

From: [Bill Truncali](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Please enforce no-camping laws
Date: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 9:48:29 PM

We applaud the Mayor's efforts to finally address this ongoing crisis of homelessness in our community. We were once proud of Portland and the beautiful city that it was. Over the last several years, the homeless crisis has become an epidemic. We realize that Covid made managing the problem more challenging; however, it is time to take a new, bold approach to finding a better solution to helping the homeless. We live in the Pearl District, once the "jewel" of Portland's urban development. If it wasn't for the service of neighbors who volunteer for the Foot Patrol Teams, and local security efforts, the streets would be even worse than they are. The state of our commercial tenants continues to deteriorate with many shop owners deciding it is not safe to run their businesses. Even Starbucks on NW Lovejoy, an anchor in the community for over twenty years, decided that it was time to leave. Today, although efforts are made to clean camp sites and tents, they simply move somewhere else and reappear, or go back to their original locations a few months later. A classic example of this can be seen on NW 9th between Hoyt and Irving. After several complaints, the city responded and the street was clear of all tents. As could be predicted, this was temporary and we now have seven new tents in that location.

From a humanitarian standpoint, we also have a responsibility to find solutions to give homeless men and women an opportunity to reach for a better life. Having designated areas for them which can provide the appropriate services, counseling and drug rehabilitation is the right thing to do. We can't imagine that it would cost the city more to have a proactive plan to address this issue, than the current financial impact it is having on our businesses, the stress on our residents, and the reputation to our city.

We support the Mayor's efforts and we hope that this will be a strategic, sustainable and scalable solution to the homelessness crisis, and will be adopted as soon as possible.

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