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## **Public Testimony**

### **#1**

Hello to the Council,

This is not the first time I've written about this measure, but I hope it will be the last.

It's been reported that this measure has not been used since it was passed: I submit it is not a practically useful tool, or a situation that arises with such regularity it requires its own law.

It is, however, a tool as long as it remains in effect. It is a tool of intimidation. It is a tool of division. It is a tool of amassing more power for law enforcement while diminishing individual rights for no discernible public safety reason.

Last year I watched the eye-rolls, the mental gymnastics, the "why are you being so mean to our nice local LEOs?" that went on as people tearfully and urgently tried to tell you about their fears related to this ordinance. The fact that vulnerable people in your community have told you that this ordinance sows fear for them, and the fact that the police department cannot show how it has been necessary, should show you that the way forward is to protect your most vulnerable citizens and expel potential tools of oppression.

(If you can't believe those voices, please ask yourself why).

Having lived in a place where punitive municipal laws ran rampant as an outlet of racism, a tool of over-incarceration of black bodies, I see this plainly as falling into a similar racist pattern of over-policing and over-regulation.

The sheer magical thinking it takes to believe that Ashland alone has somehow escaped systemic racism, somehow doesn't have racists in important positions, or that racist ideas won't play out in situations of stress or fear, would be laughable if it wasn't so terrifying.

It's the council's job here to not simply give the police department whatever it thinks would be handy, but instead to dig into the worst potential uses of this law (I wonder about my friend whose rapist is a police officer, or what will happen if police could fine protestors for not revealing their identities), and weigh it against the scant (if any?) benefit it could offer. It's the council's job here to elevate vulnerable voices and perspectives and give them MORE power, rather than dismiss testimony simply because it's nothing you've personally experienced, or you can't imagine it happening to you.

If you even remotely believe what you wrote in your recent declaration, you can show it's more than pandering by voting no on 3189.

Sincerely,

Emily Iles

Ashland Resident

**#2**

Dear Ashland City Council Members,

I know I am not alone in writing to ask that you do NOT pass Ordinance 3189.

Please listen to your constituents in this matter!

This is not a beneficial use of public resources and unfairly targets certain members of our community.

Thank you,

Joanne Feinberg

**#3**

Dear Council,

Please give me a solid reason for this ordinance. We are a small town. Seems we could do better. It looks like to me there's too much wiggle room for abuse & overuse of the ordinance.

Thanks.

J. Lytjen

**#4**

I'm just writing to comment that I believe Ordinance 3189, should not be adopted.

It strikes me as needlessly oppressive, inhumane, and moving towards dystopian police behavior.

It has no place in "the land of liberty, freedom, and the pursuit of happiness."

Thank you for your consideration.

Peter von Kleinsmid  
Grants Pass, OR

**#5**

Hello City council,

Thank you for all you do for the city. Much of your work is well founded in keeping Ashland functioning, especially during these trying times.

It does astound me though the amount of work that the City council has put into passing legislation for the sake of harassing the homeless, with Ordinance 3189 being another great example. If fining and jailing our homeless community members was the solution to homeless issues, then the City of Ashland would have successfully addressed homeless issues years ago. But clearly fining people has not helped alleviate the burden of houselessness.

It would be an incredible feat to renew this gross overreach of police power during such a time of national outrage against over policing. The ACLU stands against this legislation. It's a sad day in history when my town stands against the ACLU.

I hope that the city keeps on working on legislation to uplift the city and that they have the foresight to trash repressive laws such as Ordinance 3189.

Thank you for your hard work.

Dylan Hinson

**#6**

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in oppositon to Ashland's Stop and ID law. I believe this law puts marginalized populations at risk and could result in escalatioin and traumatization of people targetted. Now is the time to reconsider how we are doing things in policing and this law prevents us from moving forward.

