the posting: Why are so many Americans/Portlanders addicted? What are the correlations with mental health? What are the correlations with no jobs, no money, no hope? What are the correlations with PTSD? What are the correlations with "investor housing" that has driven up housing prices to such towering heights that no one working an hourly wage can afford a home in Portland? What are the correlations with AirB&B in the loss of housing? What are the correlations with a building industry that has spent 20+ years building high-end housing, but only a teensy bit of affordable housing? What is the correlation with the criminalization of addiction and the Prison Industrial Complex? Whose job is all this? The point, for me, is all of the above. The point is I don't want my kids getting stuck with a contaminated needle. The point is not sweeping it under the rug, and pretending that if we just swept it up and threw it away, the tangible horror of massive human failure, the needles, the shocking Vermeer painting of addiction and pain and suffering in that picture, which should be a shocking freaking wake up call, but is not, would be magically gone. In my admittedly sorry failure to advance solutions, other than to say that housing people first seems like a starting place, I can only scream along with Tom. I want to not be that one guy who starts screaming and doesn't stop, because the horror means that all you have left is screaming. Because screaming starts to look like a very logical response to a completely surreal, unacceptable reality. Because we want some elected official, somewhere, to say that

they, too, are screaming. And they are going to take care of this shit. We used to make fun of it, but go on: stick your head out the window and scream: I'M MAD AS HELL AND I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE IT ANYMORE

Thank

29 Thanks

eAnn Kelley

LeAnn Kelley, Alameda · 3d ago New

I am so disappointed by this happening and the responses to the notification. I just do not understand the continued non-action by those in charge. There is soooooo much trash left by the homeless all over the city. The people are one thing; their trash is another. Can those in charge take care of one of these> UGH! The frustration I feel.

Thank

4 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/21054277/>

Jenny Dodson, Irvington · 3d ago New

I guess it depends on your perspective. Yes, there is complaining, but as a mother who has a young teen uses that very stop, I am entitled to voice my opinion and to make the call to the authorities responsible for dealing with this [mess](#). It's a bit more than a complaint, and if so, who the hell cares? I am not qualified to remove needles and human waste. Perhaps if your child was in that very area, you would be worried, voice your concerns, thank the person who took the photo and address the problem as best you could, instead of being rudely dismissive of people trying to solve an immediate problem.. This is people talking about the bigger picture of mental illness, addiction, and poverty as well as disease and the safety of our children. If you can only see that as complaining I feel sorry for you. There is concern. There is frustration, and if a little emoting is involved you could just not say anything at all. Parents tend to get pretty upset at the proximity of such things. It's only natural. There are threads of petty complaints and then there are ones that are many layers, This is one of them.

Thank

12 Thanks

[Tom Schwenger](#)

Tom Schwenger, Laurelhurst · Edited 3d ago New

Just got back in from a Laurelhurst Neighborhood foot patrol. It's one of the things I am volunteering my time to do in addition to months of volunteer time on the Laurelhurst Safety Committee. Seven of us were out tonight. A fight did break out at the children's annex in Laurelhurst park and parents with children began to leave. Police were summoned. Characterizing concerned and active neighbors as "Get Off My Lawn" types shows me a lack of understanding, a limited community involvement and a proclivity to type, but not much else. Thank you to those responding with support.

[Thank](#)

19 Thanks

[amela Schwenger](#)

Pamela Schwenger, Laurelhurst · 3d ago New

Matt Kelly, wow, old pic! They added a bike rack some time ago, and one more this Summer, anticipating the Grant students using light rail the next two years. It is not uncommon for it to alternate as a toilet for some.

[Thank](#)

1 Thank

[isa Russell](#)

Lisa Russell, North Tabor · 3d ago New

This is one of the reasons I want to get out of Portland. This used to be a great city and now it's riddled with filth and crime. So sad.

[Thank](#)

2 Thanks

[hris Forsberg](#)

Chris Forsberg, Sunnyside · 3d ago New

Pamela, I think you mean OUR street. Tom, I am very supportive of safe disposal of used needles. I just like to make lemonade jokes when an addict gives me a lemon filled with a few dozen syringes.

[Thank](#)

1 Thank

[amie Persing](#)

Jamie Persing, Rose City Park · 3d ago New

The lack of urgency and concern from authorities is equally disgusting as the scene in the photo. And I disagree that anybody on this entire planet "needs" meth to survive. There... [See more](#)

[Thank](#)

3 Thanks

[hris Forsberg](#)

Chris Forsberg, Sunnyside · 3d ago New

You don't need to do meth to survive, and no one sleeps on meth anyways. That said, some addicts do need to drink to survive. Alcohol withdrawals can kill.

[Thank](#)

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/19393106/>

Derek Smith, Rose City Park · 3d ago New

The homeless dope heads are scum, dirty f-ing pigs, why are we giving them clean needles, let them spread their nasty diseases among themselves and let them die off. They serve no purpose to our community. I emailed this picture to the Mayor letting him know where it's at and how our neighbor was hung up on and how all the calls went to deaf ears. As always I got no response. I email him often with no response. We all should be contacting him until we finally get under his skin and does something. I don't have his number handy but email is [mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov) please everyone start sending him messages I know he'll love it, I think he'll love Chris' sense of humor.

Thank

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/19860077/>

Aaron Even, Outer Buckman · 3d ago New

Clean needles are an effective and inexpensive attempt to decrease the infecting of people with blood borne illnesses (like HIV and Hepatitis C), and therefore (even if you despise the addicts and the societal problems they cause) decrease the risk of exposure for those who care for these people in hospitals and emergency rooms, much less first responders and the general public. Please don't disrupt the protection of those of us on the front lines. I share your disappointment in our civic institutions, but please don't further jeopardize what few protections we do get. Addiction runs in many socioeconomic circles, you would be surprised at the ripple effect.

Thank

7 Thanks

[hris Forsberg](#)

Chris Forsberg, Sunnyside · 3d ago New

I strongly second the do everything you can to prevent the spread of HIV, Hep B, etc. If for no other than self preservation. Having a highly infected reservoir of disease is just about the worst public health plan ever. I mean GRIDs was totally going to stay in the gay population. How did that work out for the US?

Thank

3 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/19393106/>

Derek Smith, Rose City Park · 3d ago New

I agree with both of you about the spread of diseases, we don't want that, I was just spewing venom. I really hate these homeless drug addicts ruining our city. However, I do think we make it too easy for them, the city enables them. The Mayor needs to step up and allow the police to do their job and arrest these scum for ALL crimes, under the influence of drugs is a

crime, crapping in public is a crime, trespassing is a crime. I could go on and on of all the crimes they get away with.

Thank

1 Thank

[Kenneth Yambra](#)

Kenneth Yambra, Rose City Park · 3d ago New

Shouldn't it be a needle exchange so that the dirty ones are collected and properly disposed of before handing out clean ones?

