

From: [Susan Blatt](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: camping ban: yes please!
Date: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 2:46:33 PM

To the mayor,

I have two extended family members who are successful professionals today, but who had to go through rehab to get there.

I also have a friend whose brother only got clean once he landed in prison, *because* he landed in prison, who is now living a good life with a great blue-collar job he also trained for in prison. And I have two other friends—one sober today and working at Bybee, the other having found relief in spiritual practice—who both lost their brothers to drugs.

Like most families, mine had to coerce our loved ones into treatment with a combination of carrots and sticks, in one case letting a young man sit overnight in jail rather than bailing him out.

It is a true fact that families with the means do this, while families without the means are forced to watch governments like Portland and MultCo enable their loved ones' self-destruction and slow suicide.

It is time we stop pretending that Portland's drug encampments are simply filled with the “homeless”. The vast majority of those people are trapped in a life that they simply cannot escape on their own, and will not escape as long as they're allowed to keep living in tents. They must be moved into shelters, and given a range of both positive incentives and negative consequences to encourage or even coerce them into treatment.

We are not doing them any good by simply allowing their drug use to continue, and keeping them fed so that they can spend their nights doing crimes and their days doing drugs. It's not fair to them, it's not fair to the victims of their crimes, and it's not fair to the law-abiding families who have lost their parks to these encampments.

It's time we learned what countries like Portugal already have. **It's time we put an end to the open drug scenes and put our vast resources into enforced shelter and treatment.**

Thank you for your time and attention to this.

Sincerely,

Susan Blatt