

**From:** [stanleypenkin@gmail.com](mailto:stanleypenkin@gmail.com)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Rubio, Carmen](#); [Ryan, Dan](#); [Commissioner Mapps](#)  
**Subject:** Plan for Homelessness  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 25, 2022 1:36:31 PM

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Dear Mayor Wheeler,

Our beloved city is in a severe emergency that threatens our future viability and sustainability. Until we free our streets of encampments, accumulated trash and hazardous waste, which will allow people to once again feel comfortable walking our streets and businesses to thrive, we will not be able to return to being the vibrant city we once were.

I greatly appreciate and support your proposal to ban unsanctioned camping and to establish sanctioned sites with necessary services for our homeless population. I look forward to hearing further details with 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 with access to services, more emergency shelters, more housing and cleaner, safer sidewalks.

While some will inevitably oppose this plan, I have no doubt that it can be accomplished in a sensitive and compassionate manner that will serve the homeless community and help to unify our city.

It is my hope that the County and other jurisdictions will be supportive of this initiative as it will take a good deal of coordination, cooperation and funding to make this a successful endeavor.

Current City and County policies clearly are not working. We need bold and decisive action such as you propose to move our city to a better place. Thank you for taking the first steps in that direction.

Sincerely,

Stan Penkin  
NW Portland