

**From:** [Melissa Stewart](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Street camping  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 26, 2022 8:46:23 AM

---

Dear city council,

It has been a privilege and a joy to live in Portland neighborhoods the last 40 years, and to visit downtown for movies, shopping, dining, and cultural events; and unfortunately that is no longer the case. The unhoused population, and the related issues of drug use, mental illness and criminality, have made our city unsafe and in some cases un-liveable. Though I have compassion and sympathy for the homeless circumstances; there has to be a better and more humane solution for those in need, and we must and should do a better job, for everyone. I have watched our city grow and thrive, and now it is diminishing day by day, and our quality of life with it. Please make reforms, immediate. The bureaucracy of handling housing solutions long term should be replaced by streamlined emergency measures, focused on getting people off the streets. Then as individual problems are assessed more permanent solutions can be found. There is no time to waste, every day we wait more people fall through the cracks.

Please use all resources available to make street camping a thing of the past. I look forward to hearing your solutions.

Sincerely,

Melissa Stewart

--

Missy Stewart 213-618-2646