

**From:** [Craig Peterson](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Unsanctioned camping in Portland  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 25, 2022 8:37:13 PM

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Mayor Wheeler and City Commissioners,

I would like to have my voice heard but unfortunately I was not able to be at the meeting on Wednesday. My name is Craig Peterson and I am a partner at the Ringside Steakhouse that has been in my family for 78 years. My brother, sister and myself have worked our entire careers at our family business as have three generations of my family.

We are in full support of Mayor Wheelers

Initiative to end unsanctioned camping in Portland as well as all the cities and towns in Oregon.

We have had the pleasure to watch and enjoy Portland grow into a fun, vibrant, and well visited city over the last 40 years. Watching it being destroyed by a small group of

people living on are streets over the last decade or so has been heartbreaking to watch. I feel that It also affects our labor issues because folks are fleeing the city and/or do not want to relocate here. My family business has been very much affected by this serious issue. Our streets after dark are empty of people wanting to enjoy an evening out. We are entering the strongest time of year for our restaurant as far as annual revenue and between winter weather unknowns and the added issue of our customers not willing to risk being out after dark feels like a lot to sustain a successful restaurant that employs many with the sustainability that we have achieved over all of these years.

Traditionally in the summer months, the Ringside business is running strong until 10:30 to 11pm. This last summer we have been closing at 9pm Sunday - Thursday and 9:30 Friday and Saturday. No one wants to be in the city after dark it's a scary place to be.

Please let's get behind Mayor Wheelers initiative and help bring our city back to what it was and has the potential to be. We need to move fast before it's too late.

Thank you for your time today,  
Craig Peterson

Sent from my iPhone