Thank you,

Kimberly Wasserman

Ashland OR

## #7

Dear Councilors,

Recently I took my first pandemic outing to help our economy. I traded in my car for a more recent used vehicle. I was in the Corvallis area and while driving my shiny new purchase through the backroads of that area, I couldn't help but notice a whole field of farmworkers preparing to pick blueberries. I noticed, though they were masked, that they couldn't help but work closely together. I know there have been numerous outbreaks of COVID-19 among those we call essential workers, those who harvest our crops, work in our meat-packing plants, care for our seniors, many of whom are undocumented but doing the best they can for their families. There is no federal stimulus for these good people. To lose a day's pay, to be injured or sick on a job, is often a matter of life and death.

As volunteer program coordinator for ASPIRE at Ashland High School, I learned there are families like this in our own community. With one in ten Oregon children living with a family member who is undocumented, these straits affect a major portion of our state's population and the welfare of all of us. We all depend on workers like these. Yet their population, largely Latinx, is vulnerable in so many ways. Without adequate shelter and unemployment compensation the rest of us rely on, their susceptibility to this pandemic is much greater than for the rest of us. Umatilla County, where I was raised, is a hotspot for the pandemic. It shows how the pandemic affects farm laborers working in close proximity without the benefits the rest of us take for granted.

We cannot continue to ignore these neighbors. As a Rogue Valley leader, I urge you to endorse and help provide adequate funds for the **Oregon Workers Relief Fund**. Let's keep these valuable workers and their families assured of relief. Without their input we are in dire straits indeed. We must keep them healthy and assured that their efforts are valued. We cannot deny the existence of the estimated 74,000 undocumented Oregonians from whose labor we all benefit.

Thanks for listening and for taking seriously a matter that affects us all.

Sincerely,

Ann Marie Magill

## #8

If we are trying to become a police state this makes a great first step. I can't believe that Ashland is even considering this. It would seem to be a tool to be used against the poor, mentally ill and the homeless.

Lee Lull

**#9**

To the Ashland City Council

Re: Ordinance 3189

Dear Council Members,

I stand with the ACLU, the AFL-CIO, and other community groups in opposing this threat to civil liberties.

Sincerely,

John Marciano, Talent

Professor Emeritus, SUNY

United University Professions/American Federation of Teachers/AFL-CIO

Local 2180

**#10**

Greetings all,

I have been a resident in Ashland since 1975. I raised my children here and am an active community member. I received my BSN in nursing at the SOU campus. I find the proposed city ordinance 3189 to be totally disrespectful of our basic human rights. We have a serious problem with homelessness in our community. Making our fellow human beings into criminals is simply not the answer. Perhaps sitting and listening to their stories rather than demanding their name and birthday would be a better option.

Thank you and please do not support this proposed ordinance.

Phyllis Wetzel

**#11**

My husband and I hope that the Ashland council seriously reconsiders implementing any version of the Stop and ID law. We feel if homeless people are harassed for being downtown, they will simply go up in the watershed and camp. Then throwing aside the lack of humanity in treating the homeless as criminals, you will endanger our community with the potential of camping fires in the watershed.

Sincerely,

Ramie and Dick Streng

## **#12**

Hello,

I am writing to submit my comment regarding the renewal of the stop and identify ordinance in Ashland. This ordinance has already done more harm than good, even with having never been used. This type of ordinance does not build a community of trust or respect between citizens and law enforcement. It is yet another mechanism to enable systemic racism and discrimination of all kinds. The threat of jail time and a large fine for reserving the right to your own privacy and civil liberties is not making our community safer. It is creating divisions and perpetuating flaws in our criminal justice system. This ordinance puts law abiding citizens (since it can be enacted merely due to probably cause that someone has violated a code not committed a crime), at risk of being pulled into the criminal justice system simply for maintaining their own dignity and civil rights.