Thank

2 Thanks

[Dan and Ellen Wasil](#)

Dan and Ellen Wasil, Laurelhurst · 3d ago New

you do not understand. You keep talking like there's a rational, logical, non-addicted possibility for all this. There isn't. It's ancient history, ramped up by Ray-gun, and "laws" that mitigate against real solutions. Treatment on demand. So-called "laws" say/state that "unless they're a danger to themselves and others" (a very high bar indeed...) law enforcement cannot pick up people screaming at molecules. Addicts are allotted their civil rights to slowly, or quickly, kill themselves by any means necessary. And harm you and yours along the way. Besides, there's no room at the inn. USA! USA! USA!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! 1. House everyone. Note the period. 2. Full access to treatment for whatever ails you. Note the period. You know what stops 1 and 2? Money. and will. We get what we ask for.

Thank

2 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/19860077/>

Aaron Even, Outer Buckman · 3d ago New

One would hope. Point simply being that in the rush to condemn we should remember that there are other ramifications if society decides to punish the addicts by taking away needle

exchange options. One would argue this is evidence (sadly) for the need for more resources, not less. Super hard to want to be charitable to such an unpleasant group at this point, but we all stand to benefit as has been mentioned.

[Thank](#)

1 Thank

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/19393106/>

Derek Smith, Rose City Park · 3d ago New

I think I do understand, housing everyone will not happen because they don't want to be housed. the government does house the people that want housing. The thing is, to be housed you have to live by rules, they don't want to live by rules so they just linger around and make our city nasty. The issue I keep hearing is, housing is so expensive in Portland how can someone survive easy, move else where, no one is entitled to live where they want, I would love to live in a mansion over looking the Pacific Coast, well my pay check tells me different. I hear the cost of living In Billings Montana is low, move on. As for treatment, treatment is not a cure it's simple just detox and education it's not recovery, recovery takes willingness. These people are not willing, recovery can not be forced upon someone.

[Thank](#)

5 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/19944558/>

Paul Crist, North Tabor · 3d ago New

Too many?

[Thank](#)

1 Thank

[hris Forsberg](#)

Chris Forsberg, Sunnyside · Edited 3d ago New

So to summarize; we're frustrated at the city, so much so that to protect the children, we are willing treat someone elses' children as criminals or worse, maybe even wish them further

illness/death all for being some combination of poor or ill. I'm sure that will end well for society. Maybe Paul Kersey is free to come give a couple of TED talks on how best to solve our city's drug/crime problems. Love the sinner, hate the sin. Or something like that. And yes, this shit (and the needles too) is sad and disgusting.

Thank

1 Thank

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/19393106/>

Derek Smith, Rose City Park · 3d ago New

Holy crap, it is not illegal to be drunk or under the influence of drugs on the city streets in Oregon. That's so crazy

Thank

[hris Forsberg](#)

Chris Forsberg, Sunnyside · Edited 3d ago New

Why should it be illegal to be drunk on a street? Drunk and a threat to others, sure that can be a crime. But drunk and just hanging out, doesn't seem like a crime to me. That's what plenty of "good" citizens do regularly.

Thank

1 Thank

[ue Tackmier](#)

Sue Tackmier, Laurelhurst · 3d ago New

mr. yambra, you are a genius. forest for the trees. yes, incentivize it, of course.!!!

Thank

[onaleen Kohn](#)

Donaleen Kohn, Laurelhurst · Edited 2d ago New

It really is true that some will not accept housing. I know someone who lives over by Laurelhurst Park. He refuses housing. He told me he is "domesticated enough". He doesn't like rules of any kind. He had a car (unregistered, uninsured and he does not have a drivers license). The car died. They towed it. Now he wants another car. So frustrated.

[Thank](#)

3 Thanks

[eff Radden](#)

Jeff Radden, Sunnyside · 2d ago New

Don't call 911 really

[Thank](#)

1 Thank

[essica Oskin](#)

Jessica Oskin, Sunnyside · 2d ago New

The other tag phrase to get response from 911 is to say that 'an adult or child is in IMMINENT PHYSICAL DANGER.'

[Thank](#)

2 Thanks

[amela Schwenzer](#)

Pamela Schwenzer, Laurelhurst · 2d ago New

Jeff, not sure what you are saying. I was the one who saw it and called on it. Yes, I called 911. There was a man sitting amidst this pile of thirty or more needles. No one who has commented was there, saw or experienced what occurred. I said 'imminent physical danger', knowing the Grant students would soon swarm the area, and our grade school is four blocks away.

[Thank](#)

7 Thanks

## Heidi Mathews

Heidi Mathews, Grant Park · Edited 2d ago New

I congratulate Pamela for caring and for following her intuition. A photo and a written description cannot adequately convey the totality of the human situation that Pam witnessed.

Thank

4 Thanks

## Tom Schwenzer

Tom Schwenzer, Laurelhurst · 2d ago New

911 will triage calls. If it should have gone elsewhere they will tell you. Sometimes they transfer you. In any event our tax dollars are used to pay for the service. Better safe than sorry...

Thank

1 Thank

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/7714060/>

Christine Peterson, Sullivan's Gulch · Edited 2d ago New

when I visited Santa Cruz California, I found about three bundles of needles rubber banded together rolling around in the ocean surf near the amusement park they have there. Later I pieced together that someone was probably keeping them in a spot in the bushes by the river and then when it rained, they were carried down the river to that spot. That said, I thought that the needles are actually valuable to addicts in some way - they can turn them in for clean needles at those exchanges.

Thank

## Gregory Podolec

Gregory Podolec, Sunnyside · Edited 2d ago New

I'm glad some folks are mentioning that most on the street don't want housing. It's like a knee-jerk reaction to say, "everybody deserves to be housed," "We have to get these people off the street," but they don't say HOW. They fail to realize that this is not a volunteer situation. It will be a physical, forced effort to get these folks into housing with so much resistance that some of the folks will need to be restrained. I speak to homeless people regularly, share some coffee with them, and not once, has any of them answered "Yes" to any of my inquiries as to whether they'd like to get off the street. Not once. You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink. This what we have here.

Thank

8 Thanks

Tom Schwenzer

Tom Schwenzer, Laurelhurst · Edited 1d ago New

Greg, I understand the sentiment entirely. I'm going to try to make you just a wee bit incorrect. I spoke with a heroin addict yesterday near the site where the post photo was taken. If I can do it, he said he would accept being off the street and would try to adhere to program regulations and wants off heroin. He described it as miserable and he also is fearful of many on the street. I've given him clothes before, but this time no hand-outs. I'll make what arrangements I can and then find him. I won't adopt him or stay in touch. He made choices to get to where he is and if there is enough of him left inside then maybe he will make a choice to recover. We're all going down a very deep rabbit hole without immediate changes.

