

**From:** [Sylvia Rivera](#)  
**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 1:50:45 PM

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Dear City Commissioners and Mayor Wheeler,

I am writing in regards to City Ordinance 901. My name is Sylvia Rivera and I am a graduate student in public health at the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health. I live in SE Portland.

In public health one of the most frequently emphasized principles is *listening to communities and honoring their needs*. It is inconceivable 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 houselessness, we would undoubtedly cause harm. Furthermore, there is ample evidence demonstrating successful alternatives to the proposal laid forth by Mayor Wheeler and Commissioner Ryan.

**We have a solution that already works**: the Move-in Multnomah housing program whose funds ran out at the end of summer.

But your team has the power to change this. **I am asking that the city identify and direct funds toward this initiative** and other similar programs immediately.

We will not solve houselessness on the streets until we get serious about creating **long-term housing** that will allow people who have experienced chronic houselessness to go inside, stabilize, and begin to recover from the poverty and resultant trauma that we have allowed in our city.

City ordinance 901 is harmful public health policy- a consequence that affects us all.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Sylvia M. Rivera  
MPH Health Promotion Candidate  
OHSU-PSU School of Public Health