

**From:** [Michael Krauss](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Timelines, Deadlines and Benchmarks or Penalties with Teeth  
**Date:** Monday, October 24, 2022 11:25:47 PM

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Uncontrolled, unregulated camping has to end. It is completely nonsensical to chase the houseless population as one camp is taken down only to sprout up somewhere else. It is not rocket science to know that it is impossible to provide sanitation, social services and drug treatment in this "whack-a-mole" environment. I have the responsibility to pay taxes, but you have the responsibility not to waste my money.

And though not all houseless people are lawless (each person has his/her own story), there is a segment of the houseless population who are dangerously drug-addicted and lawless. Personal story: I ride my bike weekly to volunteer at the Bybee Lakes Hope Center. I ride on a designated bikeway on the Columbia Slough from my home in NE Portland to the BLHC. On three consecutive weeks (I volunteer each Tuesday) the following occurred: Week 1) Huge dump of garbage so large that I had to walk my bike over mounds and mounds of refuse to continue to my destination. Week 2) Smoldering, burned-out to the frame car in the middle of the bike trail.

Week 3) While riding fast on a downward curve under an overpass (on the designated bike trail), suddenly came upon two men who had parked two cars abreast on the trail. . .I swerved to get around them and then ran into braided marine cord that had been stretched and tied across the trail. I assume this was to block the trail as they, more than likely, proceeded to strip the cars they had parked there. I could have been severely injured but was lucky that the rope caught directly on the headset of my bike and not across my chest or face and it stretched and then broke. I am ANGRY that I cannot safely bicycle in my own city on designated bikeways.

So, now opinion has reached a critical mass. When Mayor Wheeler first floated the idea of larger temporary shelters with trash collection and provision of services to houseless people, and the banning of public camping, there was very LOUD negative feedback, but even then, I believe that most Portlanders supported that move. Now, there is finally a critical mass of citizens, businesses, civic leaders, and those running for office to support this move (in addition to the streamlining and expansion of permanent low cost housing).

But now, just because the words have been expressed, there is no guarantee of action. There needs to be a written plan, with demonstrable, timed benchmarks, requirements for accurate data collection, and penalties for benchmarks missed. Portland will not survive more years of buck-passing and tepid actions. City and County must partner and I would suggest one person be appointed as a Housing Czar, with special powers that bridge City and County. There will always be people

who object LOUDLY to bold action. Perfect unanimity is not possible. But a large majority of Portlanders have spoken and their will should be carried out. We risk nothing less than the loss of our city. We are at the proverbial tipping point, a point past which the city will not recover.

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Michael Krauss