

From: [Leslie Poston](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: my commentary on today's city council meeting re homelessness in Portland
Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 10:55:56 AM

RE: 899 Stop building new "affordable" housing, as material inflation will naturally decrease the level of affordability. Buy the existing empty hotels, malls, and apartment buildings and repurpose them as affordable housing instead.

RE: 900 The ratio of whiteness at this non-profit is concerning (judging by their "people" page). Suggest involving more local groups in this initiative to broaden the diversity and include all perspectives.

RE: 901 Expanding the shelter slots won't work unless you also change shelter rules to be more inclusive of pets, families, and couples, safer for women, and move to a harm reduction recovery model instead of a "no drugs, no alcohol" model. Shelters are dangerous and exclusionary.

RE: 902 Which "county metro and state" partners? Why is this so vague? It sounds like a way to send more money to police instead of to the street teams that can truly help

RE: 903 This makes me nervous. This language sounds like two things are happening: criminalizing homelessness, which is incredibly harmful, and moving the homeless who "comply" with a vague notion of "services" not detailed here to "designated camps." Any time I hear of designated camps it raises my antennae - a certain German politician had "designated camps" also. This needs much greater fleshing out.

Leslie Poston

work: CMO at Austin Data Labs

work: leslie.poston@austin-labs.com

edu: Fielding Graduate University

edu: lposton@email.fielding.edu