

**From:** [Nova Platt](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Proposal 901  
**Date:** Sunday, October 30, 2022 5:44:07 PM

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I am writing to testify against proposal 901. This proposal is one that erases our unhoused neighbors instead of listening to them; it defines success as less urban camping instead of safe, accessible, and sustainable housing solutions for all portlanders. Our unhoused neighbors deserve better, they deserve to be seen as human beings and to be listened to.

Outlawing camping – something that is necessary for the survival of thousands of portlanders – does not solve the problem that caused the housing crisis. People need safe, accessible, and sustainable housing solutions, not mass shelters. I work with people who are unhoused every day, and I constantly hear stories of sexual assault, theft, and trauma that occurs in poorly managed shelters. Here are a few stories that cross my mind when I think of the harm of this proposal:

- A pregnant mother who came to my workplace and told me about how the father of her unborn child was not allowed in the shelter that she was staying at, and she was forced to watch him sleep on the streets while she was alone and vulnerable in the shelter.
- A man who spent full days waiting in lines, searching, and applying for shelters, only to be turned down because he had a service animal.
- A woman who was fleeing domestic violence who told me she would rather sleep outside with her pitbull for protection than go to a shelter, where she had been sexually assaulted in the past.

These are only a few of the stories that I hear day in and day out. Forcing people into mass shelters is internment, and doing so without first addressing the reasons that people live outside is incredibly dangerous. Please do not let this proposal pass.

Nova Platt