

**From:** [Bill Jorgensen](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Items 899-903  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 26, 2022 12:14:18 PM

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To whom it may concern:

I would like to offer testimony on these items.

- **CLEAN UP THE TRASH:** As you prepare to FINALLY stop allowing anyone to take up residence, build shanties, block sidewalks and bike lanes, park for weeks/months on end on city streets, threaten/attack neighbors, and make/use dangerous drugs, please start by PICKING UP THE MASSIVE PILES OF GARBAGE. Our city is disgusting and dangerous in so many PUBLIC places right now. I support housing for all, but in the meantime, just because someone is houseless does not give them the right to claim public land as if it was their own. Start by removing the giant amounts of junk, and letting them know they will need to move on SOON.
- **END CAMPING NOW\*:** It's past time to end dangerous, inhumane, and illegal camping in public areas. People are suffering. Neighborhoods are unsafe. Portland is hurting. Please support the proposed resolutions (899-903) to save lives, restore safety and to clean up our city. This is a long overdue step.  
\*While we are waiting for better housing options, it is unavoidable that some folks will sleep in the streets. But they must LEAVE in the morning. Being homeless means moving around, and traveling light. It's hard but that's the way it is. If you stop allowing people to 'camp' in the same spot for weeks/months on end, they won't have the opportunity to acquire giant piles of junk, stolen bikes, and cars.
- **USE CITY FUNDS NOW:** The city has the money to get this plan started. Stop wasting \$45M a year on the failed county-run Joint Office of Homeless Services and use these city tax dollars to start implementing this plan. Do not give County or Metro politicians a veto over city policies. Longer-term, Portland deserves its fair share of the \$250M a year homeless services tax. Don't waste any more money handing out tents and tarps, merely exacerbating the current crisis.
- **PORTLAND CANNOT WAIT 18-MONTHS FOR CHANGE:** This plan currently lacks the timelines, deadlines and benchmarks that reflect the urgency and severity of this humanitarian and public safety crisis. Delaying enforcement of existing no camping laws, will only further delay the policy changes required to create safe camping areas w access to services, more emergency shelters, more housing, and cleaner, clear sidewalks. Without accountability and action, this plan is nothing more than just empty words and empty promises.

START CLEARING OUT GARBAGE PILES, SHANTY TOWNS, TENT CITIES AND 'UNOFFICIAL TRAILER PARKS NOW! PLEASE. Our city is becoming unlivable in so many places. Quit twiddling your thumbs and take action, at last!

Sincerely,  
Bill Jorgensen  
Portland resident for 22 years