

From: [Judy Manchio](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT OF HOMELESSNESS PROPOSAL
Date: Friday, October 28, 2022 6:50:24 AM

I listened in to several hours of the recent city council meeting. I was so impressed with the cooperative tone. Portland feels like a small town, albeit with big city problems. I have thought sincerely about all of the testimony I heard (thank you to all who waited and spoke and listened!) and I am writing in support of Mayor Wheeler's plan to address homelessness, in its entirety. I have lived in Portland for more than 12 years and in that time I have seen a horrific decline in the beauty and safety of this city. I think that Portland is home to wonderful and innovative people, and yet we are still in a figurative and literal mess. It is not compassionate to allow some of our most vulnerable residents to choose isolation, exposure to the elements, and unsafe and unsanitary conditions. It is inhumane and dangerous to allow people to defecate on sidewalks and use open flames in green spaces. Many of these unhoused folks are not well enough to consent to the unique challenges associated with camping, therefore it is appropriate for "compassion" to have some boundaries. I've also found myself asking: why should a houseless person's fear of shelter trump a disabled person's use of a sidewalk? Or a neighbor's peace and safety? Or a small business' success? Autonomy is important but it should not be the authority. The trash and suffering afflicting every Portland neighborhood are not normal nor ok. The unsanctioned camping ban is necessary to push houseless people closer to services, concentrate outreach efforts, retain residents who value a clean and thriving city, and reset the status quo. It is crucial that some of sanctioned areas be no/low barrier while others be reserved for certain subsets of marginalized communities, people requiring physical accommodations, people prioritizing clean and sober living, families, etc. But these details can be worked out in time, and reevaluated as needed. There is an urgency to act NOW. We desperately need thousands of affordable units, more social services, and a little "tough love". Please vote in favor of this proposal for houseless and housed residents alike, and for Portlandia! We have to turn things around! Please save our city!

Thank you,
Judy