

From: [Matt](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Comment RE: Connect mental health and substance abuse recovery services to unhoused individuals
Date: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 3:06:17 PM

Hello,

My name is Matt Farnham, I am a resident of South East Portland and a homeowner. We have had an unsanctioned campsite in our neighborhood for the last 3 years, located at SE 49th and Hawthorne. Residents of the camp deal and use hard drugs openly, block the sidewalk for pedestrians including those with disabilities, steal items from neighborhood porches and yards, and are often aggressive and belligerent. We regularly report to Portland Street Response, who have swept the camp on 2 occasions, but each time the campers have returned after a few weeks. Today it is as bad as it has ever been.

I would like to testify in support of the proposal to create sanctioned camping areas that give residents access to sanitation, safety, and services, and ban unsanctioned camping in the city of Portland.

I realize this is a difficult issue with no easy solutions and I do not seek to demonize unhoused citizens, but the status quo isn't working for anyone at all, and it just keeps getting worse.

Sincerely,
-Matt Farnham