

**From:** [doesnt matter](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** support for 899-903 homeless resolutions  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 2, 2022 3:54:36 PM

---

hello.

i'm not sure if you guys truly want 'feedback' on this topic, but nonetheless as a random portlander who was homeless for about a year and a half, i'm writing in support of the resolutions, though i do have a few thoughts about the larger shelters' setups.

first - what is happening right now is not tolerance or compassion; it is enabling. in na and aa, over and over again is the subject of reaching rock bottom - and the need to do so before you choose to really try and get clean/take steps to try and change your situation. portland has gone out of its way to make sure no one ever reaches that point.

second - as is known, there are multiple 'types' of people currently on the streets. some need significant mental help, not jail (which is a whole other conversation about laws and rights and involuntary institutionalization and so on. but no matter what, things like meth make the situation 1,000x worse). some are just criminals who don't gaf about anyone else. and a small percent are temporarily down on their luck and just need a hand to get back on their feet.

there isn't a one size fits all solution. but waiting until you find a personalized solution for every individual only guarantees that you won't solve anything.

all that said -  
my take is there needs to be a safe section for families with small kids. or mothers with small kids.- which also hopefully has the quickest turnover to get them into stable shelter/school/etc

there also needs to be a section for women only to be safe from predation that also has women on the security staff/all shifts to ensure that they also can't be preyed on/sexually abused by a jackass male 'security' person.

and somehow, a way to have a section where people can keep their pet with them..not fully sure how that works if you have 40 people each with pitties that hate each other, but...something.

the original trial balloon wasn't a bad idea in general, but the larger the numbers massed together, the higher the odds bad things start happening like the post-katrina superdome. so imo, smaller fenced off/restricted entry sections and ample staff, even in a larger 'campus', helps maintain safety for everyone.

i also think there needs to be different barriers offered for different sections.  
if you're trying to get clean, getting jammed in with zero barrier junkies everywhere is a recipe for disaster. if you have tiers, you

can also use the space for helping transition from tents toward homes.  
eg tier 1 no barrier is tents and a mess and whatever. moving up the line to no drugs allowed, keep things clean and other rules in tiny homes.

(unlike the current no barrier ones, if screening to keep out registered sex offenders, i think you'd find a lot more openness to having these in neighborhood spots around the city and it wouldn't have to just be in the larger campus).

and though as above, i think it can be important to allow (some) people to keep their pets with them, in fairness to the animals, i don't think pets should be allowed in the zero barrier areas. it is not safe for them and people who can't stay clean and follow basic rules to be in a different tier aren't presently capable of properly caring for another being.

lastly - it'd be wise to have metal detectors going into the campus. assuming the owners aren't felons on probation, they can store their guns in some specified locker or who knows what, but otherwise, guarantee people will be shot.