

**From:** [Bob Shotland](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** unsanctioned camping  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 2, 2022 3:49:07 PM

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Dear City Council,

I strongly support banning unsanctioned camping on the streets of Portland.

In the early days of the pandemic, when there were so many unknowns about the contagiousness and the mode of spread of the disease, the mayor proclaimed that homeless campers should stay put, rather than being roused and having to move all the time. This may have been a well-intentioned proposal, but we are still living with the long-term effects of that policy. With the absence of regular police sweeps evicting these campers, the homeless seemed to develop an attitude that they had an implicit right to camp anywhere they chose. Even after some of these evictions resumed, we found that the same campers would be back a few days later, and it could be weeks or even months before they were forced to leave again. And many of these individuals were not “well-behaved” campers. The presence of meth addicts and rampant drug trafficking, numerous obviously mentally ill people, human excrement and trash everywhere, and other illegal activities such as bike “chop-shops”, created an environment where our family and neighbors feel unsafe going out on the streets – not just at night, but even during the day. The increasing number of people who’ve been assaulted by aggressive, crazy people, makes these concerns seem justified.

I support solutions like the Bybee Lakes shelter, which is located away from densely populated residential neighborhoods, and is well run, with required treatments and services. I realize that it’s not every day that a never-occupied building like that becomes available, but it’s also the responsible management of such facilities that makes them work. The city has not demonstrated the ability to achieve the necessary quality levels of management, and should look at facilities that do work as models.

While I’m on that subject, I also wish to express my strong opposition to the SRV on NW Naito parkway. I’ve already written several emails and comments on this subject. All the points I made in the previous paragraphs apply to this ill-conceived project as well. The Harbor of Hope Navigation Center, also located at that site, has been difficult enough for our neighborhood to absorb, especially considering the inability of the management of that facility to adhere to the Good Neighbor Agreement they signed. The new SRV would turn an already challenging situation into a complete disaster, given the type of low bar facility that SRVs are. Do not go ahead with this plan!

Bob Shotland  
Pearl District resident