

From: [Lauren Hawk](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Cc: [Sarah Loose](#)
Subject: Proposals related to Housing
Date: Thursday, November 3, 2022 2:44:03 PM

Dear Mayor and Commissioners,

My name is Lauren Hawk. I live in North Portland, and I am a member of St Johns Church, which stewards the land of the St Johns Village operated by Do Good Multnomah. I am also a part of the Leaven Community Land and Housing Coalition.

I am a long-time resident of Portland. I grew up very poor, the child of a single mother. During the early years of my childhood, my family found housing in temporary and impermanent settings, but those places kept me warm and dry and provided a place to eat and sleep. They also provided my mother with enough stability to connect with resources, workers, and help. Eventually, my mother was able to qualify for assistance and found affordable housing in an apartment complex, where she still resides to this day. Without the places before that apartment and stability those places offered us, we may not have ever found a more permanent solution to our homelessness.

Tonight, for many of Portland's residents, the place that is providing a dry place and community connections is in a tent, because of the lack of actual shelter beds, transitional housing, and permanent and affordable housing. The proposed ban on unsanctioned camping and the notion that moving all of our houseless neighbors to a few large camps is not trauma-informed and is very near-sighted. It will make Portland "look better" without actually addressing the root of the problem and using the long-term, proven solutions that address the multiple, systemic issues that have contributed to our housing crisis. It will criminalize the poor and vulnerable. It is inhumane and unjust. I urge you to reconsider.

City Commissioners and Mayor, I ask you to prioritize solutions honor the dignity and experienced of those most impacted by this crisis and by the plans that our city makes to address them.

Thank you,

Lauren Hawk