

From: [Richard Hoyt](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony on unsanctioned camping ban
Date: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 8:03:13 PM

Hello,

My names Richard Hoyt and I am writing in support of the mayor's proposal to open three new designated homeless camping sites and ban camping in unsanctioned areas. My girlfriend and I currently live in an apartment building in the central eastside neighborhood and have seen firsthand the severe safety issues to both the housed and unhoused that the city's current plan of inaction has created. The central eastside area currently has entire blocks taken over by temporary/non city authorized campsites and many people use the street in front of our apartment building as a thoroughfare between camp areas. In the 8 months that we've lived here we have:

- Been shot at with a paintball gun by a man in a nearby camp
- Walked outside to find another man passed out on the sidewalk with a needle in his arm
- Been chased inside the apartment lobby by a man experience a severe mental health episode
- Been chased at and yelled at by a man swinging a baseball bat
- Found dozens of syringes and needles while walking our dog

To put it frankly, it has become too dangerous for my girlfriend or I to feel comfortable walking our dog by ourselves without a weapon or pepper spray for personal protection. In my experience, these camps have been a major attractor of people experiencing severe mental health episodes, drug addiction or in many cases both and the city turning a blind eye to them creates a dangerous environment both to us and those living on the street. In any other element of our society we have accepted and embraced the fact that there is a need for some level of city regulation to ensure public safety and fairness. We regulate parking, car emissions, taxes, property uses and air bnb permits. We desperately need some sense of regulation and order when it comes to the issue of camping.

I believe the city's inaction has let down the unhoused who desperately need help. I believe the city's inaction has let down our disabled community who can't access public sidewalks due to tents. I believe our inaction has let down people who rely on public transportation who have to ride in fear of having a dangerous interaction with someone experiencing a mental health episode. And I know firsthand that the city's inaction has let down people who simply want to walk their dog without worrying about stepping on a needle or being shot at.

I care deeply about many social and political issues across the political spectrum but for this election cycle there is non more important than this issue to me. I will be placing my city and state votes based on who I believe has the best plan to address this. I urge the city council

to support the proposal to open new designated homeless camping sites and ban camping in unsanctioned areas.