

From: lindagoertz@comcast.net
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Opposition to Proposal for the Unhoused in Portland
Date: Thursday, November 3, 2022 9:02:15 AM

Friends –

I appreciate the efforts being made to address housing problems that affect many people in Portland; however, experts agree that mass shelters are neither pragmatically nor humanely viable. Numerous surveys have shown that shelters, especially those that are large-scale, are negatively viewed by folks living on the streets; they fear **and experience** violence and theft in such shelters, as well as unclean and noisy surroundings which can be traumatic for vulnerable people.

Forcing people to go to shelters is frighteningly akin to internment camps, making virtual prisoners of folks whose “crimes” may consist of simply existing without enough money for housing. Additionally, this enforced imprisonment is very likely to be judged unconstitutional – and thus ultimately a criminal waste of our tax dollars.

Please use the money that is proposed for shelter building/renovation to ***instead*** strengthen and significantly expand mental health and addiction services as well as outreach, via programs that have experience working with people experiencing homelessness.

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