

From: [Jessi Presley-Grusin](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Agenda Items 927-931
Date: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 7:49:21 PM

Hello,

I am a citizen of Portland and I'm very concerned about these items on your agenda. Banning camping will not reduce the number of tents seen on sidewalks around Portland, but rather will only serve to criminalize houselessness and push people further into debt and into the prison system. Our houseless neighbors need real and effective services such as low to no cost housing, and employment options.

As someone who lives with a disability, I highly empathize with the other disabled community members who expressed frustration over the inaccessibility of our streets and sidewalks, but banning camping will not improve this and will only harm our unhoused disabled community members. I can not support such a heartless measure and neither should you.

Mass campsites are not the answer to this problem either as they would just create greater potential for the harm of a community that is already deeply vulnerable and disenfranchised by our government (both local and national). What has been suggested (ie the containment of houseless folks in 500-person encampments) is too akin to concentration or internment camps and so I urge you not to follow through with such a plan. Hardesty's amendments are wise alterations to a flawed and downright inhumane proposition and I am urging you to only approve these measures with the additional amendments added. Anything less would be a disservice to Portlanders, housed and unhoused.

Thank you for your time,

Jessi Presley-Grusin