

From: [Eric Murfitt](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: re: Nov 10 Fall Supplemental Budget Hearing - testimony
Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 4:34:39 PM

Portland City Council,

I am glad you are making it a priority to address the emergency homeless crisis that we have been facing for some time. Since Portland taxpayers have already provided \$258 million through the affordable housing bond, and Metro passed a bond for \$653 million also for affordable housing, I hope that you will work diligently to use the additional \$38 million effectively, prudently, and conservatively. With most of the \$900 million still in the coffers to address the longer-term housing crisis, I urge you, with the utmost passion and earnestness, to spend the \$38 million on *immediate solutions* that will have people off the street in the next 12 months. You will need to be creative. You will need to work as if we are in an emergency; because we are. In an emergency solutions aren't always optimal, they aren't perfect or long-term. It is *triage!* We are *saving lives!* Those who are dealing with addictions; those who are suffering sexual assault in camps; those who need immediate mental healthcare; those who are being murdered. Those citizens are at the mercy of the solutions we find now.

Here is one idea.

- Set up beds in buildings like the coliseum and bring support services there. You would need: Medical; mental health; addiction support (12-step meetings right there at the coliseum?); trauma support; employment support for those who are ready to work.

Does it sound too messy? Too inhumane? How does it sound to let someone lie in their tent with heroin while we ignore their plight? How does it sound to continue letting young addicts provide sex for drugs while we work with developers to build new affordable housing that won't be ready for three years? Are those humane? I tell you, that young addict will probably be dead by then.

Do you know about Compassion Connect? They run one-day clinics providing medical, dental and other services to over 1,000 people in one day. *With volunteers!* Think what is possible!

I am at your disposal should you wish input.

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