

**From:** [Joseph Ichter](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Portland's Plan to Address Homelessness Wed Oct 26th 2022  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 26, 2022 8:04:21 AM

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Dear Mayor Wheeler and Portland City Council,

The City of Portland has failed its citizens, both the housed and unhoused, through its long-standing allowance of open camping throughout the Portland Metro. It has resulted in the deaths of countless homeless individuals at the hands of criminals and issues of rampant drug addiction, while literally destroying many of our natural areas and iconic neighborhoods. Granted seeing many interviews through homeless services, CBOs and news outlets, it seems a large portion of the homeless want to be simply left alone on the streets, an intolerable situation in civil society.

Homeless advocates seem to be completely oblivious to the public health crisis these policies have created under the guise of "not causing homeless persons further trauma through only permitting them to live in managed/designated sites". Suffice to say, they seem to be willing to ignore the carnage in the homeless population and the unimaginable trauma it causes while defending leaving them in place. This argument is completely invalid when dealing with the levels of crime and drug use in the homeless populations. Very few criminals or addicts will simply make an independent decision to leave a self-directed life on the streets for a structured and more civil environment. It is our part, as the stewards of hundreds of millions in public funding, to assure that the option of staying on the street is NOT AVAILABLE to these individuals. We need to be in crisis mode, not this incredibly damaging city/county/metro infighting that has led us nowhere.

Portland's future is at stake, the livelihoods of millions of citizens, the sheer beauty and appeal of this jewel of the PNW is at serious risk. Left to continue on its current course, I fear that Portland's future is bleak, with skyrocketing crime and incredible levels of funds cleaning up symptoms rather than dealing with one of its root causes, permissible street camping.

WE SUPPORT AN IMMEDIATE BAN ON PUBLIC CAMPING AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LARGE, SAFE AND SECURE, DESIGNATED CAMPING AREAS WITH SERVICES TO ACCOMMODATE HOMELESS. IN ADDITION, THE DESIGNATION OF RV AND CAR CAMPING LOTS THAT HAVE THOSE SAME CRITERIA.

Please listen to the millions of us who voted for you too heavily tax us to solve these issues in 2018. If not, you will lose many, if not all of us.

Sincerely,

Joe Ichter