

From: [Sonia Bellini](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony for Agenda Items 899-903”
Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 1:35:00 PM

Dear Council Members,

My name is Sonia Bellini. I am a resident of Laurelhurst and own a small business on NW 23rd Ave in the Nobhill District. I urge you strongly to end illegal camping now. Our streets and quality of life have been extremely compromised. Lives have been lost. Our safety is the worst that I have seen in Portland where I have lived for 32 years. In addition to this our houseless population are living in inhumane conditions and their mental and physical health issues is the worst I have ever seen in my 59 years.

They need help now not in 18 months. The issues we are dealing with substance abuse are insurmountable. We need to start spending our money on helping these people with addiction issues and mental health. How can they even hold down a job or house if they are on drugs or having psychotic episodes. If some of these people don't want help then they have to know that illegal camping is not an option. We voted to help them not to enable them. The people of Portland have a heart and I can not bear to continue to turn my head to pretend I don't see them and allow my heart to turn to stone.

Spend the money now they are killing themselves and along the way how many of the rest of us are they going to take down with them. Short term housing or organized camping in safe villages where there is access to services such as showers and washing machines possible framed structures that can shield them from the rain with case workers to help figure what are the next best steps for those who want help.

I am happy that we are discussing these issues and hope to see some resolution soon. You have been entrusted to be the wards of all of us.

Sonia Bellini