

From: [Melissa Toledo](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony for Wed, Oct 26th, 2022. Proposed resolutions (899-903) Sanctioned Homeless sites.
Date: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 9:59:59 PM

“MY EXPERIENCE WITH PORTLAND’S HOMELESS”

Testimony by Melissa Toledo, SE Portland Homeowner, and last year’s Cleveland High School PTA President.

My neighbors and I can tell you that safety and security at our homes around the Cleveland High School Athletic Field are becoming more of an illusion due to the recurring homeless activity on our blocks... some right by my home.

Because the moratorium against moving homeless camps was passed due to Covid, the lack of safety and security became even worse for us and the liveability of our neighborhood plummeted.

The block behind McDonald’s, and both blocks along the Cleveland High School’s Athletic Field went from a few tents to lots of tents. These were often reinforced with wood, metal, plastic, and other less temporary building materials. We saw obvious drug use and experienced constant harassment by squatters. When these structures were finally removed, the vast quantity of used needles was shocking but also as expected.

Unfortunately, the homeless activities have not completely gone away.

Last week we reported a tent that was set up in the median directly in front of our neighbor’s home... that tent could see directly into our front window. And right before that, there was a different camp that was set up next to my own home for over three months.

Personally, I’ve been assaulted (physically and pepper/bear sprayed) by a person doing drugs in a vacant lot a few doors away. We’ve had trespassers and multiple items stolen from both our front and back yards, including my husband’s bike that was behind a tall fence gate. These incidents have all been reported to Portland Police.

Something’s Got To Give!

After 6 years of this existence, here’s what I know ... I’m tired. In my opinion, an ideological first-time homeowner shouldn’t be made to feel bad or entitled because they want to keep their block safe and clean for their family and their community.

I bought my home because I fell in love with it and the neighborhood. I enjoy my

neighbors, the Cleveland High School Field, and our location in Portland.

I approve of the city's plan to help these homeless folks get into sanctioned sites where they can register to get access to services. How can a City help its homeless population if we don't know who they are and what they need?

Thank you