

From: [Corrin Murphy](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Rubio](#); [Commissioner Mapps](#)
Subject: Testimony for City Ordinance 901
Date: Thursday, November 3, 2022 1:20:28 PM
Importance: High

Dear City Commissioners and Mayor Wheeler,

I am writing in regards to City Ordinance 901. My name is Corrin Murphy and I am a graduate student in public health at the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health, and a researcher at OHSU. I am also a homeowner in North Portland in the Piedmont area.

In public health courses, one of the most frequently emphasized principles is *listening to communities and honoring their needs*. It is incoherent to think that a public health intervention that does not align with the visions, needs, and desires of community members will be effective. Were we to propose something such as City Ordinance 901 as a "solution" to homelessness, we would undoubtedly be met with significant criticism. Furthermore, there is ample literature demonstrating alternatives to the proposal laid forth by Mayor Wheeler and Commissioner Ryan.

I've heard it on social media, I've heard it from my houseless neighbors, I've heard it on the news, I've heard it from the ACLU: **this is a Bad Idea that will cause physical and psychological harm members of our community.**

I'm writing to uplift the following asks in order to ensure that the City does not condone and participate in a mass traumatization of members of an already traumatized community.

- Wheeler and Ryan must be transparent and democratic in this process and all other city processes
- We must fully fund [Move in Multnomah](#) style programs NOW as more permanent housing is built
- The city must create a plan for at least 5000 units of housing for those who are chronically unsheltered.
 - Right now much of the affordable housing that is underway does not provide the assistance and no income situations that chronically unsheltered people face. We will not solve homelessness on the streets until we get serious about creating long term housing that will allow people who have experienced chronic homelessness to go inside, stabilize, and recover from the extended trauma and poverty we have allowed in our City.
 - There are MANY empty apartments and buildings that could be used to get people off the streets and back into work and safe from harm.

Housing stability and safety is a matter of public health and a [major social determinant of health](#). We have the opportunity to improve the health and safety of our entire community by offering more housing to people who need housing. Getting people in homes reduces crime, reduces chronic illness- which unburdens our overburdened healthcare system, and greatly improves community morbidity and mortality.

I implore you to follow reason, listen to the people being impacted, and find some compassion.

These are people. This is your community. We are community members asking you to use your power in the positions people elected you for to create meaningful change for ALL, not just the wealthy few. Listen to the voices that are begging for compassion, care and something better. Do not ignore us.

Corrin Murphy (they/them)

MPH Candidate - *Health Promotion*

OHSU-PSU School of Public Health

murpcor@ohsu.edu | comurph2@pdx.edu