

From: [Marina Zare](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: City council testimony
Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 12:54:12 PM

1. **We applaud the Mayor’s proposal to ban unsanctioned camping** throughout the City and especially encampments which obstruct sidewalks.
2. **We 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. **We 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.
4. **We encourage the City Council to refrain from making its November 1payment to the Joint Office of Homeless Services(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.
5. **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.
6. **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
7. **Need to stop making the state so appealing to have bus loads of people be sent or travel here because, as one homeless girl in LA stated her reason for wanting travel money to get herself to Oregon said; “there are more opportunities for the homeless in Portland”.** There needs to be some accountability on the side of people using the facilities also. In the past eight years taxes have gone up by 40%, livability, safety and overall appeal of the state and Portland has diminished by a great deal. A terrible side effect of spending money on repeating things that don’t work and only add to the sheer number of the homeless is that as residence, neighbors, we become numb and may come across as cold and uncompassionate. The first time I saw someone sleeping on the side walk, I wept and spent the rest of the day trying to find them resources. Now days, not a day goes by that i don’t see multiple camps and piles of garbage walking or driving around. Getting accosted, asked

for specific body part, stepping over someone passed out, has become a daily thing in the city formerly known as city of roses. I avoid going places, specially downtown, the Pearl district and slab town and never do I leave my front door with out a pepper spray in my hand. And I live in a neighborhood that used to be an envy of all.

8. **I support banning unsanctioned camping.** No one should be camping on our streets regardless of season, day, time, and location.
9. **I support campuses outside of high density neighborhoods with required treatments and services.**
10. **I support well-run and operated campuses as high barrier shelters such as Bybee Lakes.**
11. **I support campuses with 24/7 required and enforceable rules and regs, treatments, and safety and security protocols**

“Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe.”

— [Albert Einstein](#)