

From: [Stewart](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: End Street Camping!
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Portland is at a crossroads and decisions are urgently needed to save a city many of us love. We have lived in downtown Portland for 17 years, and the change over the last six years is heartbreaking.

In the past I felt safe walking anywhere and was so proud of our city. Now I am on constant alert and carefully choose which streets or blocks I should avoid. I have taken pictures of the trash and illegal behavior and reported this many times to city officials. Livability for all is on a frightening downward spiral. The city needs to act now before the city is permanently lost.

We travel around the US a great deal, and Portland is an outlier as far as camping and overwhelming homelessness is concerned. Other cities have figured out how to deal much more effectively with the mental health, addiction, and lawless behavior of those without housing. Enabling and encouraging this behavior and lifestyle by ignoring laws and providing tents adds to the misery. It is not companionate; it is an embarrassment.

Help save Portland before it is too late.

Susan Stewart
SW Park Ave.