

From: [Emily Myers](#)
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 2:01:21 PM

Dear City Commissioners and Mayor Wheeler,

I am writing in regards to City Ordinance 901. My name is Emily Myers and I am a graduate student in public health at the PSU-OHSU School of Public Health. I grew up in Southeast Portland.

From the perspective of a public health student and a caring individual, I want to emphasize the importance of *listening to communities and honoring their needs*. Public health interventions that do not align with the visions, needs, and desires of community members will not be effective. City Ordinance 901 is not the "solution" to homelessness and we will 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'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.

Thank you for your time.

Emily Myers
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