

**From:** [Dan Purgiel](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Agenda Items 899-903  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 25, 2022 7:33:37 PM

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Homeless camping:

I am a city of Portland resident and also a downtown business owner.

The city needs to stop allowing the free for all camping on our sidewalks, parks, etc. now and not later. The current policy allows a good percentage of homeless people to live without any normal societal behaviors and rules. I am tired of my downtown business's more than 100 employees having to deal with homeless harassment, human defecation at our business entrance, ten's of thousands of dollars in increased security, etc. It has gotten to the point, like many other business's, that we have considered reevaluating our business location to outside the city.

I understand the legitimate concern for the homeless. We as tax payers though, are not willing to spend the \$1 to \$2 billion dollars and wait the 10 years it would take to build and maintain affordable housing for the 3,000 homeless though. Wishing for that is a pure pipe dream. We do need some more affordable housing and some of the other creative solutions the City has tried. A big part of the solution also has to include a substantial amount of temporary City sanctioned campsites. All solutions need a sense of urgency which seemingly all our local governments have failed.

My observations and research over the last year since going back to work in our downtown office is that about ¼ of the homeless are just poor, ¼ are mentally ill, and around half have substance abuse issues, many of which take advantage of the current free for all system. Current policies enable bad behavior and choices. It is also so unfair that the rest of us 99 1/2 % follow all the city laws and rules, but then we let the ½ % homeless live with essentially no rules. I've heard it from many homeless campers that they like this current free for all system and would not live in City sanctioned campsites because there would be rules. This is despite the other super poor or even others with substance abuse issues that still pay rent, have jobs, and live by our societal rules etc. Make the homeless live by normal societal rules.

The City needs to establish a practical solution of City sanctioned campsites with enforcement of rules to stay there. Accomplish the new homeless camping solution in 6 months. Push it.

- Allow for at least 1,000 city sanctioned campsites housing near 1,500 people, including super small hard shell single shelters.
- Spread them around the City by requiring each of the 60 neighborhoods to have at least 10 campsites each in 1 or 2 locations with porta john, and garbage service = 600 sites.
- Allow 3 to 4 - 30 tent sites around downtown under overpasses or bridges?, in a parking garage? = 100 sites.
- Have 2 to 3 - 100 or so large campsites = 300 sites , including some actual camper locations.
- Make the campers live by 5 or so posted rules. Require a sleeping tent plus a storage tent for miscellaneous items. No random junk or garbage, no harassment, etc. Two strikes and they are out.

- Long term build 500 more affordable housing especially considering the mentally ill homeless.
- Long term keep purchasing hotels.

Pay for the campsites, garbage service, and enforcement from City tax dollars, including our share of the homeless service tax money. Push the other agencies like Metro and county out of their slow approach.

Thank you

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Portland Burlingame neighborhood

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