

From: [Denise M. Alter](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Unsanctioned camping ban
Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 1:27:55 PM

To whom it may concern:

We wish to strongly voice our support for the Mayor's proposed unsanctioned camping ban. Portland has been overrun with unsanctioned camping on streets throughout the city. This situation has been exacerbated by the unpenalized use of drugs in our community including meth, fentanyl, crack, cocaine, heroin and other opioids. This collision of homelessness and rampant drug use in Portland has resulted in unprecedented increased crime in our neighborhood including gun violence, assaults, homicide, theft, prostitution, vandalism, street racing, and arson. It has trashed our neighborhood, making our previously safe neighborhood unsafe. The police fail to protect citizens from this violence. It has created a health and safety crisis for both those without homes and for those living in homes. It must stop!

Removing unsanctioned camping will return our neighborhoods to their former vitality, protect our elderly and children, and enable all of us to have the freedom from personal harm and property damage to which we are all entitled. Providing sanctioned spaces for camping with dedicated services such as toilets, water, garbage clean up, etc. for those experiencing homelessness will help protect them from harm now threatening them in unsanctioned tent and RV camping, assist them in maintaining an orderly and predictable place to call home while they lack housing, and enable city administration to better assess and provide services needed by each individual living within the sanctioned areas.

There is no perfect solution for homelessness. But the voices of all – those residents with homes in our neighborhoods as well as those without homes—must be heard and supported. For too long, failure to address these problems has resulted in chaos. The Mayor's new plan is a positive one.

Thanks for listening.