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To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Written testimony on No Camping enforcement
Date: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 11:41:23 AM

Hello:

I'm a resident and homeowner in the Boise Eliot neighborhood in Portland. I have lived in the metro area for 25 years. The current conditions in the city are no longer tolerable, which I believe is the result of a mix of well-meant, but completely non-functional policies.

I consider myself progressive and sympathetic to issues of equity and economic inequality, but I do not believe problems in those areas are the source of our huge homeless population. We seem to have no conclusive data about our homeless tent camping population, but I believe many/most of those living in tents are services resistant, and suffering from mental illness and/or drug addiction. Allowing them to keep camping allows them to continue in a self-destructive path that does not get better. Putting many of these people directly into permanent housing may not even work without treatment.

We need to end all unsanctioned camping, stop enabling camping by giving tents and food to people as they live on the streets. They need to be given several options for where to live, but one of those options should NOT be to remain on sidewalks, on streets, or anywhere outside of sanctioned options.

We need much better tracking of the results and outcomes of the various non-profits who are being given taxpayer dollars to help. The patchwork of well-meaning organizations who are supposed to help have become a homeless industrial complex that takes hundreds of millions of dollars and delivers no measurable impact.

Please stand up to the loud voices that would tell the city council NOT to take this action, but have no better options. This cannot continue for months. We need to end unsanctioned camping in Portland now.

--Mark Wilkinson