

From: muireall@protonmail.com
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: testimony on 899-903
Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 2:16:22 PM

To whom it may concern,

I imagine most of y'all on the council were in school long before I was, but-- personally-- I learned in elementary school that the government forcing an entire section of the population into mandated camps is a bad thing. As I got older, I learned that the kinds of people who get forced into camps tend to be disproportionately represented by disabled folks, neurodivergent folks, lgbtq folks, and folks of color or ethnic minorities.

Now, here we are in 2022 on the brutally occupied lands of several bands of Chinook-speaking people (including many Multnomah, Clackamas, and Watlata/Cascade villages), Tualatin Kalapuya people, and Molalla people. We are in the midst of a humanitarian housing crisis (not to mention a crisis of compassion and structural violence) brought on by the settler logic that led to the occupation of these lands. We have the opportunity, as a city, to be leaders in putting forth compassionate, pragmatic, respectful, decolonial, and effective solutions to get people who want to be off the streets off the streets. Funding permanent housing solutions. Funding and giving resources and support to the camps and tiny house villages already being autonomously organized within the city. Giving resources and support to the autonomously organized grassroots orgs doing the bulk of the on-the-ground humanitarian aid-- certainly more than the city is doing, and often on a shoestring budget, no less.

Instead of taking these evidence-based and compassionate steps, some of y'all are trying to force a section of the population (and what do you know, it's a section of the population disproportionately represented by disabled folks, neurodivergent folks, trans folks, folks of color) onto government mandated "campuses"..... i guess y'all missed the memo that the government forcing marginalized groups of people into mandated camps is, historically speaking and still today, not a good thing. You are proposing forcing these people into camps, presumably not because you care about them: again, if you did-- well, we wouldn't be in this crisis in the first place, and beyond that you would be giving resources and funding to the groups I already mentioned above. No, y'all who are proposing this are doing it because you and the people who fund your campaigns don't want to have to keep looking at poverty. You want to sweep it out of sight.

If these "campuses" were going to be a good thing for people, rather than more of the traumatizing surveillance and degrading treatment the unhoused community already experiences in city shelters, y'all wouldn't have to legally force folks to go there. You would create the spaces and let the people come of their own accord and benefit from the resources y'all are offering.

But that's not what you're proposing here.

This proposal isn't for the benefit of the unhoused or even the every day Portlander. This proposal isn't an efficient solution, and it certainly isn't moving us toward any kind of solution I would want to see from the city I live in.

Do better, y'all.

-Sincerely,

Muireall Brown