

**From:** [Sylvia Lehn](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Designated camping areas  
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I fully support asking the state to help with addressing the homelessness crisis. It is LONG overdue. Portland cannot solve these complex issues on its own.

And Portland should not have been allowed to become a magnet for anything-goes behavior. I am an older woman and I have been verbally abused and physically threatened several times by aggressive individuals who seem to be having severe mental health issues. Friends have had their cars stolen. Businesses are locking their doors. I want to feel safe in my neighborhood and in my city again!

I strongly support the proposed long-term solutions, as well as the shorter-term solution of banning unsanctioned camping and providing designated camping areas. This will reduce the blight and crime often associated with homeless encampments and provide a way to provide targeted services for the people in those areas.

To me, it is very frustrating that there seems to be an unwillingness to acknowledge that many individuals in the encampments are obviously engaged in car theft, drug trafficking, criminal behavior, and the destruction of natural areas, seemingly without consequences. And I understand that many addicted individuals resist going to shelters where they can't use alcohol or drugs, it seems like common sense to allow them to camp in areas that make their drug use as safe as possible until they are ready to try to overcome their addictions.

At the same time, people who may have lost jobs or been evicted are not helped in any meaningful way. The law enforcement actions to curb criminal behavior, the mental health services for those that are addicted, and other forms of help for others who have become homeless because of job losses or evictions need to be addressed differently. I hope that designated camping areas are a first step in solving all of these issues.