

From: [Joshua Bar-Lev](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Cc: [Beryl Bar-Lev](#)
Subject: Agenda Items 899-903 - End Camping now!
Date: Monday, October 24, 2022 3:07:44 PM

This is our written testimony for your hearing this Wednesday.

We are elderly residents of Southeast Portland. The City's camping policies have changed our city and made it dirtier, more dangerous, and our parks no longer inviting and usable. We live near one of the city parks and almost every night we hear loud, noisy, drug crazed people. It is sad for everyone. It should not be tolerated whether you are housed or unhoused.

If the situation was temporary or if the situation was slowly being addressed, we would be patient. But it is not being solved. The City doesn't have a clue on how many homeless there are, or how many are unemployed, have been priced out of the housing market, or have families, or are drug addicted, or mentally ill, or just petty criminals. And that means that the City doesn't really know what to do to solve the problem! All the compassion in the world, or all the ways you can spend money are neither focused nor effective. You are throwing money at a problem you don't understand how to solve.

That is the nub of the problem. Compassion is not a solution! In the meantime, tax paying and park using citizens are denied their civil rights as residents.

We have read the federal decisions you claim that "tie your hands". That is incorrect. You CAN legally eliminate homeless encampments. You CAN tow away RVs and campers illegally parked on our streets. You CAN establish locations in various places in the City where homeless or RV owners MUST camp or park. You CAN hire, you MUST hire sufficient patrol officers and sanitation workers and social workers and tow trucks to help, guide, minister, feed, treat and care for the homeless AT SUCH LOCATIONS.

Yes; BY ALL MEANS continue to find ways to clear your permit problems and bureaucratic challenges to build more shelters, lower cost housing, more drug treatment. BUT WE ALL KNOW HOW LONG THAT WILL TAKE, IF IT EVER HAPPENS AT ALL.
AND DO NOT PUNISH THE REST OF US IN THE MEANTIME. WE DESERVE TO HAVE A FUNCTIONING CITY.

Joshua and Beryl Bar-Lev
(415) 850-7014