The city of Ashland needs to find a better way to engage with community members. The Ashland Police needs to find a better way to engage with community members. In this time of uprisings against the abuses committed by the institution of policing I urge Ashland to take a step in the right direction. Create something new. More tickets, fines, and more people in jail is NOT the solution. Even the threat of these things for something as benign as maintaining your right to privacy as a law abiding citizen fosters distrust and a broken community. Please do not renew this ordinance.

Rose Goodwin

## **#13**

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am asking that you oppose Ord 3189 on the Tuesday night council agenda. I would make two points:

1. The racial justice resolution the council just adopted has wisely supported a move toward a CAHOOTS like program that takes many of the common street issues out of police attention. This acknowledges folks are caught up in unneeded police encounters. But 3189 continues to make these encounters turn into crimes.
2. Continuing with 3189 continues the city's shooting ourselves in the foot. We get into further estrangement and conflict with people and organizations that deeply care about human rights and racial justice. As a year of 3176 has not turned up one single use of the law it would seem that the council could let this sunset and thereby build rapport with so many who are now more aware of these issues in our city and society.

Thank you for taking testimony. I urge you to let this unneeded ordinance fade into the sunset.  
Rich Rohde.

**#14**

I wish to register my strong opposition to the proposed ordinance 3189, the so-called “Stop and ID” law. While the proposed ordinance may be unconstitutional, I oppose it most strongly because it does not reflect the values I wish to see us live by in Ashland. We are a nation founded on inclusivity, and this ordinance flies in the face of that value. It is too close to what poll watchers have done to discourage voting by demanding to see identification from voters standing in line to vote. Please do not pass this ordinance.

John Tyler

**#15**

I vehemently oppose the Stop and ID law.

It is immoral, violates civil and human rights, and is unnecessary.

It is the kind of law one would expect of a city that would welcome Trump's offer to send in federal troops to "do inate" the city and it's residents.

Benjamin Ben-Baruch

**#16**

To the City Council,

I am writing to state that I stand with Ashland's Peace House in opposing the proposed ordinance 3189. This ordinance appears to do more potential harm than good and seems to be unconstitutional, infringing on civil liberties. There are a number of reasons it should not be passed, which I am sure have been given to you by Peace House, so I will not repeat them. I do NOT support the passing of this ordinance.

Thank you,

Pamala Joy,

Director, Ashland Food Angels

## #17

City Council,

Whether or not Ashland police have enforced this law/ordinance, it is a chilling specter on our residents, visitors or anyone in Ashland. While this may seem to be a minor ordinance, shadows of Nazi Germany and ICE actions in Portland and other cities come to mind. It may seem like a small inconvenience to some, but it is a gigantic erosion of civil liberties for all. Are Ashland police officers trained in diversity, prejudicial profiling, and like issues? What would trigger the use of this ordinance? The ordinance itself seems destined to cause unjust actions on those targeted. Is this what we want people to think of Ashland, thought by many as a liberal bastion, but also a place where the KKK marched proudly down Main Street 100 years ago today. Which city are we?

I would remind you of Rev. Moeller of Germany's comments when the Nazis took over Germany: First they came for the labor unionists, but I was not labor unionist so I did not speak up; then they came for the socialists but since I was a socialist, I did not speak up, etc. The poem ends with 'and now they are coming for me and there is no one left to speak up.'

***The nose of the camel under the tent can be a very dangerous thing and thus I urge NOT to renew this odious and hopelessly, unconstitutional ordinance.***

Why are you not allowing Zoom testimony? Free debate and listening to your citizens is what a city council is here for in a democratic society.

Sincerely,

Anne C. Cowden, PhD

## #18

Dear Council,

I request request you do not pass ordinance no. 3189. As the Civil Liberties Defense Center wrote last year in regard to no. 3176:

“The proposed ordinance will propel otherwise law-abiding community members into the criminal justice system. As applied, proposed ordinance no. 3176 does little to increase enforceability of (city code) violations, instead clogging the criminal justice system with unnecessary traffic and imposing financial penalties against poor people who cannot pay. This is a waste of public resources on a policy that will do nothing to address the root of the issue, which is the abundance of unhoused people in Ashland.” – Civil Liberties Defense Center

Please do not pass this unfair, wasteful and useless ordinance no. 3189.

