

From: [Q.Z. Tha Leader](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Please ban unsanctioned camping
Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 6:45:42 PM

Hi,

I vote to absolutely ban unsanctioned camping and to crack down on the drug policies.

I moved here in 2013 thirteen. Portland was a beautiful and pretty safe place to be. I was proud to call this city my new home. After going through Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and being homeless twice due to multiple storms, I was happy to call the rose city home.

Since 2013 I've seen the quality of life in the city slowly go downhill. I feel embarrassed to have family come visit because of all of the camps and homeless people. Soft drug laws have created an underground network to funnel homeless people to Portland to take advantage of our soft drug and camping laws. 85% of the people living on the streets in Portland are not from Oregon. They hear how easy it is here and they hop the next bus to come live on our streets and practically do whatever they want to do.

I've seen the compassion for the people living on the streets. But what I am not seeing is the mercy and compassion for those who keep the economy running and hardworking Oregonians who have to go to work and provide for the families and make a living all the while dealing with people yelling, screaming, starting fires, doing drugs, and preventing our kids from playing on their own neighborhood. We want to know that this city cares about what we want and what we need. As someone who has worked hard to get where I am at, I do not feel the same compassion and care for me, as those living on the streets.

I've had a rough life and overcame some insurmountable odds. I just want to know that the place I call home will listen to the hard working taxpayers that keep this city running. We do not feel seen by our local government.

I vote to absolutely ban unsanctioned camping and to crack down on the drug policies. We have become a city that enables instead of a city that works. Oregon is a beautiful place, unfortunately these current policies have placed a blemish on the state.

D'andrea Williams