

From: [Kevin Card](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Helping the homeless
Date: Friday, October 28, 2022 9:32:58 AM

Dear City Council:

I support your efforts to restrict public camping by offering safe, secure temporary camping areas for our houseless population.

The public camping that has invaded every Portland neighborhood has impeded us from enjoying the city as we once did. I am concerned for the safety of my family and neighbors. We have friends who will no longer come to visit us in Portland given the current conditions. I think it's not only possible but essential to provide clean, safe, uniform temporary housing that encourages a timely transition to housing and also discourages people from coming to our city to live on the streets.

The location and services for your proposed mega-camps should be equally distributed across the city. The city should utilize the now-empty postal facility across from union station as well as other city-owned and controlled properties. You cannot just dump everyone out in east Multnomah county.

The design of these camps is of utmost importance. As a former wildland firefighter, I have seen what can be done to provide food, housing and secure services in a camp-like environment.

Each camp should have a kitchen that provides food for the camping population, just like a fire camp. Secure showers and laundry facilities, staffed by volunteers and the homeless population should be available in each camp. I suggest you get Tim Boyle and Columbia Sportswear to provide a uniform kind of tents and other camping gear.

We have a lot of good homeless advocates in Portland. Despite their good efforts, the current system is not working. All of their work should be consolidated to provide consistent services in the new camps.

When I see messy camps with an abundance of trash, I see a homeless person with a mental health issue. Can you blame them for using drugs? OHSU and the Kaiser Foundation should be enlisted to provide medical and mental health services.

The city and state have put a lot of resources towards helping our homeless population. Unfortunately, the utilization of those resources is impossible to see, given the current conditions.

Safe, secure and sanitary camping facilities are an important first step.

Make it so,

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