Thank

2 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/7417001/>

Deb Haugen, Grant Park · 1d ago New

I wonder if you would have gotten a better response from the Fire Bureau? They usually have the proper equipment and training for bio hazards, and have much more time available than police. They also Just a thought. Though 911 and/or non-emergency should have

Thank

2 Thanks

Tom Schwenzer

Tom Schwenzer, Laurelhurst · 1d ago<sup>New</sup>

It did not occur to me to call the Fire Dept. Maybe I will check next week and see what sort of response could have been made at the time. Thanks...

Thank

2 Thanks

Donaleen Kohn

Donaleen Kohn, Laurelhurst · 1d ago<sup>New</sup>

I struggle all the time with helping versus enabling. That line is hard to see.

Thank

1 Thank

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/19393106/>

Derek Smith, Rose City Park · 1d ago<sup>New</sup>

Tom, you may have come across one who wants to change, it is possible. It takes effort and I hope this one makes it. The sad fact is most don't want to change and they are the ones that make me sick..

Thank

1 Thank

Tom Schwenzer

Tom Schwenzer, Laurelhurst · 1d ago<sup>New</sup>

Donaleen Kohn and Derek Smith, Thanks for participating on the post. I'm not expecting rainbows and unicorns. I've tried before with others and it failed. Their choice.

Thank

2 Thanks

[Donaleen Kohn](#)

Donaleen Kohn, Laurelhurst · 1d ago New

Tom, I wasn't responding to what you did. Only to my own actions. I've been trying for some time to help someone. The line is blurry to me. That is all.

[Thank](#)

3 Thanks

[essica Oskin](#)

Jessica Oskin, Sunnyside · 1d ago New

Just read a fascinating article on addiction in National Geographic. West Virginia is the worst in the country for meth addiction. They had to open a special area of a hospital to deal with babies born addicted to meth, suffering withdrawal. There are new experimental treatments for addiction available that seem really promising. Wish it was available all over and to everyone!!!

[Thank](#)

3 Thanks

[teve Davis](#)

Steve Davis, Hollywood · 1d ago New

I have seen what appears to be a drug dealer handing out individual cigarettes for money. I assume these are laced with some type of drug.

[Thank](#)

2 Thanks

[aura Bee](#)

Laura Bee, Outer Buckman · 1d ago New

This is a very dark/Portland version of the jelly beans in a jar game...

[Thank](#)

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/16799969/>

Rick Scott, Outer Buckman · 1d ago<sup>New</sup>

I wonder how many of those will wash out to the Pacific garbage patch.....tuff luck for whales and dolphins.....huh?

Thank

2 Thanks

[odd Wolf](#)

Todd Wolf, Grant Park · Edited 1d ago<sup>New</sup>

That is ridiculous. Although, it seems to me that it's something that could / should have been picked up with a broom and dust pan by the first responsible neighbor who came across it, who could then hold it out of the reach of kids and other commuters until it could be properly picked up and disposed of by the city. Taking pics and posting on nextdoor with a cute title isn't exactly the most effective or neighborly thing to do in a situation like that. With the issues our neighborhoods are facing, sometimes real world, on the spot solutions are the way to go vs. social media posts.

Thank

4 Thanks

[alerie Smith](#)

Valerie Smith, Outer Kerns · Edited 1d ago<sup>New</sup>

Meg, I remember a few years ago there were droves of tourists, now all the comments are about the homeless population. I'm a server, I hear it all the time! I noticed about half the tourist population this summer... tourist dollars are going to dry up. It's getting around.

Thank

1 Thank

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/23462198/>

Elizabeth Haas, Hollywood · 1d ago<sup>New</sup>

That's strange because I've reported this exact thing and the police where there within hour and picked them up.

Thank

1 Thank

Tom Schwenger

Tom Schwenger, Laurelhurst · 1d ago New

Todd Wolf, Neighbors stayed on the phone calls. I stayed on the phone calls. Nobody gave up, despite even the police saying they did not have a "sharps" container big enough and that they couldn't risk picking them up the way you mentioned. My persistence with the Needle Exchange program resulted in them being removed within a couple of hours. That felt like being a "responsible neighbor". Most here have agreed. It can be lonely in the peanut gallery.

Thank

9 Thanks

Pamela Schwenger

Pamela Schwenger, Laurelhurst · 21h ago New

To the few who have criticized us for making calls instead of cleaning them up ourselves I am posting the Mult. Co. Instructions for doing so. I wil not be using them. I continue to feel that city staff, as well as neighbors, need to be informed regarding such occurrences, and trained staff with proper equipment should be handling them. My neighbors deserve to know the impact on our streets of the addicts living in the shrubs along I-84. I would want to know. <https://multco.us/hiv-and-std-services/how-safely-dispose-syringes-and-used-needles>

Thank

8 Thanks

Donaleen Kohn

Donaleen Kohn, Laurelhurst · 21h ago New

I agree, Pamela. My area isn't as bad as where you are but it is steadily getting worse... don't kid yourselves, people.

Thank

2 Thanks

[eidi Mathews](#)

Heidi Mathews, Grant Park · 21h ago New

Tom and Pamela, Thank you for getting involved and for your persistence in getting the needles and syringes properly and safely removed from a site that was contaminated with human waste. The entire site was a biohazard! Others might have handled the situation differently--some might walk by without taking action; others might go home and come back to remove the needles and syringes with a broom and dust pan; some might bring bleach and try to decontaminate the area; those with ready access to the necessary tools, personal protective gear and clothing, and a proper storage container might bring those items to the contaminated site and remove the needles and syringes according to recommended safe practices as outlined in the link you posted. What someone else might have done does not alter the readily apparent fact that YOU behaved responsibly for the community and yourselves. Thank you for sharing your experience both in what you saw and what measures you took. Your posting was eye-opening for me in regard to what is going on in our neighborhoods and on NextDoor.

Thank

4 Thanks

[onaleen Kohn](#)

Donaleen Kohn, Laurelhurst · 21h ago New

I just watched a documentary on Netflix titled "Heroin(e)", described as: "In the overdose capital of America, they save lives every day" <https://www.netflix.com/watch/80192445?trackId=14170060&tctx=2%2C0%2Cb34d9d99-445f-49bd-ad28-fba02ed5c051-420328907>

Thank

2 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/9051342/>

Valerie Gibson, Laurelhurst · 19h ago <sup>New</sup>

Great post, Heidi! Another big thank you to the always persistent Pamela and Tom! Such great neighbors!

Thank

1 Thank

[Tom Schwenzer](#)

Tom Schwenzer, Laurelhurst · 17h ago <sup>New</sup>

^^^ aw shucks. :-)

Thank

MACROBUTTON HTMLDirect

More recent posts from your neighbors

---

**Lynda GROW** <lynda.grow@multco.us>  
To: "Moore-Love, Karla" <Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov>

Thu, Sep 21, 2017 at 11:09 AM

thanks!

On Wed, Sep 20, 2017 at 5:07 PM, Moore-Love, Karla <Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov> wrote:



Click with Care - Be cautious if the message is out of the ordinary, or if you do not know the sender.

