

From: [Jenna Goldin](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Portland City Council Testimony for 10/26/22 2pm meeting
Date: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 3:36:24 PM

To whom it may concern:

Name - Jenna Goldin
Zip code - 97220
Agenda item - 899-903
Race - white

Testimony below -

Homelessness is not a crime. Poverty is not a crime. However, creating and maintaining the conditions that have perpetuated homelessness in Portland should be considered criminal. Mayor Wheeler and Councilman Ryan should be held accountable for their negligence, negligence that has caused mass suffering and stoked hostility between housed and unhoused community members.

As a 20+ year Portland resident, small business owner and homeowner with close ties to many unhoused community members, I am incredibly concerned about the recent proposal to ban unsanctioned camping and build 500 capacity “mass-campuses” in the Portland-area. If the city follows through with the plan as-is, it is my understanding that authorities could coerce or force people to choose between a controlled shelter, a controlled sanctioned encampment, or jail. If the motivation of the proposal is to provide a public service, the decision for unhoused folks to move would not be coercive. I believe that the motivation is not to diminish homelessness but to diminish the **visibility** of homelessness to the general public.

Spending money on temporary shelters and sweeps has proven time again and again to be unsuccessful. According to PSU’s research on Housing First Models to address homelessness, not only is there a cost savings for permanent housing vs. temporary shelters, but also 75-91% of households remain housed a year after being rapidly re-housed. Given the facts, it’s clear that the current proposal reflects the values of those who care more about optics than real, long-term change.

About a year ago, I attended the “Fall Bump” City Council Meeting and unfortunately, little has been done since then to help folks get housed. Instead, I have seen the majority of resources directed at “sweeping” (sweeps up over 2000% since 2020) Portland residents from the only homes that they have, so that housed community members, business owners and government officials don’t have to “see” unhoused folks.

Since the “Fall Bump” City Council meeting, I have helped support an unhoused friend to get housed. While his only barrier to housing was economic, the process took an entire year. Even after being placed in housing, he waited over 3 weeks to get his apartment furnished. He was sleeping on a cot with JOHS supplies that I provided him while waiting to get his bed. Something is wrong here. The local social work agencies are overwhelmed with demand. Workers aren’t getting the proper training or wages. All of which are proof that the City does not value their work or the lives of those who are unhoused.

Why not do something different and actually follow the lead of the folks who are already doing the work? Ask unhoused folks what their barriers to housing are and do what's necessary to create the conditions needed to get folks housed. It's not hard to find or connect with those living outside, they are visible and tend to stay in the same place unless they are swept. Until those in power ask those most effected about next steps, nothing will change except making folks who are already vulnerable, more vulnerable and stoking the hostility between community members due to lack of understanding.

Best,

Jenna Goldin, EA, LTC

Pronouns: she/her

www.shiftaccountingllc.com

jenna@shiftaccountingllc.com

IG: @shiftaccountingllc

phone: 503.660.8362

fax: 503.455.5553