

**From:** [Jill](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Written testimony of Wednesday meeting Re ADA sidewalk  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 26, 2022 11:02:56 AM

---

## **To the honorable city council members, guests, and other members of the public concerned about the state of the city of Portland**

The streets and parks of the city of Portland are not appropriate homes for people. They are public gathering spaces, and walkways to provide safe passage in a world full of commercial vehicles, passenger cars and other new electronic assistance devices.

As a quadriplegic for 29 years, I have been driving hand controlled vans that have been modified with a ramp to allow me to drive from the wheelchair. My ramp deploys onto the sidewalk on the passenger side. Until recently, this was not a problem, but in the last few years, I have been unable to find parking anywhere near the businesses and medical clinics that I visit in Portland and surrounding suburban areas.

The problem became so intense that I moved out of the Pearl District into Southwest Portland, and this summer I couldn't physically or emotionally cope with the homeless problem on the streets anymore, so I moved to Eugene, Oregon.

Obviously when there are people living on the sidewalks, eating and sleeping and taking drugs and suffering from mental and physical illnesses, it is unsafe for the general public and especially for people with special needs and people with disabilities. Furthermore, I cannot use the sidewalk if there are tents and people lying on it. I'm unwilling to just "run over" people and their belongings to access the sidewalks and curb cuts. I'm tired of feeling intimidated by the homeless who ignore me and my problems using the sidewalks except to ask for money or worse.

Because of the tents and tarps and people unconscious lying on the streets I am required to take my wheelchair in the surface streets with trucks cars, and when I am in my wheelchair, I am 4'7" tall and not visible by many commercial vehicles or large SUVs.

15 years ago, I believe I would've been issued a ticket for dropping a gum wrapper on the sidewalk, and now people are consuming drugs, having sexual intercourse, and making their homes on the sidewalks of our beautiful city. The parks have become desolate instead of abundant rich community centers with business people and government employees enjoying the lunch hour that I remember from just a few years ago. I'm disappointed with the city and county governments that are allowing me to be pushed aside at great public expense.

My primary care doctor works for the 2BWell clinic which purchased the building across from the Mission on SW Burnside and Second. Unfortunately, for the owner, Dr Shirazi, he was unable to maintain his clinic there after over four years of valiantly trying. He had to lock the doors and only allow patients in one at a time. Outside his windows were mentally ill individuals, ranting, and shouting, many clearly on drugs. it became impossible for him to practice medicine, and now he cannot rent the building either. This is an undue burden on him, his physicians in the practice, and us patients who rely on his care. He even tried to help by providing free or indigent acupuncture pricing, but nothing worked. It became frightening to park and travel blocks away through homeless encampments to seek medical treatment. I eventually quit going to the clinic. Then he closed it. Then I quit going anywhere downtown.

The last time I went to the waterfront park I had a man in his 20s ask me to pay him to look at his penis, after he tried to beg money from my disability income for methamphetamines. I do not want to take my teenage son there or my nieces or nephews. I don't want to take my parents there.

Portland used to be a gem of the Pacific Northwest, but this is now out of control. it is violating the Americans With Disabilities Act for the county, and/or city to be providing supplies so that people might inhabit the streets of our city legally, I ask that the council address this issue and make it safe again for people with disabilities to travel on the sidewalks and not the streets with automobile traffic.

Sincerely, Jill Franklin, BS, MA, hMD

--

~ Jill Elizabeth's smartphone