

From: [Linda Loenneker](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: End Camping on City Streets Now
Date: Monday, October 24, 2022 12:28:39 PM

I live in downtown Portland. Day in and day out I am subject to the dangers presented by those camping on the streets. Only just minutes ago as I walked to Safeway I was accosted by someone seeking money, and just the night before last someone cussed, screamed, howled and carried on just outside my apartment complex for 2 hours between midnight and 2am. Days ago a delirious man was chasing people with a knife and consequently shot by police one block from my home. Windows have been broken at the Rental Sales Gallery where I volunteer. I had to move an empty tent that was blocking the way of a woman with a walker. The back of the Portland Art Museum has become a public urinal. I could go on. This is no way to live, not for ANYONE. I hear a lot of sympathy for the so called homeless (drug addicts) I rarely hear any sympathy for those of us who are rent paying, law abiding citizens trying to make a go of living here.

Are we killing the homeless with kindness?

Since Mayor Wheelers proposal for banning unsanctioned camping on the streets of Portland, I've read about numerous concerns from folks such as Joanne Hardesty, about the possibility of incarceration for those refusing to comply with the ban. These are, by and large, drug addicts and the emphasis here is addiction to drugs. These folks are driven by their addictions, and for those refusing to go into sanctioned camps, perhaps the most kind thing we can do is to give them jail time. Hitting the wall, as it is known in the recovery world, may be the saving grace many of these folks need in order for them to have even a week of forced sobriety so that the haze of addiction might clear enough for them to consider a better way of living.

Linda Loenneker
1030 SW Jefferson Street
Portland

- **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.

--

Pronoun: Y'all