

From: [George Schweitzer](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Cc: [Mark Goeman](#); ahoan@portlandalliance.com; [Jason Brandt](#)
Subject: Testimony on Agenda Items 899-903 for 10/26 City Council Meeting
Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 9:53:41 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

To Portland City Council:

Honorable Council Members,

As Chairman of the Portland Lodging Alliance, and as a representative of one of Portland's oldest and most historic lodging institutions, The Benson Hotel, I implore you to please support the mayor's initiative outlined in Agenda Items 899-903. Downtown hotels serve as ambassadors to the city. They have been suffering terribly, subsequent to the pandemic and protests. Portland's reputation has been tarnished and remains so, predominantly due to the homeless situation and camping being allowed in the city. Occupancies are down 30-40 percent from pre-pandemic levels, while most other major US cities have nearly fully recovered. We hear constantly from out-of-town guests, "What has happened to your city?"; "It is not safe!"; "The homeless are everywhere!", but the situation persists. Other downtown businesses remain boarded up, are vacant or do not have their full employee base returning to work, due to existing conditions. This is not the legacy you want. By supporting the mayor's initiative, you have an opportunity to change the picture, provide support services and compassion for the homeless and those in need, and help rejuvenate Portland. Please do so!

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support of this initiative!

Kindly,

George Schweitzer

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