Thank you,

Kacky Hoffman

## **#19**

I am writing to support the call for the Ashland City Council to NOT pass Ordinance 3189, asking you to vote against the "Stop and ID Law" and its renewal.

While I understand the issues the ordinance is attempting to address, this is not the way to solve them. We don't need more people in jail, especially for a non-crime.

I don't have the answers on how to fix this problem, but Ordinance 3189 is not one of them.

*Kristina Lefever*

## **#20**

**Dear Ashland City Council Members and Mayor Stromberg,**

**I am opposed to the proposed Ashland City Ordinance No. 3189.**

**I agree with the Civil Liberties Defense Center and believe that the proposed ordinance will propel otherwise law-abiding community members into the criminal justice system and subject them to a large fine.**

**Ordinance 3189 will do little to increase enforceability of Ashland City Code violations. Instead, it would burden the criminal justice system and impose a high financial penalty (especially difficult for poor people to pay).**

**This would waste public resources and cause unnecessary hassles and expense to residents and visitors in Ashland.**

**Thank you for your kind consideration. Please vote NO.**

**Julie Norman**

## **#21**

Dear Council Members,

Last year I objected to Ordinance 3176, but after talking to Officer Hector Meletich, I saw merit in public safety officers having this as a tool to address folks who would not respond to officer's inquiry when they were observed in violation of city codes. Yesterday I had a long conversation with Officer Carpenter who patrols the downtown, who told me of interactions he'd had with folks downtown, including a trans person, two deaf people, and others whose native language is not English. In each case, the prospective offenders responded to the officer's inquiry, and no one was cited under this measure. I understood that 3176 and proposed 3189 might be ways to keep the public feeling more safe.

I expect that 3176 is known to most people who spend time downtown. But if it's ever enforced, I would hesitate to call these offenses Class C Misdemeanors with the possibility of up to 30 days in jail and a maximum fine of \$1250. These seem harsh for a violation of a city ordinance. And the poor don't have the means to pay.

I know that 3176 is due to sunset. I'm wondering if the penalty for its replacement could be made less harsh?

Ann Magill

## **#22**

This proposed ordinance is a failure to be creative.

Jake Hues

## **#23**

Hello,

I am a resident of Ashland with a strong concern for the civil rights of citizens and visitors to our beautiful city. Along with all of the experts on civil rights law (ACLU, Civil Liberties Defense Center), I see this ordinance as a threat to already marginalized people. Whether the unhoused, immigrants or gender non-conforming folks, they already are dealing with the inequities of our culture and don't need to be harassed when there's no evidence of crime. It places people in the justice system through risk of fines and incarceration for simply not following a code. If the peace officer would simply inform the person of the problem, what is the need to know their names and birth dates? It's simply harassment.

Please vote against Ordinance 3189 to maintain the quality of life and constitutional freedom we enjoy in Ashland.

Thank you, Diane Tegtmeier

## #24

I object to the renewal of the Stop and ID Law, Ordinance 3189

There is no need for this law, which is another attempt to use citations that can escalate into jail time and huge fines. I lived in Ashland from 1980- 2014 and have attended numerous city council meetings. I have witnessed ordinances being created, exculsion zones created, cars that house people be towed, etc.

Now we don't even have tourists this year, so let's stop trying to purify Ashland, with ordinances meant to give police more power to "clean up" the image of Ashland.

I don't trust how this ordinance can be used. Why clog up the courts with an ordinance that will only invite a legal challenge.

Helga Motley

longtime Ashland resident, now displaced to Talent but still rooted in Ashland through my social and political connections.

