

**From:** [Mandi Ruscher](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to the proposal to "end camping"  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 26, 2022 2:48:56 PM

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Dear friends,

I am a nurse practitioner for a mobile clinic that tends to the healthcare needs of people experiencing homelessness. For five years, I have served marginalized populations in our metro area. I simply cannot stand behind Wheeler's proposal, because I live and work in this community.

My perception is that you are trying to present an illusion that homelessness doesn't exist. In my time in this position, I have lost patients to freezing temperatures, overdose, and lack of access to clean water. Yes, I said water. In our Portland.

Where do you intend to house our homeless neighbors? I do not see you backing the organizations that already exist and can offer infrastructure and creative solutions – rather, this city has chosen sweeps, which displace people even more. It deprives people of their most prized possessions, life saving medicine, and security.

Please show me that you are trying to find solutions to homelessness, and not cater to the NIMBY crowd, or the tourists... I understand that it is painful and scary to see people sleeping outside. But the solution doesn't exist in hiding the problem.

Thank you for considering my thoughts.

Mandi Ruscher-Haqq  
Family Nurse Practitioner  
Outside In Mobile Medical Team