---

**From:** Mary Ann Schwab [mailto:[e33maschwab@icloud.com](mailto:e33maschwab@icloud.com)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2017 10:10 AM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla <[Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov)>; Crow Lynda <[Lynda.Crow@Multco.us](mailto:Lynda.Crow@Multco.us)>  
**Cc:** Kleiner Amy <[akleiner@pps.net](mailto:akleiner@pps.net)>; Sunnyside Neighborhood Association Board <[board@sunnysideneighborhood.com](mailto:board@sunnysideneighborhood.com)>; Poppino, Teri <[Teri.Poppino@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:Teri.Poppino@portlandoregon.gov)>; Lomanto, Marianna <[Marianna.Lomanto@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:Marianna.Lomanto@portlandoregon.gov)>  
**Subject:** [Approved Sender] How Many Needles Do You See in the Photo? Thomas Schwenzer's concern posted on Nextdoor: Laurelhurst Also my concern...

Good Morning Karla and Lynda:

Children are "at risk" when running on school and park playgrounds. Our Public School Custodians continue to gather spent needles daily... .

I am asking you forward this troubling public safety issue with City Council and Multnomah County Commissioners.

Thank you,

Mary Ann Schwab, Community Advocate

[\(503\) 236-3522](tel:5032363522)

[om Schwenger](#)

[Tom Schwenger](#), Laurelhurst

## How Many Needles Do You See in the Photo?

This pile of needles have been here most of the day. My wife called 911 and was hung up on after being told nobody was in imminent danger. She called non-emergency and was told that someone will be out tomorrow. I called 911 and reported an extreme bio-hazard and danger to children. I was told an officer would be out ASAP to pick it up. The officer called me and said they have small "sharps" containers and she would not have room. I called Mult Co. Needle Exchange and was told they are understaffed and do not have staff to do this today but would call me after they arrive tomorrow. All were told the location: under the stairs to the Tri-Met platform as they exit Laurelhurst and head north over the footbridge. Do your children walk by here as they use the school buses that are now being staged at that location while Grant High is being renovated? BTW: The brown splatter on the concrete wall is human excrement . How many needles do you see in this photo? Sorry to disappoint you. There will not be any winners. I have reported this information to the police.



Edited 3d ago · 12 neighborhoods in Crime & Safety

[Thank](#)

[Reply](#)

37 Thanks · [87 Replies](#)

[ustin Bednar](#)

Justin Bednar, Laurelhurst · Edited 3d ago

Contact local news. They might like the story that no one in the local government cares to clean up piles of syringes on the ground <http://koin.com/submit-a-news-tip/>  
<http://www.kptv.com/story/14884120/send-fox-12-your-news-tip>

[Thank](#)

32 Thanks

[eter Ellenby](#)

Peter Ellenby, Laurelhurst · 3d ago

I have called non emergency twice and also called the Sgt. on duty at the East Precinct. Mentioned the school kids as well. Wasn't too encouraged by their responses. And in other news the old homeless guy over the bridge took a huge dump on the sidewalk by 24 Hour Fitness. That could be his spray on the wall. He's a biohazard too. Always pooping, barfing and hacking out phlegm all over the transit center.

[Thank](#)

14 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/8625864/>

Cynthia Hutchinson, Hollywood · 3d ago

I found some in a city park once and a park employee was sent out immediately to remove them. But this brings up San Diego and the Hepatitis Outbreak there. Wake up Portland!

The Hepatitis Outbreak could come to our community soon too. It spreads by needles, feces etc. Scary!!

[Thank](#)

7 Thanks

[ebi Madden](#)

Debi Madden, Irvington · 3d ago

Did you try Trimet?

[Thank](#)

3 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/21054277/>

Jenny Dodson, Irvington · 3d ago

That photo is so awful I want to move to the Shetland islands. Thanks for making the calls. That is an extreme hazard to children. Honestly wtf.

[Thank](#)

7 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/21054277/>

Jenny Dodson, Irvington · 3d ago

Should we all call and be a bit of a nuisance? I'm happy to call as well.

[Thank](#)

4 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/16189643/>

Austen Popiel, Outer Buckman · 3d ago

Absolutely report it to the news. They should've been there immediately to clean that up. It's a danger to ourselves, children, our pets. Why is this even an issue??

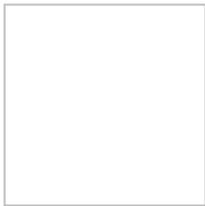
Thank

7 Thanks

eter Ellenby

Peter Ellenby, Laurelhurst · 3d ago

I emailed three TV stations and two reporters at the Oregonian with a photo my wife took.



Thank

24 Thanks

eter Ellenby

Peter Ellenby, Laurelhurst · 3d ago

[newstips@katu.com](mailto:newstips@katu.com) [news@koin.com](mailto:news@koin.com) [fox12news@kptv.com](mailto:fox12news@kptv.com) Can't hurt for them to get more emails.

Thank

6 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/19991922/>

Wise Buys, Sullivan's Gulch · 3d ago

I agree it is disgusting and a health hazard but ALL of our city/county agencies are overwhelmed with issues related to homelessness and/or drug problems. It is OUR - PORTLAND'S problem. What can WE do about it? We keep trying to deal with the fallout but we need to address the CAUSE OF HOMELESSNES. It is like one homeless person

said not too long ago, Meth is our antifreeze, it helps us stay up at night so we can keep moving to stay warm.

Thank

3 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/21054277/>

Jenny Dodson, Irvington · 3d ago New

So it is. You're right, but it's the response by the experts that's troubling. as well. I agree it's many shades of gray but whilst I'll give clothes to the goodwill and work at a foodbank, and take in homeless animals I draw the line at needles. Some of us have compromised immune systems. Not arguing here but I think making it known to the public is a good start, a proper warning and a start to a conversation we all need to have.

Thank

10 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/7487198/>

Meg Hartley, Sunnyside · 3d ago New

I recommend posting this to Twitter and @mentioning city hall and that you've had no help from the city to clean this up by a public park after contacting multiple agencies. That's what it took for an Emerson school mom to get the city to take action on the crime and drug use in front of the school.

Thank

9 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/7487198/>

Meg Hartley, Sunnyside · 3d ago New

I also recommend as many of us as possible reporting this to one point of contact. Numbers matter. This is unacceptable. Portland has become disgusting. The city should be ashamed.

Thank

8 Thanks

[hris Forsberg](#)

Chris Forsberg, Sunnyside · 3d ago New

I count a helluva party's worth.

[Thank](#)

[eter Ellenby](#)

Peter Ellenby, Laurelhurst · 3d ago New

Result. News crew on the way.

[Thank](#)

28 Thanks

[heryl Thomas](#)

Cheryl Thomas, Alameda · 3d ago New

This situation is very upsetting. It's clearly a hazard and needs to be cleaned up ASAP.

[Thank](#)

3 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/16189643/>

Austen Popiel, Outer Buckman · 3d ago New

This is about making people aware that the city would allow these needles to sit there. There is an issue that we have to address, but it shouldn't mean that we all need to watch out for human excrement and needles while walking around in our city.