## #25

**The proposed ordinance will propel otherwise law-abiding community members into the criminal justice system. As applied, proposed ordinance no. 3176 does little to increase enforceability of (city code) violations, instead clogging the criminal justice system with unnecessary traffic and imposing financial penalties against poor people who cannot pay. This is a waste of public resources on a policy that will do nothing to address the root of the issue, which is the abundance of unhoused people in Ashland." - Civil Liberties Defense Center**

## #26

Dear Council and Mayor,

Given all the support for the Black Lives Matter movement and interest in reimagining policing, I had hoped that you would let this discriminatory ordinance ride off into the sunset and take its place in the dustheap of history, along with Oregon's sunset laws and other discriminatory legal maneuvers. I'm sad to see that it's up for renewal with a new name, but the same point. Let's direct our efforts toward helping people who need help, rather than funneling more people into the jails.

Please vote no on Ordinance 3189. Thank you.  
Pauline Black

**#27**

To the City Council:

I moved to Ashland several years ago, in large part, because I believed that it was a truly progressive and hospitable city, with a strong sense of community.

Ordinance 3176 (now Ordinance 3189) is not progressive, and ignores the civil liberties of individuals recognized by Federal and State laws. It also appears to target homeless people, therefore discouraging looking at the root causes of homelessness in Ashland with some compassion and civic desire to organize to mitigate such problems.

Please vote against this unnecessary and overly intrusive ordinance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Guyla W. Ponomareff

**#28**

Councilors,

With no obvious need for this ordinance that chips away at our Constitutional rights, I'm asking that you let the

ordinance sunset.

Legal experts speak truth to your power when they say that this ordinance is unconstitutional.

(Civil Liberties Defense Center and the ACLU)

Listen to the citizens whom you represent - let 3176 sunset.

Sincerely,

Dr. Carol Voisin

**#29**

City Council,

This sounds like a good act, but the fact that it has never been used since it was passed indicates that it is not a useful ordinance.

In addition, the opposition to this ordinance comes from very responsible sources, including Peace House. That should be enough to indicate that the item should not be passed.

Roger and Arlene Mueller

**#30**

Dear Mayor and Council,

I read this proposal for hiring process for City Manager. I don't have feedback on the timeline or process. I did look at the job description and failed to see an important part that needs to be in there. The city manager should have demonstrated commitment and skills that address social equity and racial justice. Now that we have that in a city resolution it should show up in the city manager hiring process. I may have missed it but I didn't see it.

Thanks

Rich Rohde

**#31**

Hello,

I am in agreement that ordinance 3189 will negatively impact my community.

It's dangerous for trans people, the BIPOC community, and houseless people. It allows "authorities" to be unfair toward these groups, even if they are just sitting in a park, minding their own business, and extending cycles of poverty (\$1,250 fine).

Thank you for considering helping communities whose voices have been silenced for too long.

A concerned citizen,

Katie Buttermore

**#32**

To whom it may concern,

I am a local community member writing to express my opposition of the dangerous city ordinance 3189 up for consideration this week! Please do not continue to support this ordinance that further exposes BIPOC and LGBTQ demographics to harassment and undue information distribution when interacting with city police. I instead suggest you consider ways for police to interact with people in a more collaborative way to promote the wellbeing of community and public spaces. Doing this instead of promoting public interrogation under the context of criminal suspicion which is inherently conflict oriented would promote a safer interaction between police and the public.

Thank you for your time,

V

**#33**

Dear Ashland City council,

I strongly oppose ordinance 3189 and I would like to urge you not to pass it.

If you are paying attention then you might have noticed a widespread sentiment all over this country to pull resources and power from police and reinvest it in various social services that have been systematically defunded over the last few decades. Many people in Ashland share this sentiment, as we've expressed at marches and rallies through the city since George Floyd's death in late May.

