

From: [Elizabeth Fischer](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Banning unsanctioned camping
Date: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 10:51:33 AM

As a citizen and 22 year resident of Portland, my response is YES.

I used to volunteer in the area of homelessness services, and received a plaque of appreciation from JOIN. I also was on the advisory committee for SAFES, under the auspices of the Salvation Army, and volunteered at Sisters of the Road. I have been through challenging financial times, but as a college educated person without addictions, I was fortunate never to be homeless. I do have great concerns for folks who do not have a shelter, particularly females, trans folks, and the disabled.

I reside in senior housing, and on the next block from my building (NE 18 - 17 & Davis) there is a small encampment. My biggest worry is that as of a few weeks ago, I noticed they had set a fire in order to keep warm.

I live not far from Laurelhurst Park and Lone Fir cemetery. The encampment outside of Lone Fir was an absolute disgrace. People in mourning did not need to see that. I was horrified when I was taking a walk around the cemetery and discovered human excrement. If the City doesn't supply porta potties to every encampment, where are those who are houseless expected to relieve themselves? Even more troubling, are the women on the streets who are still menstruating.

Laurelhurst Park is one of NE Portland's most beautiful settings. Yet I saw intoxicated men, passed out with alcohol bottles, sleeping by the pond (on the side that is more shielded.)

Unfortunately, passing Measure 110 has been a disaster for our beloved city. I voted yes, because drug convictions disproportionately impact people of color. I am sure that's why lots of us voted yes. Now we see the consequences. I so wish we could take vote again on this.

We have rampant drug use, rising crime, encampments nearly everywhere, and seemingly inaction from our city government. I am a moderate leaning Democrat, and I truly believe we need to outlaw these encampments and provide an alternative.

A couple of weeks ago I had the pleasure of spending a few days in Astoria. Not ONE tent to be seen. No one obviously homeless, struggling with addiction or mentally ill, in my time there. Their choice was to ban camping before 9PM and after 7AM, I subsequently learned. For (older) tourists like me, that absolutely worked. But it is surely easier to enforce in a small town.

In order for Portland to regain it's tourism dollars, and our quality of life, we need to start somewhere. Inaction, on the part of the City Council and the police, obviously isn't working. Ban illegal camping now!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Fischer