

From: [leefi1](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: The proposed no camping laws.
Date: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 4:14:30 PM

I wrote proposing this very thing a few months ago. We have ceded our city to the homeless to our detriment. We have been killing off downtown by making it into a safe space for lawlessness, this must stop.

In effect, we have made a class of privilege for the homeless population, they need restrictions, safe camping spaces, housing, medical and psychiatric care. Coddling is the wrong response.

If we do not take steps to reduce the negative aspects of a policy of allowing the homeless to dominate our streets, we will lose what makes Portland worth the high cost of living here.

We need to send a message to the population of people who make our streets their own, that they too have an obligation to the city. They too, must be decent, responsible citizens to depend on us for support from taxpayers.

The blight of homeless camping on our streets must end. If we allow lawlessness to continue, it gives tacit permission to other criminal acts. This is why tagging is out of control, further defacing our city. We let all of this happen in a very short time.

Repeatedly electing incompetent mayors is our next issue to address. It almost seems that we get the government that we deserve. We hate mayoral candidates who are seen to be in the pockets of developers, yet expanding the tax base by allowing rampant developers to flourish is a basic stealth tenet of every mayor.

This administration has a chance to redeem itself by taking control. We need to craft laws that are well defended by legal precedent. The attorneys inevitably hired to challenge the anti-camping laws must lose their cases.

Portland's citizens are kind, generous and compassionate toward the poor and disadvantaged. But we are also angry, irritated, and annoyed at seeing our beautiful, clean, welcoming city turned into a ghetto of lawlessness and contempt for cultural norms.

Sincerely, James Findley, Inner SE Portland.