

From: [Alan Lissie](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: ADA Homeless Testimony
Date: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 11:51:04 AM

To Portland City Council,

First, I am very heartened that you seem to have all come together, and sharpened focus. That gives us a chance. Thank you.

I have been disabled for 42 years, and can say, in total honesty, that Portland these last two years, is the only time I've felt it.

There have been a number of incidents: a mobility scooter stolen, another twice defected on, verbal abuse is daily, objects thrown a regular occurrence, threats of violence too many to recall.

Being entirely unable to defend yourself is quite a difficult thing, but Portland in 2022 requires action. So, routes have been altered, friends are seen less often, local businesses wonder where you've been, for the first time since childhood I head home before darkness, and money has been spent on security.

All of those things are against my principles, and contrary to a lifetimes effort not to be defined by circumstances, but, irrespective of how they make me feel, or of the philosophical compromises required, the practical realities are pretty stark. Candidly, I do what is necessary.

And I think that's what is now required from you: being practical and realistic. And doing what is necessary. It strikes me as being well proven by now, that ideology and dogma are far more the cause than the solution here.

The temptation to outline specific steps I think are required is massive, but I think a collective purpose is even more important. Whatever you do, it must be done with genuine unity, clarity and purpose, and without the usual political obfuscation or superficiality. Anything less and the details won't matter.

Rather, I would close with a challenge, maybe even a call to arms: you are public servants, with the collective responsibility to run the city in the best interests of all its residents. Those interests are not defined by your personal beliefs, so it is incumbent on you to find whatever compromises are necessary.

Your personal behaviors matter now, so find a way round obstacles. Just like the rest of us have had to do.

Alan Lissie