

From: jeffacato@gmail.com
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Public Hearing Illegal Camping
Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 11:13:22 AM

Greetings:

1. **I applaud the Mayor's proposal to ban unsanctioned camping** throughout the City and especially encampments which obstruct sidewalks.
2. **I encourage the Mayor to ensure that the City makes appropriate indoor shelter and sanctioned safe camping sites available** to the homeless population as an initial alternative to City and County's current inhumane policies.
3. **I expect the Mayor to acknowledge how his plan will prioritize the immediate relief to persons with disabilities** who need to use the sidewalks to get from one place to another. Currently, he anticipates an 18 month plan based on Friday's press conference. This is not an acceptable timeline.
4. **I encourage the City Council to refrain from making its November 1 payment to the** (JOHS) unless and until it receives written assurances that the County will be supportive of the City's efforts to ban unsanctioned camping on the sidewalks.

The City has the ample money to get this plan started. Let's stop wasting \$45 million a year on the County-run JOHS and use these City tax dollars to start implementing a plan that directly deals with the crisis on streets now. Portland also deserves to see a faster response to the crisis on streets with the \$250-million-a-year homeless services metro tax.

Need an emergent response with a plan of action. This proposed 18 month plan currently lacks the timelines, deadlines and benchmarks that reflect the urgency and severity of this humanitarian and public safety crisis. Delaying enforcement of existing no-camping laws, will only further delay the policy changes required to create safe camping areas with access to services, more emergency shelters, more housing, and cleaner, clear sidewalks.

Regards,
Jeff Cato