

From: [Shawn Menashe](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Date: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 8:50:46 AM

Dear Local Government,

Please accept this as my testimony in support of Mayor Wheeler's proposal regarding the unhoused.

Over seven years ago, we consciously made the decision to move our office to Old Town. We did this in an effort to activate the space and support the positive direction that things were moving in. I have continued coming into our office everyday throughout the pandemic. My experience and opinion are based upon firsthand accounts. As we sit here today, Old Town and Downtown as a whole, is suffering a humanitarian crisis. Never has it been more dangerous to visit our city. Never have there been more people with mental health and addiction issues suffering on our sidewalks. We can and must do better.

Presently, our city is tarnished. We have been slower to recover than most our size in the country. People refuse to return to work or shop....not because of Covid, rather the condition of our city. This is not a perception issue. This is very real.

Most alarming are the conditions on the street for the unhoused. It is so dangerous, and the criminal element pray on this unprotected class daily. Within this community, the amount of vulnerable people struggling with mental health that are being targeted daily is staggering. I see it happen every day. The atrocities I have regularly seen keep me up most nights. And to think, this is the best we can do. Many of the tents are now occupied by organized crime pushing drugs and trafficking humans. You are aware of this. Law enforcement at the city and federal level are aware. This is happening openly on the corners of our town. Guns and weapons fill most of the tents. It has gotten so dangerous that paid officials will not come to certain parts to check meters, but we allow the criminal element to remain and pray on the most vulnerable. We must do something immediately. The amount of violence and crime within this unhoused community is off the charts by all measurable data. It is time. Please protect our most vulnerable and end unsanctioned camping in our city.

We beg of you, please reverse this course, and put an end to the humanitarian crisis on our streets. We can and must do better to protect all citizens.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Shawn

Shawn N. Menashe | Co-Managing Shareholder

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COVID-19 Update: Although many of us remain working remotely, we are open during normal business hours and continue serving our clients and community at full-capacity. Families are at the heart of everything we do and we are taking careful precautions to ensure the health and safety of our employees and clients, by closely following health authority guidelines. [CLICK](#) here or contact us anytime, for more details.