

From: [Jill Vaughn](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Please vote yes to Wheeler and Ryans Proposal to move homeless off the streets
Date: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 12:39:06 PM

I am a homeowner living in SE Portland for over 20 years, and also am a registered nurse working in an emergency room in downtown Portland. I am someone who is working intimately with the houseless population in our city, and living surrounded by it everyday.

I applaud Wheeler and Ryans proposal, a move forward with what nearly EVERY person in my neighborhood agrees with... lets get homeless off the streets and into services. I feel Portland is at a dangerous turning point where families of all means are leaving this amazing city because of the houseless crisis, garbage, and crime.

I think it is unethical what Counselor Hardesty did last week to derail the public meeting by organizing hours and hours of testimony of homeless individuals to put across their one agenda of being able to sleep outside anywhere in the city. This created a very uneven testimony that was put forth by people who were basically bribed to gather and wait all day to testify.

I think that this city needs to change the law so that it is NOT ACCEPTABLE for the houseless to build self- sited encampments. It is not criminalizing poverty, it is stating how a humane society deals with people who need services ... whether it is housing or mental health or addiction recovery.

I also think it is a dangerous proposition to pursue vacant or under-utilized property to claim by eminent domain in order to house the homeless. One block from my house is a under-utilized apartment complex with at least 5 units being squatted in by the homeless. From these apartments they are selling illegal drugs, running a stolen car ring that involves having a chop shop out front for stolen goods that get delivered. This is all happening 3 blocks from a elementary school. The building owners can not evict these individuals because they now have squatters rights to stay in said apartments. To think that this whole apartment building could be taken over by eminent domain and given to the houseless is terrifying to my entire neighborhood.

We know that what we are doing now is NOT WORKING and something must change!

Sincerely
Jill Vaughn
SE Portland homeowner