[Thank](#)

4 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/7487198/>

Meg Hartley, Sunnyside · 3d ago New

What is the location of these needles? I'm reporting as well.

[Thank](#)

3 Thanks

[eter Ellenby](#)

Peter Ellenby, Laurelhurst · 3d ago New

NE Senate and NE 42nd Ave just south of 84 under the MAX stairs. Another TV station emailed me back. They may also run the story.

[Thank](#)

9 Thanks

[eter Ellenby](#)

Peter Ellenby, Laurelhurst · 3d ago New

Neighbor who is a nurse believes they stole a "sharps" box from a medical office in hopes of finding some usable needles to shoot up with. Left the ones they didn't want. Also a... [See more](#)

[Thank](#)

5 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/21054277/>

Jenny Dodson, Irvington · 3d ago New

I just called the non emergency number. They said whomever saw the actual needles needs to call and give the exact location call the non emergency line, to which I said has already been done, but I think this is a squeaky wheel thing. I did tell my son, through text to, tell his people and all kids on the bus/max coming back from Marshall to stay the hell away from them, if he came across any. The non emergency people said they'd be out right away. Bizarre, so if you could call again Tom, it would be helpful. Maybe. I hope.

[Thank](#)

2 Thanks

[aura Mundt](#)

Laura Mundt, Laurelhurst · 3d ago New

Thank you for the amount of effort you went to report this to the authorities.

[Thank](#)

8 Thanks

[eter Ellenby](#)

Peter Ellenby, Laurelhurst · 3d ago New

Needles are gone. Cup that probably brought them in still there.

[Thank](#)

4 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/12326673/>

John Aitchison, Outer Buckman · 3d ago New

Send a tweet with photo and note to #tedwheeler

[Thank](#)

4 Thanks

[anc Hawver](#)

Nanc Hawver, Hollywood · 3d ago New

Have seen them regularly shooting up there. On the other side, also . Told 24HourFitness when leaving MAX. They went out and for druggies to move as they know it us not great for... [See more](#)

[Thank](#)

1 Thank

[ue Tackmier](#)

Sue Tackmier, Laurelhurst · Edited 3d ago New

two police here at 4:45, may have been others earlier, do not know, needles were already gone . told them about needles 75-100. they said they get the needles for free,

[Thank](#)

2 Thanks

[hris Forsberg](#)

Chris Forsberg, Sunnyside · 3d ago New

Of course they get the needles for free. That's the point. We don't want an epidemic of blood-borne disease spreading through Portland.

[Thank](#)

5 Thanks

[om Schwenzer](#)

Tom Schwenzer, Laurelhurst · Edited 3d ago New

I was very persistent with Mult Co Needle Exchange. I rec'd a call later from them saying they had found an available worker and that they went out to fix (did I just type "fix"?) the problem. The person who worked hard on this today was Erin Browne, a Mult Co. employee. Thank you to any neighbors reporting. One is never enough.

[Thank](#)

12 Thanks

[om Schwenzer](#)

Tom Schwenzer, Laurelhurst · Edited 3d ago New

Chris Forsberg, Do you think you are funny calling it a "helluva party"? How completely obnoxious. If you can't help at least don't troll. "Go away kid. You bother me." ~ W.C. Fields

[Thank](#)

3 Thanks

[hris Forsberg](#)

Chris Forsberg, Sunnyside · 3d ago New

Maybe I can help while sharing some gallows humor about a tragic (literally shitty) situation...but I'll probably stay off your lawn Gramps.

[Thank](#)

11 Thanks

[amela Schwenzer](#)

Pamela Schwenzer, Laurelhurst · 3d ago New

If anyone needs someone to talk to anyone else about this, I originally spotted it and called on it about 12:20 today. Sitting amongst the mountains of needles was a man who appears to live with a bunch of other addicts and dealers on the ODOT property behind 24 Hour fitness. One guy climbing through a cut cyclone fence and I said do you know you are trespassing? He said "I LIVE HERE, MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS," Neighbors, this IS my business. And, no, I will not collect 30 or 40 dirty, uncapped needles and dispose of them. And to those of you who still want to cry foul about 'doing something' to get the homeless off the street, get out there, get some experience and you will eventually be educated enough to know that most of these who remain want to! I am not going to get into a word match with folks but I have walked my ass off in our hood, talked to folks, park staff, cops, etc. Even getting the harmless homeless to move indoors is a challenge, but the addicts trashing my neighborhood, stealing from all of us, screaming at us to fuck off, could care less about services. I am fed up with being told I am not doing enough! This is MY neighborhood and I shouldn't have tolerate needles, feces, and young people with a habit being hostile on MY street!

[Thank](#)

29 Thanks

[amela Schwenzer](#)

Pamela Schwenzer, Laurelhurst · 3d ago New

Ridiculous.



Thank

2 Thanks

[amela Schwenzer](#)

Pamela Schwenzer, Laurelhurst · 3d ago New

Second time in as many weeks a huge pile of feces has been on the sidewalk by 24 Hour Fitness. Their staff and management don't care, make excuses, etc. It's city property...close to opening in the fence to the ODOT property. Dread walking to TJ's or 24 Hour...



Thank

2 Thanks

[amela Schwenzer](#)

Pamela Schwenzer, Laurelhurst · 3d ago New

Regarding free needles, apparently Outside In is so inundated with addicts they are needing to step up the number of needles they distribute. Good grief, Portland!

Thank

2 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/22824714/>

Adam Mcwhorter, Outer Mount Tabor · 3d ago New

What's the point of this post? Nextdoor isn't an app for people to come together and complain. Deal with it! Or tell me the address and I'll come by and pick up this crap after work!

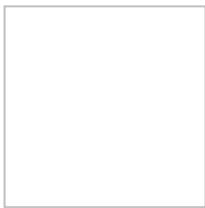
Thank

9 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/2228111/>

Matt Kelly, North Tabor · 3d ago New

Here?



