

From: [Rose Lewis](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony for 11/3, Agenda Items 927-931
Date: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 2:01:52 PM

Members of City Council,

Commissioner Ryan must apologize for manipulating the order of speakers at the 10/26 council meeting, promoting the views of invited speakers during the time set aside for public comment. This was dishonest and undemocratic behavior that is completely inappropriate for an elected official.

I bring this up because Commissioner Ryan's decision to prioritize speakers in support of his agenda is indicative of a wider pattern of disrespect on the part of our elected officials who prioritize the profits of moneyed interests over the safety and dignity of ordinary people. It is unbelievably dispiriting to repeatedly approach City Council in good faith with evidence-based, compassionate proposals to improve the safety and livability of our city only to find that our city commissioners are willing to ignore our best efforts in favor of costly, ineffective "solutions" that will only funnel more of our neighbors into destitution and criminality.

I am particularly disappointed and frankly disgusted that City Council gave time to a realtor complaining about his inability to sell a house to a couple from Malibu when lifelong residents of Portland cannot afford safe, dignified housing, and are instead being offered pavement space in a mass camp, with the threat of jail time and criminal citation if they choose not to live under such dehumanizing conditions. Encampment sweeps already kill people, including a woman in my neighborhood who died when city contractors threw out her epilepsy medication, and any proposal that includes a criminalized camping ban will only exacerbate this deeply troubling pattern.

Construction of affordable housing is a necessary goal. Criminalizing people who are already suffering from a lack of support from the city is not.

Thank you for your time.
Rosalind Lewis
Homeowner
97214