Ordinance 3189 gives more power to police by allowing them to collect personal information from anyone they claim to have violated a city code, including smoking in a no-smoking area, or sharing food in public. A penalty of 30 days in jail or a \$1,250 fine is excessive, and gives police an easy opportunity to fill the jail with homeless people, or anyone for whom a \$1250 fine would be impossible to raise. That could include myself and other good people I know here in Ashland.

I know that I speak for many of my neighbors and friends when I say that we don't want to see police given any more power. period. There is a clear bias against the houseless community of Ashland and this ordinance weaponizes that bias. In fact, this ordinance weaponizes a bias against anyone from the poor and working class.

Please show respect for the residents of Ashland by letting ordinance 3176 expire without passing 3189.

Sincerely,

Valerie Miller

**#34**

As an Ashland community member, I want to strongly voice my opposition to Ordinance 3189. I have already witnessed continued discrimination against the houseless/underresourced community on the streets of Ashland, and this ordinance is a clear tool for the police to criminalize non-threatening people unnecessarily and get them caught up in the criminal justice system.

Please don't reinstate such a violating and paranoia-inducing ordinance.

Sara Tamler

**#35**

Regarding the renewal of Ashland's Stop and ID law Up for Renewal -

Let's not renew it at this time. If we have martial law OK but until we have unrest and mayhem let's keep the peace....peaceful and kind.

It will be better for our police officers and those they care for.

Thank you,

Sally McKirgan

Ashland, OR

### #36

Tanya, thank you for sending me this information regarding the August 18 Council meeting that will take up the discussion about the City Manager selection process.

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After reading the material that will be discussed at this city council meeting I might suggest that Option 3: (City Staff conduct the recruitment without Recruitment Firm) can be adopted.

Since you have had Adam Hanks in the position of City Manager before and during the virus pandemic, he has certainly showed his worth as he has handled the city Council, staff, business and private community sectors in a manner that will show his ability better than any outside firm can offer. We are in very crucial times which looks like it will continue throughout at least 2021. We have budget problems and to spend between \$25,000 to \$70,000 during our budget crisis does not really make sense at this time.

I will offer my opinion as to how Adam Hanks has handled our business crises to date. It has been exemplary and with very decisions that he made or discussed, he did not favor one section of the city over the other. I have been involved with him and the Chamber during this crises and am very impressed at his ability to see the city as a whole and deal with various factions both firmly and diplomatically. He is young and healthy and in good condition to carry out his job. I have seen personally how he has interacted with the community, which in my opinion demonstrated the skills you are looking for in a City Manager. With that said I would suggest the following:

- i)...Go to your city departments and question them about how they find his ability to carry out his job. This is important to find out how they respect him and how comfortable they are working with him.
- ii)...Talk to some of the areas outside of city government such as the Ashland Chamber of Commerce and various other prominent business leaders in Ashland and see if they support him.
- iii)...Ask yourself (Mayor and Council members) if he has been doing a good job under this present pressure. If he can function under the pressure he has been put through, he certainly can function when this added pressure of the job of City Manager gets back to a more normal state.

In closing I just want to state that you have a proven or not proven City Manager in place that can be verified positively or negatively about his job since he has been in place long enough to make your decision. We do not need to take up so much time on this matter or spend so much money that we do not have or take the time to train another City Manager. I do not believe we have the choice to gamble during this time of emergency in making a mistake on bringing in the wrong City Manager.

Allan Sandler

Resident, business and property owner in the City of Ashland since 1981.

**#37**

Good morning,

I am a long-time resident of Ashland, having grown up here and attended Ashland schools from Elementary up through SOU. I value the diversity of our town, and am saddened to witness the widening and deepening income disparities between residents, the profiling of black and brown citizens for citation and arrest, and the targeting of LGBTQ+ individuals for discrimination and violence.