Thank

2 Thanks

[an and Ellen Wasil](#)

Dan and Ellen Wasil, Laurelhurst · 3d ago New

Adam, you ask an important question: What, indeed, is the point? I'm going to read into your question a series of things, and since we don't know each other, I am likely to get wrong. And for starters, Nextdoor is precisely the correct place. The obvious point, to me, is the scream: the actual human recoil from the horror and cancer growing in our community, in our country. Mixed in with the horror is frustration: the tangible evidence of our social failure is not a recent development. This most recent, let's say last three years, rapid devolution of our culture still catches many people by surprise. Ask yourself if folks at the Tanasbourne Metro stop experience hundreds of heroin tainted needles, piling up on the sidewalk, where the children step over them on their way to school. Or the Nike campus. Or Chapman. The point, then, is to see if someone, anyone, in a position of power, notices. If there is someone who can DO something, can bust one move, can move the needle (sorry) just a little bit so we address the WHY of the posting: Why are so many Americans/Portlanders addicted? What are the correlations with mental health? What are

the correlations with no jobs, no money, no hope? What are the correlations with PTSD? What are the correlations with "investor housing" that has driven up housing prices to such towering heights that no one working an hourly wage can afford a home in Portland? What are the correlations with AirB&B in the loss of housing? What are the correlations with a building industry that has spent 20+ years building high-end housing, but only a teensy bit of affordable housing? What is the correlation with the criminalization of addiction and the Prison Industrial Complex? Whose job is all this? The point, for me, is all of the above. The point is I don't want my kids getting stuck with a contaminated needle. The point is not sweeping it under the rug, and pretending that if we just swept it up and threw it away, the tangible horror of massive human failure, the needles, the shocking Vermeer painting of addiction and pain and suffering in that picture, which should be a shocking freaking wake up call, but is not, would be magically gone. In my admittedly sorry failure to advance solutions, other than to say that housing people first seems like a starting place, I can only scream along with Tom. I want to not be that one guy who starts screaming and doesn't stop, because the horror means that all you have left is screaming. Because screaming starts to look like a very logical response to a completely surreal, unacceptable reality. Because we want some elected official, somewhere, to say that they, too, are screaming. And they are going to take care of this shit. We used to make fun of it, but go on: stick your head out the window and scream: I'M MAD AS HELL AND I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE IT ANYMORE

[Thank](#)

29 Thanks

[eAnn Kelley](#)

[LeAnn Kelley](#), Alameda · 3d ago New

I am so disappointed by this happening and the responses to the notification. I just do not understand the continued non-action by those in charge. There is soooooo much trash left by the homeless all over the city. The people are one thing; their trash is another. Can those in charge take care of one of these> UGH! The frustration I feel.

[Thank](#)

4 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/21054277/>

Jenny Dodson, Irvington · 3d ago New

I guess it depends on your perspective. Yes, there is complaining, but as a mother who has a young teen uses that very stop, I am entitled to voice my opinion and to make the call to the authorities responsible for dealing with this [mess](#). It's a bit more than a complaint, and if so, who the hell cares? I am not qualified to remove needles and human waste. Perhaps if your child was in that very area, you would be worried, voice your concerns, thank the person who took the photo and address the problem as best you could, instead of being rudely dismissive of people trying to solve an immediate problem.. This is people talking about the bigger picture of mental illness, addiction, and poverty as well as disease and the safety of our children. If you can only see that as complaining I feel sorry for you. There is concern. There is frustration, and if a little emoting is involved you could just not say anything at all. Parents tend to get pretty upset at the proximity of such things. It's only natural. There are threads of petty complaints and then there are ones that are many layers, This is one of them.

[Thank](#)

12 Thanks

[om Schwenzer](#)

Tom Schwenzer, Laurelhurst · Edited 3d ago New

Just got back in from a Laurelhurst Neighborhood foot patrol. It's one of the things I am volunteering my time to do in addition to months of volunteer time on the Laurelhurst Safety Committee. Seven of us were out tonight. A fight did break out at the children's annex in Laurelhurst park and parents with children began to leave. Police were summoned. Characterizing concerned and active neighbors as "Get Off My Lawn" types shows me a lack of understanding, a limited community involvement and a proclivity to type, but not much else. Thank you to those responding with support.

[Thank](#)

19 Thanks

[amela Schwenzer](#)

Pamela Schwenzer, Laurelhurst · 3d ago New

Matt Kelly, wow, old pic! They added a bike rack some time ago, and one more this Summer, anticipating the Grant students using light rail the next two years. It is not uncommon for it to alternate as a toilet for some.

[Thank](#)

1 Thank

[isa Russell](#)

Lisa Russell, North Tabor · 3d ago New

This is one of the reasons I want to get out of Portland. This used to be a great city and now it's riddled with filth and crime. So sad.

[Thank](#)

2 Thanks

[hris Forsberg](#)

Chris Forsberg, Sunnyside · 3d ago New

Pamela, I think you mean OUR street. Tom, I am very supportive of safe disposal of used needles. I just like to make lemonade jokes when an addict gives me a lemon filled with a few dozen syringes.

[Thank](#)

1 Thank

[amie Persing](#)

Jamie Persing, Rose City Park · 3d ago New

The lack of urgency and concern from authorities is equally disgusting as the scene in the photo. And I disagree that anybody on this entire planet "needs" meth to survive.

There... [See more](#)

[Thank](#)

3 Thanks

[hris Forsberg](#)

Chris Forsberg, Sunnyside · 3d ago New

You don't need to do meth to survive, and no one sleeps on meth anyways. That said, some addicts do need to drink to survive. Alcohol withdrawals can kill.

Thank

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/19393106/>

Derek Smith, Rose City Park · 3d ago New

The homeless dope heads are scum, dirty f-ing pigs, why are we giving them clean needles, let them spread their nasty diseases among themselves and let them die off. They serve no purpose to our community. I emailed this picture to the Mayor letting him know where it's at and how our neighbor was hung up on and how all the calls went to deaf ears. As always I got no response. I email him often with no response. We all should be contacting him until we finally get under his skin and does something. I don't have his number handy but email is [mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov) please everyone start sending him messages I know he'll love it, I think he'll love Chris' sense of humor.

Thank

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/19860077/>

Aaron Even, Outer Buckman · 3d ago New

Clean needles are an effective and inexpensive attempt to decrease the infecting of people with blood borne illnesses (like HIV and Hepatitis C), and therefore (even if you despise the addicts and the societal problems they cause) decrease the risk of exposure for those who care for these people in hospitals and emergency rooms, much less first responders and the general public. Please don't disrupt the protection of those of us on the front lines. I share your disappointment in our civic institutions, but please don't further jeopardize what few protections we do get. Addiction runs in many socioeconomic circles, you would be surprised at the ripple effect.

Thank

7 Thanks

[Chris Forsberg](#)

Chris Forsberg, Sunnyside · 3d ago New

I strongly second the do everything you can to prevent the spread of HIV, Hep B, etc. If for no other than self preservation. Having a highly infected reservoir of disease is just about the worst public health plan ever. I mean GRIDs was totally going to stay in the gay population. How did that work out for the US?

[Thank](#)

3 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/19393106/>

Derek Smith, Rose City Park · 3d ago New

I agree with both of you about the spread of diseases, we don't want that, I was just spewing venom. I really hate these homeless drug addicts ruining our city. However, I do think we make it too easy for them, the city enables them. The Mayor needs to step up and allow the police to do their job and arrest these scum for ALL crimes, under the influence of drugs is a crime, crapping in public is a crime, trespassing is a crime. I could go on and on of all the crimes they get away with.

[Thank](#)

1 Thank

[enneth Yambra](#)

Kenneth Yambra, Rose City Park · 3d ago New

Shouldn't it be a needle exchange so that the dirty ones are collected and properly disposed of before handing out clean ones?

