

Testimony

For the Mayor's Plan to end homelessness

October 26, 2022

- Mayor Wheeler. This city has been lacking, leadership and a coordinated plan to reduce tent camping. People living on the sidewalk is not something we should accept in 21st century America. We now have a plan and someone who will lead us. This will help our city to recover. Without a plan our city will to continue to struggle.
- I support your plan to provide 20,000 units of affordable housing. Implementing this effort will require massive coordination between the city government, neighborhoods, and the county. These 20,000 affordable units will require 100 building towers of 200 units. It is important we get the siting for these housing units right.
- To pay for this massive undertaking we need to encourage Multnomah County and Metro to release the hundreds of millions of dollars they have allocated for affordable housing.
- This morning I took my dog for a walk. During the walk I came across a poor soul soaking wet, passed out on the sidewalk. There was also a discarded mattress, and a string of trash for a city block. Turning the corner, I came across another dump of trash. This is an everyday occurrence in my neighborhood. The only way we can address the trashing of our neighborhoods is to find safe, clean, and comfortable housing for our houseless neighbors.
- Portland's social experiment of allowing unsanctioned tent camping has failed. It neither provides safe and sanitary housing for the homeless or is it acceptable to our neighborhoods. Just because you've gone down a wrong road for miles doesn't mean you keep going. We need to stop this failed social experiment and get on the right road again. Mayor, your plan for the homeless puts us in the right direction.

Thank you for your time

Glenn Traeger