

From: [Anya Rohman Solotskaya](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Resolutions 899-903 Commentary
Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 1:48:35 PM

To Mayor Wheeler and City Commissioners Ryan, Mapps, Rubio, and Hardesty:

My name is Dr. Anya Solotskaya and I'm writing to express my concerns about resolutions 899-903. I am a clinician, educator, and volunteer within our houseless community with a commitment to build solutions to our housing crisis and improve the health of all Oregonians.

The reality of homelessness in our city is a humanitarian crisis. Our unhoused neighbors deserve swift action to direct resources towards solutions that actually end homelessness. I'm very concerned about the policy resolutions that have been brought forward as the strategy and mechanism to advance the goals of ending homelessness will undeniably cause harm to unhoused individuals

1. Further criminalization and civil or criminal punishment of individuals experiencing homelessness will only criminalize poverty, not end homelessness
2. Congregate outdoor shelter settings are not accessible and/or safe for many individuals who lack housing. The proposed scale of each concentrated "campus" cannot possibly be trauma informed or honor the dignity of each resident. There are significant public health risks in settings this large, including outbreaks of communicable diseases, negative impacts on the physical and mental health of residents that will further exacerbate the severe health disparities unhoused people experience.
3. Mandating people to enter these "campuses" or face criminal punishment will create further distrust in our local government, we can expect to see a significant drop in engagement with our social safety net, causing increased pressure on the infrastructure of other systems like hospitals and public health, which are already strained to their breaking point.
4. Enforcing these mandates and staffing these "campuses" will be extremely expensive. Our taxpayers have already made recent significant investments in the development of affordable housing (M26-210) and substance use disorder treatment (M110). These proposed resolutions will distract and pull significant resources away from these efforts that actually end homelessness, provide people with stability and treatment and create positive impacts.
5. Finally, shelter is not a solution to our housing crisis, housing is. While these resolutions call for immediate action to create more affordable housing units, the proposed entry point to these services is inhumane. More people will be facing eviction this month than any other time in the history of the city. The increased cap on rent increases to nearly 15%, along with the end of 10-day eviction protections will cause an imminent wave of people becoming homeless.

Please withdraw these resolutions and engage the community in creating solutions that respect the dignity, humanity and self-determination of our houseless neighbors.

Sincerely,
Dr. Anya Solotskaya