

October 26, 2022

Subject: Support of Agenda Items 899-903



Dear Mayor Wheeler:

On behalf of over the one hundred members of Sport Oregon I would like to express our support and strongly encourage the Portland City Council to unanimously support the plan to end unsanctioned camping in our city. This plan is balanced and ensures that the most vulnerable Portlanders have urgent access to housing, and the mental health and addiction services they need to move off the streets while also enforcing our laws,

Sport Oregon is an organization that regularly promotes the city of Portland as a destination for sporting events that ultimately helps the local economy. We are regularly challenged in this effort as the travesty of living on the street has remained consistent with no solution in sight.

We finally, have a comprehensive plan. The plan, as outlined and reported in the local media and one that has all three candidates for Governor, both candidates for County Chair, and elected leaders from across the region in support of the plan is an accomplishment in itself. It bodes well for all of the residents and visitors to Portland that a solution may be achieved to a problem that has been relentless.

The time for daring, earnest action is now. We encourage the city to work with all stakeholders who want to move us forward together. Sport Oregon will stand alongside those who seek to come together to finally address this social issue that has drained all of us for so long.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Etzel".

Jim Etzel
CEO, Sport Oregon
1939 Morrison Street, Portland

CC:

Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty - JoAnn@PortlandOregon.gov

Commissioner Carmen Rubio - Comm.Rubio@PortlandOregon.gov

Commissioner Mingus Mapps - MappsOffice@PortlandOregon.gov

Commissioner Dan Ryan - CommissionerRyanOffice@PortlandOregon.gov