

**From:** [Karen Zahle Thomas](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Public Testimony on Agenda Items 899-903  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 25, 2022 9:12:20 AM

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- **END CAMPING NOW:** It's past time to end dangerous, inhumane, and illegal camping in public areas. People are suffering. Neighborhoods are unsafe. Portland is hurting Please support the proposed resolutions (899-903) to save lives, restore safety and to clean up our city. This is a long overdue step.

- **USE CITY FUNDS NOW:** The city has the money to get this plan started. Stop wasting \$45M a year on the failed county-run Joint Office of Homeless Services and use these city tax dollars to start implementing this plan. Do not give County or Metro politicians a veto over city policies. Longer-term, Portland deserves its fair share of the \$250M a year homeless services tax.

- **PORTLAND CANNOT WAIT 18-MONTHS FOR CHANGE:** This plan currently lacks the timelines, deadlines and benchmarks that reflect the urgency and severity of this humanitarian and public safety crisis. Delaying enforcement of existing no camping laws, will only further delay the policy changes required to create safe camping areas w access to services, more emergency shelters, more housing, and cleaner, clear sidewalks. Without accountability and action, this plan is nothing more than just empty words and empty promises.

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- These are the items most important to me and I hope that the City Council will take my thoughts and feelings seriously.

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