

From: [Daniel McElligott](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support to move homeless Portlanders closer to services.
Date: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 8:09:32 AM

The irony of maintaining the status quo is that poorer and most racially-diverse neighborhoods are most severely impacted by unsanctioned camping, yet it's many of the people from the white middle-class neighborhoods that push back against cleaning up these camps. They put the interest of a group of drug-addicted 20+ year-old males before that of families. Surely everyone can agree that we shouldn't pile on more stress on communities that are already under enough strain just dealing with keeping their heads above water.

There are very few Portlanders that don't want to make sure that people who suffer from drug addiction and mental illness, and economic homelessness get the help they need. But to know what they help they need, they need to be triaged - that is a difficult thing to do in the middle of the springwater trail. Having designated locations where help can be received is essential now, and in doing so, take a massive burden off the impacted communities and thus allow them to heal again.

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