

From: [Scott Brancato](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Agenda Items 899-903
Date: Monday, October 24, 2022 12:29:38 PM

Our family resides in southeast Portland. Our city is in crisis. Recently, while outside at his school recess, our 9 year old son witnessed a woman from a nearby tent encampment attempt to abduct his classmate. She was having a mental health crisis and mistakenly thought that the classmate was her daughter. He and his class were traumatized by this event. It is but one small example of our current state of affairs.

It's past time to end dangerous, inhumane, and illegal camping in public areas. People are suffering. Neighborhoods are unsafe. Please support the proposed resolutions (899-903) to save lives, restore safety and to clean up our city.

Please 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.

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 with 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
Scott and Sam Brancato