

From: [Shop Staff](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Homelessness Plan
Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 11:11:46 AM

The Mayor's Office,

I am writing on behalf of our Old Town based business. Cycle Portland has been in operation since 2008, offering bicycle tours and rentals to residents and visitors of our beautiful city.

I am writing to show our support for the camping ban. Our part of the city has carried a disproportionate share of the overwhelming burden of supporting the myriad of issues that come along with this humanitarian crisis. As a result, we have seen visitors to Old Town decline considerably. Many neighboring businesses have shuttered their windows and closed permanently. As a bike shop, we are regularly tasked with the maintenance of the bikes of those living on our streets. Often these services are completed at little to no charge, but simply to get them back on the road and ultimately, away from our business. Given the trajectory of this crisis, this is not a sustainable business model for us.

We have established relationships with many folks who live on the street. We would love to see them in a place where they can be reliably provided the services that they need. We hear from public and ngo workers in our neighborhood how difficult it is for them to do their jobs when the people they are trying to help are constantly rooted up and relocated on a days notice. Hopefully a stable location will aid in this.

We hear from our customers about how unsafe they feel in Portland, and Old Town particularly, due to the presence of urban camping. Our employees are regularly assaulted, both verbally, and all too often physically, by members of our community suffering a mental health crisis while living on the street. We hear from those on the street how they are regularly preyed upon by human traffickers, for prostitution, and by drug dealers. We hear how their belongings are regularly discarded by the city and stolen by others.

Portland is an amazing city, we can fix this. This humanitarian crisis needs a solution, we have hope that the camping ban and subsequent housing can be a step in the right direction.

Yours,
James Kelly

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Cycle Portland Bike Tours, Rentals, and Repair

Phone: 503.784.3030

117 NW 2nd Ave

Portland, Oregon

www.cyclepdx.com

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