

From: [Gabriella Midles](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: I want a BAN on street camping - its made my neighborhood unsafe
Date: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 2:59:28 PM

Hello,

I'd love to share my experience with whom it may concern.

I was born in Portland in 1989 and have lived in the area for a long time. In 2020, I bought my first house near Lents Park. It was a fixer upper but my partner and I were very excited about it.

Our neighbors have lived here since the 1940s and we have a very safe block to live on. At first our neighborhood was very safe. No issues for the first few months.

Since the pandemic the houseless population in our area has exploded. I used to shop at the Walmart 2 blocks from my home but its not safe for me anymore. One evening after work I walked down to get groceries and was harassed and followed by a houseless man on drugs that was soliciting me for sex. Unfortunately, this has happened over a handful of times while I just tried to get groceries. The bottleneck at that walmart has made it a magnet for houseless at night and Its a terrifying experience to walk there after the sun sets.

Since mid-2020 our residence has had:

5 car break-ins

Stolen bikes

A garage intruder stealing tools

A drug deal gunshooting in front of my home

I had to chase off 2 men stealing power from my outside garden outlet

I found a houseless man in my backyard at 9 am last week

None of the calls to 9/11 I made had an officer respond to my house.

So now...

I now have to drive to a safer neighborhood to get groceries at night.

I now have to carry mace to go on a walk around the park.

I now have to take a self-defence class to feel safe.

This isn't the Portland I grew up with.

This isn't the Portland I would like to raise my children in.

This isnt even a place I want to live due to the crime caused by the homeless situation.

I DO NOT WANT to live in a place where the homeless situation is allowed to make my neighborhood unsafe.

--I want a BAN on camping in the city.

--I want a FINE on hanging out money to panhandlers.

--I also want a BAN on can collection and Bottledrop agencies that create high populations of houseless crime.

--I want police to respond when I'm unsafe and call 911

Please change this city or I have to move to a safer place.
Thank you four your consideration,
Gabby M.