

**From:** [Joe Hovey](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Mayor Wheeler's Plan to Address Homeless Camps - Council Meeting 10/26/22 - Agenda 899-903  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 26, 2022 7:57:03 AM

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Mayor Wheeler and City Council Commissioners, this email is in reference to Agenda Items - 899-903 slated for discussion and testimony on October 26, 2022 at 2:00PM.

I am in total support of the Mayor's proposal to address the issue of Homelessness that is plaguing the City of Portland. While I agree that the details need to be refined, the effort is a great start to address the various issues that come with homelessness.

Those who are experiencing homelessness here in the city do not fit into a "one solution fits all" category. It is well known that some choose to live on the streets as opposed to going to a shelter or to seek housing. There are others who are suffering from mental health issues and we need to find a way to connect these people to their respective services that can help assist them. Others are there because of the drugs and the availability of them. We need to be able to provide those who wish to "kick the habit" with vital services.

While some see the Mayor's proposal as the "criminalization of the homeless", I beg to differ! We need to start dealing with many of these homeless people with tough love; a number of them need to be held accountable for their actions. That is what has been missing from many of the past solutions proposed - accountability! Frankly, I am tired of paying monies to the County to address homelessness solutions only to see absolutely nothing of great substance. And I question why I should be held responsible for people who have no concern about their own lives on the street. Again, not all homeless people are mentally ill or lack the access to affordable housing. Should they choose to live on the streets and continue their lifestyle, we need them to move on or face the consequences.

Of course, this plan will require great communications between the City, the County and the State. All must get behind this plan and figure out how to make it work and to make it successful.

My only immediate suggestion would be that should a person opt to seek "assistance", the citation should be waived ONLY upon completion of the program to which they agree. Otherwise, they may end up back to where they started.

Again, my support for these proposals to get homelessness under control.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Joe Hovey  
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