

From: [Matt Vrvilo](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony for Nov 3 '22 meeting
Date: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 10:49:56 PM

Portland City Council,

My name is Matthew Vrvilo. I am a graduate student in the advanced macro MSW program at PSU and a direct service worker at a local social services non-profit that works with those experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity.

With the mayor's recent proposal to ban camping and put people into camps, I felt the need to provide my own testimony as someone who works directly with the people who are the target of this proposal.

I wholeheartedly reject the recent proposal as it continues a trend in dehumanizing people experiencing homelessness, criminalizes some of our most vulnerable populations, takes away peoples choice, agency, and autonomy, and treats the symptoms to problems as problems themselves.

My cost of living adjustment was rolled back after my agency discovered we were not being funded appropriately to be able to provide a COLA. Most caseworkers have caseloads of 30+ people, each with their own unique set of circumstances and level of assistance. Each and every day I work, I have to tell people I can't help them because there aren't any services available to get them into housing or shelter. This is unacceptable.

We need more low-barrier affordable housing, more funding for those on the ground working with these communities, employment opportunities for people with barriers to employment, and shelter options run by and for people experiencing homelessness.

Please reject this recent proposal and fund those in the community and working with the community do the work.

Thank you,

Matthew Vrvilo