

From: [Jess Long](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony
Date: Monday, October 24, 2022 2:58:10 PM

Hello,

I am submitting testimony for agenda items 899-903.

It is abhorrent and inhumane that Mayor Wheeler is planning on further criminalizing homelessness in our city. Since he has been in office, it is clear that he is incapable of creating effective policy or guidance that actually considers best interests of the people who live in Portland. There is an unfathomable amount of emotional harm that has been inflicted upon the most vulnerable neighbors we have. When you stop considering people who live in your community your neighbors, solely based on socioeconomic status, you no longer get to call the place you live your community. I can't even begin to imagine how anyone could prioritize profit over the community they were elected to serve. It's a shame how many new high rises sit unoccupied while our city leaders continue to attempt to erase human lives and blame the unoccupied and over priced housing units and business spaces on the unhoused. Your power doesn't make your life more valuable than anybody else's and even if Wheeler, Ryan, and PPB only cared to protect the interests of businesses and profit, doesn't it seem wasteful to use endless amounts of our tax dollars to play a game of whack a mole with **actual** human lives? For every tent, sleeping bag, and tarp Rapid Response throws away, new ones must be obtained only to be eventually destroyed again. For every resource you make harder to obtain, a new internalized nightmare of shame and mental illness must be coped with for every individual you upheave. And we all know placing humans in camps, that are what I can only imagine will be mirrors of the unforgivable militarized Nazi camps used in WWII, is a disgusting misuse of power. Ted Wheeler and Dan Ryan's actions are echoing white supremacy louder each day and I for one am exhausted cleaning up the messes. If you had any semblance of good intentions, you would have invited community members who actually work with the houseless people in this city to brain storm, but we were never asked to sit at your table.



Jess Long

Panel Manager

Pronouns: They/Them

1132 SW 13TH AVE | PORTLAND, OR 97205

503.901.3260 | [OutsideIn.org](#)