

From: [Julia Nielsen](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony for Mayor Wheeler & Housing Commissioner Dan Ryan's Homeless Proposal
Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 10:36:26 AM

Hello City Council,

My name is the Rev. Julia Nielsen and I am the Executive Organizer of Leaven Community Land and Housing Coalition, a collective of more than 50 faith communities that are deeply invested in stewarding our land for the purpose of providing affordable housing in Portland and across Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington Counties.

I implore you to speak with and listen to people who have lived experience of surviving outdoors or who are on the edge of homelessness before voting on this proposal.

Mayor Wheeler and Commissioner Ryan, your offices have been contacted by many of our partners with direct relationships to houseless neighbors, including Street Roots, JOIN, Blanchet House, AfroVillage PDX, Sisters of the Road, Urban League PDX and others for a town hall about the impacts of this proposal.

Faith communities across this city are deeply in line with these organizations' request, as well, as we have years of experience providing direct service and relationship support to people living outdoors. We know our houseless neighbors by name and personal story. We are deeply opposed to any actions that further criminalize homelessness, actions which do not address the root causes of poverty and inequity.

With growing unaffordability in our city, and the last of the pandemic-era renters' protections expiring this month, this is a time to listen to our communities in crisis, and create bold policies informed by and with them.

Mayor Wheeler, Commissioner Ryan, this is an open invitation to listen to those your proposal would impact most to help us create stronger, more informed ground up solutions to one of our city's greatest challenges.

Thank you,

Rev. Julia Nielsen *she | ella*

Deacon of Sacred Organizing, [Leaven Community Land & Housing Coalition](#)

Clackamas | Washington | East and West Multnomah County

[Schedule a meeting with me](#) | mobile/text 216.333.5751