

From: [George Crawford](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony on Campsites Proposal/Plan - Please Stop Allowing Public Camping!!
Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 9:21:38 PM

My name is George born and raised in NE Portland. Please don't let a very vocal 1% of the city deter you from making the right decisions to support the desires of most all Portland residents to stop public camping in Portland.

I believe we already have (close to) appropriate level of services of low-income/affordable housing for the at-risk population to accommodate our **long-term residents who lived/grew up in the CITY OF PORTLAND**. What we don't have is capacity or ability to provide the level of services for the overwhelming increasing volume of people who arrive in Portland already experiencing core issues of drug addiction and mental health challenges.

These new visitors to Portland come from near and far - Salem, Hillsboro, Vancouver, Southern Oregon, out of state etc. Why do some expect this this city and residents should be the primary accountable party to solve issues we did not create?

It's nice that many people are caring and want to help people, but human nature is path of least resistance. If we don't change policies in Portland, we will never be able to support the population in need. The more housing and services we provide while keeping existing policies will only result in more and more people arriving here in need looking for easier living compared to where they lived prior.

Current life in the city is essentially a public version of an untreated mental health/addiction treatment center. The residents working so hard to earn a living or raise a family in Portland should not have to bear the burden arriving from outside the city. Current camping allowed in the city has been stated to accommodate the Court Ruling from Boise. I would think we have options to provide alternatives to satisfy the "court ruling" which could exist outside the City of Portland proper. This seems fare seeing the size of the problem is mainly sourced from outside the City of Portland.

rulings by the 9th Circuit that homeless persons cannot be punished for sleeping outside on public property in the absence of adequate alternatives.

If the future governor "to be" claims they will create a state of emergency I would assume that would open options in Oregon outside Multnomah County as places to provide adequate alternatives to satisfy the court ruling? There are a lot of land options when you're outside the city core.

Below is impact I see daily in NE Portland of allowing public camping

1. Rampant Stealing of Cars – mostly being trashed by addicts living in them and using to steal more stuff.
2. Direct correlation to large camps and theft from nearby stores, house break-ins, property theft such as bikes, propane tanks, etc...
3. Location of camps locations becoming bolder and bolder (more and more impacting livability). People in camps becoming more threatening/aggressive.
4. My house has 3-4 people walk by daily in an active mental health crisis. It was maybe a couple times a year before. (my kids can't ride their bike around our block without adult now)

5. Rapant drug use in public. Shooting needles at freeway off ramps next to their tents while pan handling, smoking meth as kids walk by to school (see this stuff every day).

6. People with pants down going to bathroom out in open (again while kids watch going to school).

Thanks for your time and again please make decisions on the majority of public opinion.

George