[Thank](#)

2 Thanks

[an and Ellen Wasil](#)

Dan and Ellen Wasil, Laurelhurst · 3d ago New

you do not understand. You keep talking like there's a rational, logical, non-addicted possibility for all this. There isn't. It's ancient history, ramped up by Ray-gun, and "laws" that mitigate against real solutions. Treatment on demand. So-called "laws" say/state that "unless they're a danger to themselves and others" (a very high bar indeed...) law enforcement cannot pick up people screaming at molecules. Addicts are allotted their civil rights to slowly, or quickly, kill themselves by any means necessary. And harm you and yours along the way. Besides, there's no room at the inn. USA! USA! USA!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! 1. House everyone. Note the period. 2. Full access to treatment for whatever ails you. Note the period. You know what stops 1 and 2? Money. and will. We get what we ask for.

Thank

2 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/19860077/>

Aaron Even, Outer Buckman · 3d ago New

One would hope. Point simply being that in the rush to condemn we should remember that there are other ramifications if society decides to punish the addicts by taking away needle exchange options. One would argue this is evidence (sadly) for the need for more resources, not less. Super hard to want to be charitable to such an unpleasant group at this point, but we all stand to benefit as has been mentioned.

Thank

1 Thank

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/19393106/>

Derek Smith, Rose City Park · 3d ago New

I think I do understand, housing everyone will not happen because they don't want to be housed. the government does house the people that want housing. The thing is, to be housed you have to live by rules, they don't want to live by rules so they just linger around and make our city nasty. The issue I keep hearing is, housing is so expensive in Portland how can someone survive easy, move else where, no one is entitled to live where they want, I would love to live in a mansion over looking the Pacific Coast, well my pay check tells me different. I hear the cost of living In Billings Montana is low, move on. As for

treatment, treatment is not a cure it's simple just detox and education it's not recovery, recovery takes willingness. These people are not willing, recovery can not be forced upon someone.

Thank

5 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/19944558/>

Paul Crist, North Tabor · 3d ago New

Too many?

Thank

1 Thank

[hris Forsberg](#)

Chris Forsberg, Sunnyside · Edited 3d ago New

So to summarize; we're frustrated at the city, so much so that to protect the children, we are willing treat someone elses' children as criminals or worse, maybe even wish them further illness/death all for being some combination of poor or ill. I'm sure that will end well for society. Maybe Paul Kersey is free to come give a couple of TED talks on how best to solve our city's drug/crime problems. Love the sinner, hate the sin. Or something like that. And yes, this shit (and the needles too) is sad and disgusting.

Thank

1 Thank

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/19393106/>

Derek Smith, Rose City Park · 3d ago New

Holy crap, it is not illegal to be drunk or under the influence of drugs on the city streets in Oregon. That's so crazy

Thank

[hris Forsberg](#)

Chris Forsberg, Sunnyside · Edited 3d ago New

Why should it be illegal to be drunk on a street? Drunk and a threat to others, sure that can be a crime. But drunk and just hanging out, doesn't seem like a crime to me. That's what plenty of "good" citizens do regularly.

[Thank](#)

1 Thank

[Sue Tackmier](#)

Sue Tackmier, Laurelhurst · 3d ago New

mr. yambra, you are a genius. forest for the trees. yes, incentivize it, of course.!!!

[Thank](#)

[Donaleen Kohn](#)

Donaleen Kohn, Laurelhurst · Edited 2d ago New

It really is true that some will not accept housing. I know someone who lives over by Laurelhurst Park. He refuses housing. He told me he is "domesticated enough". He doesn't like rules of any kind. He had a car (unregistered, uninsured and he does not have a drivers license). The car died. They towed it. Now he wants another car. So frustrated.

[Thank](#)

3 Thanks

[Jeff Radden](#)

Jeff Radden, Sunnyside · 2d ago New

Don't call 911 really

[Thank](#)

1 Thank

[Jessica Oskin](#)

Jessica Oskin, Sunnyside · 2d ago New

The other tag phrase to get response from 911 is to say that 'an adult or child is in IMMEDIATE PHYSICAL DANGER.'

[Thank](#)

2 Thanks

[amela Schwenzer](#)

Pamela Schwenzer, Laurelhurst · 2d ago New

Jeff, not sure what you are saying. I was the one who saw it and called on it. Yes, I called 911. There was a man sitting amidst this pile of thirty or more needles. No one who has commented was there, saw or experienced what occurred. I said 'imminent physical danger', knowing the Grant students would soon swarm the area, and our grade school is four blocks away.

[Thank](#)

7 Thanks

[eidi Mathews](#)

Heidi Mathews, Grant Park · Edited 2d ago New

I congratulate Pamela for caring and for following her intuition. A photo and a written description cannot adequately convey the totality of the human situation that Pam witnessed.

[Thank](#)

4 Thanks

[om Schwenzer](#)

Tom Schwenzer, Laurelhurst · 2d ago New

911 will triage calls. If it should have gone elsewhere they will tell you. Sometimes they transfer you. In any event our tax dollars are used to pay for the service. Better safe than

sorry...

[Thank](#)

1 Thank

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/7714060/>

Christine Peterson, Sullivan's Gulch · Edited 2d ago New

when I visited Santa Cruz California, I found about three bundles of needles rubber banded together rolling around in the ocean surf near the amusement park they have there. Later I pieced together that someone was probably keeping them in a spot in the bushes by the river and then when it rained, they were carried down the river to that spot. That said, I thought that the needles are actually valuable to addicts in some way - they can turn them in for clean needles at those exchanges.

[Thank](#)

[regory Podolec](#)

Gregory Podolec, Sunnyside · Edited 2d ago New

I'm glad some folks are mentioning that most on the street don't want housing. It's like a knee-jerk reaction to say, "everybody deserves to be housed," "We have to get these people off the street," but they don't say HOW. They fail to realize that this is not a volunteer situation. It will be a physical, forced effort to get these folks into housing with so much resistance that some of the folks will need to be restrained. I speak to homeless people regularly, share some coffee with them, and not once, has any of them answered "Yes" to any of my inquiries as to whether they'd like to get off the street. Not once. You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink. This what we have here.

[Thank](#)

8 Thanks

[om Schwenzer](#)

Tom Schwenzer, Laurelhurst · Edited 1d ago New

Greg, I understand the sentiment entirely. I'm going to try to make you just a wee bit incorrect. I spoke with a heroin addict yesterday near the site where the post photo was taken. If I can do it, he said he would accept being off the street and would try to adhere to program regulations and wants off heroin. He described it as miserable and he also is fearful of many on the street. I've given him clothes before, but this time no hand-outs. I'll make what arrangements I can and then find him. I won't adopt him or stay in touch. He made choices to get to where he is and if there is enough of him left inside then maybe he will make a choice to recover. We're all going down a very deep rabbit hole without immediate changes.

