



Dear Mayor Ted Wheeler:

My name is Min Kong. I am the director of the Oregon Hope Chinese School. Homelessness has been an issue in the city of Portland for a long time. The news that 200 more beds will be added in the service shelter in Chinatown is very concerning to many of us. I would like to share my personal experience with you.

Our school is specialized in Chinese language and cultural education. Our students have been participating in celebrations at Portland Lansu Chinese Garden since 2011. I remember the first year when we celebrated Chinese New Year at the Garden, parents decided to take children for a walk in Chinatown. We thought it would be a great eye-opening experience for young children to see the shops, take photos in front of historical buildings, and eat Chinese food at restaurants. However, it turned out to be a very scary experience. Many homeless people were hanging around on streets in the neighborhood. Some took drugs on the street, and some were apparently mentally ill. They screamed on the street or exposed themselves. We ended up taking our crying children into the car and drove away as fast as we could.

In contrast, the Chinatown in San Francisco CA has always been a great sightseeing destination for tourist. Not only local residents enjoy coming to the Chinatown for all kinds of businesses, people from all over the world are having a great time there every day. West Coast Chinatown in Oakland and Vancouver, British Columbia are also well-known and popular for tourism. Portland is a beautiful city with rich culture. We count on our leaders, like you, to make some positive changes in our Chinatown, so that we can provide a better living experience for everyone and bring our Chinatown to the level that every Oregonian can be proud of.

Challenging issues provide opportunities to display great leadership. Our entire Chinese community would love to offer our support to help you find a better solution without sacrificing the Chinatown. Instead, we will stand behind you to build a fantastic Chinatown that will attract tourist from all over the world!

Sincerely,



Director: Min Kong

Oregon Hope Chinese School