

From: [Chris Davies](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Re: testimony for public hearing item 899-903
Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 3:33:46 PM

I strongly support the proposal for homeless campuses. My only major concern is the timeline: I know the logistics and funding are complex but this should be treated as the disaster that is. ...or as you say, a catastrophe.

To be honest, living in this city as it now is has made me chronically angry, furious, at our city govt....and this feeling is shared by so many of my peers. I am an essentially compassionate person, but to be honest my compassion has run dry. I am afraid. Afraid of theft, violence, and the loss of a liveable city.

Our perspectives are should be shaped by our lived experience as much as by our ideals and ideologies. I have been the victim of property crime by the homeless. I currently have the smell of feces from a homeless camper wafting into my backyard. It no longer even occurs to me to call the police, as I am sure none would be sent.

Let me share a couple experiences that have shaped my perspective:
There was a large encampment of massive tents set up there under the fremont bridge. I frequently bike commuted past. One day I biked past just after the fire crews had doused a massive fire that had burned all the tents and charred the pylons holding up the bridge. What remained were the burnt remains of three motorcycles, 9 bicycles, and two lawnmowers, revealing that this had been a stolen goods chop shop. Within two weeks new tents were back.

Another experiecnce. Last year a homeless woman wacked off my internet backup battery off the side of my house with a piece of 2x4 while I sat in my living room. When I called 911 the operator just took my phone number. I was called back 3 hours later and the officer apologized that all police had been dealing with a double homicide all evening, and he suggested I use pepper spray next time if I wasn't comfortable owning a gun. I'm not comfortable using either a gun or pepper spray.

My own encounter with the homeless has been an encounter with a population that is either too insane, too addicted, or too socially maladapted to live in unstructured housing without destroying it, and unable to live unstructured lives without harming themselves and others. Affordable housing does not seem to be the main problem, based on the evidence of my own eyes. There are no doubt homeless individuals who are not criminals, or addicts, or insane, who simply had bad luck and really just need an apt and a shower and a meal and a job. The statistics and my own experience tell me that we need a policiy that fimly address the former as well as the latter.

I would ask you to consider the need for structure, consequences, expectations while you also consider the need for compassion and resources.

And lastly, to repeat, this is an emergency. This isn't an annoyance that we can wait 6

or 12 months to start to address. We need the campuses built TODAY, and funded today.

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*Thank you kindly,
Christopher Davies*