

From: [Daniel Davis](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: why I support Mayor Wheeler's plan on homelessness
Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 10:16:11 AM

To whom it will concern,

I am a homeowner in the outer Buckman neighborhood, and I strongly support our Mayor's plan to build shelters and enforce our city's existing laws against street camping. Since 2019, the beautiful parks in our neighborhood (Laurelhurst and Lone Fir Cemetery) have gone from being shared green spaces that we expected to use as a backyard for our children to dangerous liabilities. My wife was attacked in 2021, while 7 months pregnant, by a camper in Laurelhurst experiencing a mental health crisis. As I write this today, there is an individual camped at the entrance of Lone Fir cemetery who is a known criminal (from prior conviction) out on bail awaiting trial for recent offenses in our community.

We are powerless to remove dangerous individuals from our streets because, apparently, there is nowhere else for them to go. This has been the status for years now. And the same voices saying that sweeps are wrong are cynically fighting the city's attempts to finally give these people a place to go. No one thinks that large camps are ideal, but they are feasible and much better than the current status quo. Years of trying have clearly proven that permanent housing is a worthy goal but not one that can happen quickly enough to solve the immediate problem on the streets. I'm glad to see the Safe Rest Villages opening, but they only house 50 people per village. Our streets are home to >3000 homeless. The mayor's plan is the first serious attempt to address the real scope of this problem.

Daniel Davis