

From: [Suzanne Kahn](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Homeless Resolutions (#899-903): SUPPORT
Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 11:58:06 AM

Mayor and Commissioners:

I support Resolutions #899-903 to address the homeless crisis in Portland. Please take urgent, concrete action before the City becomes locked into its downward spiral.

I've been a Portland resident since 1977 and worked in local public health for over 20 years so I have some context for the following comments.

*There are people who are unable to care for themselves. A humane society provides a safety net when families cannot.

*There are people who have simply been unlucky. A humane society provides help for them to get back on their feet.

*And there are people who are unwilling to live within society's boundaries. They should not be exempt from laws or receive more resources than everyone else. They should experience the consequences of their decisions, not a free-pass or handouts.

I moved to downtown last year. In that time more small businesses around me have closed, aggressive campers have taken over sidewalks and doorways, and homicides have risen. When your own City employees won't come to Old Town alone (don't blame them) and our police are demoralized by your rhetoric, the time for hope and prayers has long passed.

Leadership isn't easy and can mean making "unpopular" decisions for the greater good. Just do it - now!

Regards,
Suzanne Kahn