I am writing to express my disapproval of Ashland's ORD 3189 Stop & ID ordinance. I am AGAINST its instatement because it will disproportionately affect the most vulnerable and marginalized members of our community, adding to the already arbitrary criminalization of being poor. ORD 3189 also has great potential to become yet another tool for law enforcement to target people of color and LGBTQ+ citizens, as well as undocumented foreign migrant and resident individuals who live and work in our community. More citations that will not be paid, warrants that will follow otherwise law-abiding citizens around for years, deportations that tear apart families, and incarceration to further entrench existing poverty. Please vote NO on ORD 3189 – it is a solution no one asked for, for a problem that doesn't exist.

Thank you for your time,

Vanessa Manzano

**#38**

Dear Ashland City Council,

A year ago you heard from the community that this Ordinance (different number, same ordinance) was harmful and discriminatory, at the time you disregarded our concerns, but I hope you will follow the leadership of many other cities in curbing the powers of police to harm our communities rather than continuing to expand them. This is a chance to put your money where your mouth is in your support of the Black Lives Matter movement—all you have to do is vote no on Ordinance 3189. Prove you're listening, prove you care.

Thank you,

Braith Birchhall

Ashland

**#39**

Dear Mayor Stromberg and Ashland City Council,

Please vote no on ordinance 3189. Our community needs to help the mentally ill and homeless. The Ashland Police are not equipped to handle those types of situations. We don't need to lock up people in need. There are too many people behind bars already.

Edwin Johnson  
Ashland

**#40**

I have lived in Ashland Oregon for two and a half years now, and in many ways I love the community and am proud to be here. Yet this ordinance is elitist and classist. For those who can afford to pay tickets for violations it does nothing to deter them from breaking city codes. For those who can not afford to pay a ticket it disproportionately oppresses them. Silence is not a crime, and neither should poverty be. It would be an embarrassment and a shame to our community if you pass this ordinance.

Laura Burke

**#41**

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

I want to urge you to adopt City staff's Option 1 recommendation regarding recruitment and hiring of a City Manager, i.e., the full executive search option. It is the best way to ensure Ashland finds and hires the best person for the job, and it is critical that the City hire the right person to fill this position for the first time. The fees entailed in the full services of an executive recruiter are sums well spent, even given the City's current fiscal condition. Hiring someone who has the skills and aptitude to lead the City, tackle its challenges, and work well with the City Council is not an easy task. If an executive recruiter can help Ashland identify and recruit someone who is fully capable of handling all the job's challenges, including interpersonal and political challenges, and will not leave in a year or two, that in itself is a huge cost savings to the City, even if those savings do not appear on its books.

I also suggest that the portion of the job description which allows the City to ignore the defined skills and experience criteria (under the heading Substitutions) should be removed. The criteria are, and should be, well-defined. If the City believes those qualifications are important, a "substitutions" provision is unnecessary and gives the Council too much flexibility, leading to a potentially undisciplined and unprincipled approach to hiring. Better to define what is needed and stick with it.

Sincerely,

Amy Ahrendt

#42

Ashland City Council and Mayor,

My name is Rebecca Pearson and I was born and raised in Ashland. I currently live outside the city limits. Last year I watched dozens of community members urge a no vote on Ordinance 3176. The council did not listen and some of you chastised community members for opposing the ordinance saying we were wrong and that we have good police who will not abuse this tool. I cannot remember hearing more than 1 or 2 people speak in favor of the ordinance during all the hours of testimony I sat through last summer.

Over and over I heard fear from LGBTQ+ people, BIPOC folks, legal experts, and concerned friends and neighbors that this ordinance puts people at risk. It was a clear and unified shout that the people of Ashland do not want this ordinance.

Now, a year later after it has not been used and yet there is an argument that it is needed again. Why would we need it if we have not used it?

The Civil Liberties Defense Center and the Oregon ACLU raised concerns that this Ordinance could be used in an unconstitutional way. I worry that is happening. How often has this been threatened if someone remained silent?

