

From: [Sidney M. Poole](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Written Testimony on 825
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 8:03:36 PM

Hello,

My name is Sidney Poole, my zipcode is 97232 and I am a resident of Central Eastside Portland.

I am doing a written testimony, for I will be working and will not be able to provide a verbal statement.

I am reaching out because I read of what was discussed last week concerning Portland's surplus budget, and while I am somewhat hopeful I am alarmed at the tactics in which the council is considering tackling the homelessness epidemic. Specifically when it comes to sweeps.

I have had friends and even talked to people who are homeless, and when it comes to sweeps it is a deeply traumatizing and dehumanizing experience for them. Whether or not you are relocating a homeless person to a shelter, or another housing situation, you are still displacing them and you are still causing a significant bump in the road to getting them back on their feet.

When it comes to shelters, it provides the absolute bare minimum for basic needs for surviving, and nothing else. At a shelter, you run the risk of getting your belongings stolen, or worse. They can be dangerous with varying levels of dehumanization depending on which shelter and what organization.

If you are trying to help homeless people it must be done with dignity. There are so many presumptions about the community that their humanity and self respect is overlooked as a consequence, thus causing more harm than good in the long run.

I am all for actual housing for the homeless community, I am all for actual public restrooms, however not at the expense of their own trauma. I do not support these sweeps and I implore you to not perpetuate them as well.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and I hope you have a good rest of the day.

Best,

Sidney