

From: [Christopher Masciocchi](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Agenda Items 899-903
Date: Monday, October 24, 2022 4:22:33 PM

Dear Mayor Wheeler and City Council,

I enthusiastically support Mayor Wheeler's 5 resolutions to address Portland's Homeless Crisis and urge all City Council members to support them as well.

Years of unsanctioned camping have profoundly degraded Portland's quality of life, not only for the homeless themselves, but also for the law-abiding, tax-paying citizens and businesses that can no longer safely utilize the public right-of ways we pay for. We have conflated compassion with enablement and the city, its natural environment, its people and its reputation in the world have paid an enormous price as a result.

I further urge you to think carefully as we implement solutions. Ever since its annexation, outer East Portland has been used like the backyard shed of the city. While we espouse a profound love of equity and diversity, we have largely marginalized the poor and diverse to the eastern edge of the city and pretended that minimal and utilitarian investment there is "good enough".

The recent social justice movement is based on the idea that all people deserve to be treated equally, regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual preference or zip code. **Solutions to our profound homeless crisis cannot be borne on the back of outer East Portland.**

As we address Portland's homeless Crisis with these five initiatives, let's also address the fact that we currently have two cities, one for the "haves" and one for the "have-nots" and acknowledge that we have to remedy **BOTH** situations.

Many Thanks,
Christopher Masciocchi