[Thank](#)

2 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/7417001/>

Deb Haugen, Grant Park · 1d ago New

I wonder if you would have gotten a better response from the Fire Bureau? They usually have the proper equipment and training for bio hazards, and have much more time available than police. They also Just a thought. Though 911 and/or non-emergency should have

[Thank](#)

2 Thanks

[Tom Schwenzer](#)

Tom Schwenzer, Laurelhurst · 1d ago New

It did not occur to me to call the Fire Dept. Maybe I will check next week and see what sort of response could have been made at the time. Thanks...

[Thank](#)

2 Thanks

[Donaleen Kohn](#)

Donaleen Kohn, Laurelhurst · 1d ago New

I struggle all the time with helping versus enabling. That line is hard to see.

[Thank](#)

1 Thank

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/19393106/>

Derek Smith, Rose City Park · 1d ago New

Tom, you may have come across one who wants to change, it is possible. It takes effort and I hope this one makes it. The sad fact is most don't want to change and they are the ones that make me sick..

[Thank](#)

1 Thank

[Tom Schwenzer](#)

Tom Schwenzer, Laurelhurst · 1d ago New

Donaleen Kohn and Derek Smith, Thanks for participating on the post. I'm not expecting rainbows and unicorns. I've tried before with others and it failed. Their choice.

[Thank](#)

2 Thanks

[Donaleen Kohn](#)

Donaleen Kohn, Laurelhurst · 1d ago New

Tom, I wasn't responding to what you did. Only to my own actions. I've been trying for some time to help someone. The line is blurry to me. That is all.

[Thank](#)

3 Thanks

[Jessica Oskin](#)

Jessica Oskin, Sunnyside · 1d ago New

Just read a fascinating article on addiction in National Geographic. West Virginia is the worst in the country for meth addiction. They had to open a special area of a hospital to deal with babies born addicted to meth, suffering withdrawal. There are new experimental treatments for addiction available that seem really promising. Wish it was available all over and to everyone!!!

Thank

3 Thanks

teve Davis

Steve Davis, Hollywood · 1d ago<sup>New</sup>

I have seen what appears to be a drug dealer handing out individual cigarettes for money. I assume these are laced with some type of drug.

Thank

2 Thanks

aura Bee

Laura Bee, Outer Buckman · 1d ago<sup>New</sup>

This is a very dark/Portland version of the jelly beans in a jar game...

Thank

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/16799969/>

Rick Scott, Outer Buckman · 1d ago<sup>New</sup>

I wonder how many of those will wash out to the Pacific garbage patch.....tuff luck for whales and dolphins.....huh?

Thank

2 Thanks

odd Wolf

Todd Wolf, Grant Park · Edited 1d ago<sup>New</sup>

That is ridiculous. Although, it seems to me that it's something that could / should have been picked up with a broom and dust pan by the first responsible neighbor who came across it, who could then hold it out of the reach of kids and other commuters until it could be properly picked up and disposed of by the city. Taking pics and posting on nextdoor with a cute title isn't exactly the most effective or neighborly thing to do in a situation like that. With the issues our neighborhoods are facing, sometimes real world, on the spot solutions are the way to go vs. social media posts.

Thank

4 Thanks

alerie Smith

Valerie Smith, Outer Kerns · Edited 1d ago New

Meg, I remember a few years ago there were droves of tourists, now all the comments are about the homeless population. I'm a server, I hear it all the time! I noticed about half the tourist population this summer... tourist dollars are going to dry up. It's getting around.

Thank

1 Thank

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/23462198/>

Elizabeth Haas, Hollywood · 1d ago New

That's strange because I've reported this exact thing and the police where there within hour and picked them up.

Thank

1 Thank

om Schwenzer

Tom Schwenzer, Laurelhurst · 1d ago New

Todd Wolf, Neighbors stayed on the phone calls. I stayed on the phone calls. Nobody gave up, despite even the police saying they did not have a "sharps" container big enough and that they couldn't risk picking them up the way you mentioned. My persistence with the

Needle Exchange program resulted in them being removed within a couple of hours. That felt like being a "responsible neighbor". Most here have agreed. It can be lonely in the peanut gallery.

Thank

9 Thanks

[amela Schwenzer](#)

Pamela Schwenzer, Laurelhurst · 21h ago New

To the few who have criticized us for making calls instead of cleaning them up ourselves I am posting the Mult. Co. Instructions for doing so. I wil not be using them. I continue to feel that city staff, as well as neighbors, need to be informed regarding such occurrences, and trained staff with proper equipment should be handling them. My neighbors deserve to know the impact on our streets of the addicts living in the shrubs along I-84. I would want to know. <https://multco.us/hiv-and-std-services/how-safely-dispose-syringes-and-used-needles>

Thank

8 Thanks

[onaleen Kohn](#)

Donaleen Kohn, Laurelhurst · 21h ago New

I agree, Pamela. My area isn't as bad as where you are but it is steadily getting worse... don't kid yourselves, people.

Thank

2 Thanks

[eidi Mathews](#)

Heidi Mathews, Grant Park · 21h ago New

Tom and Pamela, Thank you for getting involved and for your persistence in getting the needles and syringes properly and safely removed from a site that was contaminated with human waste. The entire site was a biohazard! Others might have handled the situation

differently--some might walk by without taking action; others might go home and come back to remove the needles and syringes with a broom and dust pan; some might bring bleach and try to decontaminate the area; those with ready access to the necessary tools, personal protective gear and clothing, and a proper storage container might bring those items to the contaminated site and remove the needles and syringes according to recommended safe practices as outlined in the link you posted. What someone else might have done does not alter the readily apparent fact that YOU behaved responsibly for the community and yourselves. Thank you for sharing your experience both in what you saw and what measures you took. Your posting was eye-opening for me in regard to what is going on in our neighborhoods and on NextDoor.

Thank

4 Thanks

[Donaleen Kohn](#)

Donaleen Kohn, Laurelhurst · 21h ago New

I just watched a documentary on Netflix titled "Heroin(e)", described as: "In the overdose capital of America, they save lives every day" <https://www.netflix.com/watch/80192445?trackId=14170060&tctx=2%2C0%2Cb34d9d99-445f-49bd-ad28-fba02ed5c051-420328907>

Thank

2 Thanks

<https://sunnyside2.nextdoor.com/profile/9051342/>

Valerie Gibson, Laurelhurst · 19h ago New

Great post, Heidi! Another big thank you to the always persistent Pamela and Tom! Such great neighbors!

Thank

1 Thank

[Tom Schwenzer](#)

Tom Schwenzer, Laurelhurst · 17h ago <sup>New</sup>

^^^ aw shucks. :-)

Thank

MACROBUTTON HTMLDirect

More recent posts from your neighbors

--

Lynda J. Grow, Board Clerk and

Marina Baker, Asst. Board Clerk to the

Multnomah County Board of Commissioners

Ofc: [503-988-5274](tel:503-988-5274) Cell: [971-227-0475](tel:971-227-0475)

*Telecommute on Fridays. Always available by phone, text & e-mail.*