

**From:** [shelly\\_sweeney](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Save Our City!  
**Date:** Monday, October 24, 2022 10:45:17 AM

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Dear Council Members,

Our beautiful city has come into a sad state and it continues to deteriorate. It is not safe for anyone for people to live on the street.

As a citizen, I find myself afraid to walk in my own neighborhood and in many neighborhoods in Portland. In my 26 years of living here, I have never felt like this. A day does not go by where I do not experience someone either in a deranged drugged state, a deranged and frightful mentally ill state, or a combination of both, as I walk my dog or drive down our streets.

If we cannot feel safe in our city, that is a problem. As this has gone on so long, so many people I know who are supremely compassionate, have lost their ability to have compassion for the lost, forgotten and ignored members of our society. The efforts we are making do not seem noticeable. Please make changes now that actually make a difference for all of us. I implore you to do this in a way that we do not continue to overspend on a small portion of our population that overshadows what we do for the majority. We cannot afford to continue to boggle this. Please make it right and get it right. This is the fight for our city and all the people who live and visit.

- **END CAMPING NOW:** It's past time to end dangerous, inhumane, and illegal camping in public areas. People are suffering. Neighborhoods are unsafe. Portland is hurting Please support the proposed resolutions (899-903) to save lives, restore safety and to clean up our city. This is a long overdue step.
- **USE CITY FUNDS NOW:** The city has the money to get this plan started. Stop wasting \$45M a year on the failed county-run Joint Office of Homeless Services and use these city tax dollars to start implementing this plan. Do not give County or Metro politicians a veto over city policies. Longer-term, Portland deserves its fair share of the \$250M a year homeless services tax.
- **PORTLAND CANNOT WAIT 18-MONTHS FOR CHANGE:** This plan currently lacks the timelines, deadlines and benchmarks that reflect the urgency and severity of this humanitarian and public safety crisis. Delaying enforcement of existing no camping laws, will only further delay the policy changes required to create safe camping areas w access to services, more emergency shelters, more housing, and cleaner, clear sidewalks. Without accountability and action, this plan is nothing more than just empty words and empty promises.

Thank you for your efforts. I understand that this is a gigantic problem. I know Portland has always been a progressive place with unique problem solving abilities. Let's utilize those now.

Shelly Sweeney

## **NE Portland Citizen**