I think it is in very poor taste to bring it back during this important moment in time. During this moment for civil rights and rethinking criminal justice in our communities. In the year of Black Lives Matter. While we move closer the cusp of a deeper housing crisis than we had in 2008. The eviction crisis looms and Ashland wants to recriminalize city code.

I fear for every one of us who is shoved out of the Ashland community because of housing or because of discrimination, microaggressions, and fear.

Please listen to the community and work to take real steps to address the concerns of BIPOC and LGBTQ+ people here. Please vote against Proposed Ordinance 3189.

Respectfully,

Rebecca Pearson

## #43

To Mayor and Councilors,

I'm writing in support of Ordinance 3189 and the ordinances governing behavior in downtown Ashland.

In the last 4 years I have much appreciated the change in atmosphere in our downtown. I no longer have to walk through gauntlets of cigarette smokers and vapers as I enjoy shopping, dining, the theaters, the movies. I can go to the celebrations and parades and gatherings and enjoy the festivities without having to share involuntarily somebody else's bad health choice. Second hand smoke and vape is a public health concern. There are people in the general public who have existing health issues such as cancer, COPD, asthma and compromised immune systems as well as children who shouldn't have to avoid downtown and the plaza because it's not a healthy place to be. Healthy people shouldn't have to avoid downtown to avoid becoming UNHEALTHY.

There are, in fact, areas downtown and near the plaza where people ARE allowed to smoke. We can all frequent or avoid those areas if we choose. I think those areas need signage saying **SMOKING IS ALLOWED IN THIS AREA**. I think we need more and better signage downtown similar to McMinnville's which says "YOU ARE NOW ENTERING A NO SMOKING- NO VAPING ZONE."

I have appreciated not having blocked sidewalks or being wary of unvaccinated or vicious dogs not under control. I think the prohibition against panhandling near ATMs and outdoor dining makes sense, too.

Over the past few years people have been generally compliant with the ordinances. For the ones who feel the rules don't apply to them, they may be able to ignore the laws for awhile, but eventually they may get some police attention. I don't think being BIPOC, LGBTQ, or Houseless describes someone who would defy a legal ordinance. That's a specious argument, actually insulting. An ordinance should never be unevenly applied, and if that is happening, the unevenness of application is the injustice that should be addressed, not the law itself.

If a person is observed violating an ordinance, it's the police officer's job to inform the person and expect a correction. If the person willfully resists compliance, we pay the police to enforce the law. That's their job. If the person refuses to identify themselves in order to avoid receiving a citation, an officer would inform the person that they are escalating the situation. Ordinance 3189 makes it a misdemeanor violation to refuse to identify yourself to a police officer who is trying to write a violation.

Those opposed to Ordinance 3189 want what? To deny the police the authority to enforce the law? The police HAVE the authority to hold someone in custody until they can identify. Eugene police take people suspected of violating ordinances who won't identify themselves to JAIL and fingerprint them. That identifies them. Ashland police could do the same. However, with only two officers on duty in Ashland at times, our police might prefer not to tie one up making the trip

to Medford. The opponents of this ordinance know this. If Ordinance 3189 is not approved, the opponents believe the downtown ordinances will become unenforceable. They might be right.

Those opposed to Ordinance 3189 are the same people who didn't want the downtown ordinances to be adopted to begin with. They would cater to those who would defy our legal ordinances, why? A fair number of the most vocal opponents don't even LIVE in Ashland. I was very distressed to hear Councilor Seffinger suggest in the last council meeting that the downtown ordinances be revisited too, along with 3189. Those ordinances, even though often enough flouted, make our downtown much more healthy and enjoyable for most of us, thereby serving the greater good.

I think the last thing we need now is to be looking for a new police chief. Chief O'Meara would be hard to replace. I'm afraid failure to pass Ordinance 3189 might be demoralizing enough to cause that to happen.

Please vote yes for Ordinance 3189.

Ron Adams