

**From:** [Geoff Smith](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support 899-903  
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To the Mayor and all members of the Portland City Council:

I fully support Mayor Wheeler's plan for creating sanctioned areas where homeless people are allowed to camp. The current "let them camp anywhere, for as long as they like until taxpayers give them a key to a apartment" is obviously a failed approach with evidence of the bad results all over the city. Wildlife preserve areas have been destroyed. Businesses have lost customers because of the garbage, needles and open air drug users. Neighborhood safety has been degraded.

Centralizing services to areas allowing campers is efficient for administering those services and for follow up outreach from agencies working with those who are living on the streets. What's the alternative? Another Big Four Corners situation, which is already taking place along the banks of the Willamette off McLoughlin? The rat situations in old town or in the frontage roads along SE Powell? The violence in the Hollywood camps or more fires at various camps which currently take up a huge percentage of PFD calls? Or ongoing situations like the one we had this past Sunday when young man who came into Safeway from one of the tents or RV's that surround it, high out of his mind, exposing his backside to my young daughter, swearing at the clerk that tried to prevent him from shoplifting? Everyone in the neighborhood knows the tents and RV's outside are the cause of this. Sanctioned areas will improve the quality of life for the entire community including those who want to camp. We all endure rules, restrictions and zoning constraints. The people that are being serviced by the rest of us can endure some as well.

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