

**From:** [justin.acta@proton.me](mailto:justin.acta@proton.me)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony  
**Date:** Thursday, October 27, 2022 1:59:35 PM

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City Council Clerk Please File the Below Testimony Against Each Agenda Item

RE: Testimony on Wednesday, October 26, 2022, 2:00 PM Agenda Items 899, 900, 901, 902, and 903 (Homelessness Response Agenda Items)

Dear City Council,

First and foremost I want to thank Mayor Ted Wheeler for starting to take serious action on the homelessness and related public safety / public health crisis we are seeing play out on the streets of Portland. This proposed action, unfortunately, comes years too late and should have been taken earlier on in your administration. Citizens have had enough of the homelessness crisis and related public safety and public health issues caused by homelessness. The reality is not everyone living outside is down on their luck in fact according to statements by city employees reported in the media each time a sweep occurs social workers offer housing and a majority of those offered shelter and services refuse those services. This is called service resistance and it is a real thing and it's typically driven by substance abuse and mental health issues. We have homeless people on a routine basis engaging in acts of violence including rape and murder as has been reported by the media. We have homeless people defecating in broad daylight when they have access to public restrooms at hundreds of locations throughout the city. We have homeless people breaking into homes and cars and stealing from businesses.

Enough is enough if you haven't seen the polls let me just say the public is tired of inaction and we want people to be offered shelter and services and if they refuse they simply cannot continue to camp outdoors. They simply cannot continue to commit crimes without any prosecution or accountability. We need to force people to get help and if they refuse and continue to camp outdoors they should be cited and arrested and forced into services.

Let me firmly encourage each of us to watch the upcoming election. Jo Ann Hardesty will be defeated because her statements and positions on homelessness and public safety have been rejected by a majority of voters. Let me say to Mapps, Ryan, and Rubio that if you do not act urgently to restore public safety and eliminate unsanctioned camping then the voters will replace you too!

Act immediately this city cannot wait years more for urgent action. Businesses are fleeing downtown. Homeowners are selling and moving out of state along with renters. Our city is no longer a safe place for residents and businesses to thrive and a great deal of this is due to the hands-off approach to camping and homelessness-related crimes.

Sincerely,

Justin Acta