

From: [Kristen Sartor](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony for 3/1 (#172)
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 8:47:25 AM

Hello,

My name is Kristen Sartor and I live in North Portland. I am writing today because I am absolutely appalled and horrified that city council has put a supply ban into place condemning support for unhoused people with tents and other resources. As temperatures have been below freezing and we've been dealing with snow, I can't even imagine the way this has impacted people that are already living in unimaginable, difficult circumstances. This is unacceptable and I want the leaders of my city to demonstrate compassion and care for everyone.

Thank you,
Kristen Sartor
Zipcode 97212

From: [Kyle Steinhauer](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Written Testimony for Action Item 172; Wednesday, March 1st Council Meeting
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 11:29:06 AM
Attachments: [Written Testimony for Portland City Council.pdf](#)

Hello,

Attached is written testimony for action item 172 for the Portland City Council meeting taking place on Wednesday, March 1st at 9:30am. Please let me know if you have any issues opening or accessing the .pdf file. If you need it as a .docx format I can send that, as well.

Thank you,
Kyle Steinhauer

Kyle Steinhauer
Written Testimony for the Portland City Council
Wednesday, March 1st, 9:30am

Hello there, my name is Kyle Steinhauer. I'm a graduate student, a social worker, and someone who cares about how government policy impacts the vulnerable within our society. I wanted to write my testimony on the recent actions taken by Portland City Commissioner Rene Gonzalez

On February 14th, Commissioner Gonzalez ordered all bureaus he oversees to stop handing out both tents and tarps to members of the public. Gonzalez stated in his press release that this was because tent and tarp-related fires were a "...grave public safety emergency for our city."¹ Gonzalez approved those bureaus to continue handing out sleeping bags and blankets, though this is clearly lacking. When warming shelters in Portland refuse to open unless one of several conditions are met (forecasted temperature of 25 degrees Fahrenheit or below, forecasted snow accumulation of 1 inch or more, forecasted temperature at or below 32 degrees Fahrenheit with "driving rain" of 1 inch or more overnight)², this leaves the approximately 3,800 people just within the city itself who are homeless with no options to stay warm besides a sleeping bag and blanket.³ This is not to mention that the county hosts a total of 2,000 shelter beds,⁴ meaning that Commissioner Gonzalez's order has essentially condemned thousands of people to unsheltered sleeping in dangerous conditions.

Given that Commissioner Gonzalez proudly advertises that, if elected, he will immediately "Prioritize emergency shelter..."⁵, this leads one to ask why he would ban tents and

¹ <https://www.opb.org/article/2023/02/15/tent-ban-rene-gonzalez-portland-street-response/>

² <https://www.multco.us/care-when-its-cold>

³ <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/toolkit/article/562207>

⁴ See footnote 1.

⁵ <https://reneforportland.com/>

tarps while doing nothing to increase shelter capacity in the city. It seems that, rather than focusing on the safety of the most vulnerable in our city, he has chosen to punish them for being homeless. It makes one wonder if Commissioner Gonzalez would be willing to spend a night on the streets of Portland himself with just a sleeping bag and blanket, to let us know that he cares for those “...thousands of vulnerable unsheltered...” in Portland – especially those who are unable to access warming centers due to lack of space.

Fate and circumstance seem to have worked together to ensure that Commissioner Gonzalez’s ban would be especially brutal to our most vulnerable in Portland, as we experienced the second-most snow in the city’s recorded history with 10.8 inches on Wednesday, February 22nd.⁶ This is on top of the weather dipping down to the low-20 degrees Fahrenheit that night.⁷

I strongly question the actions taken by Commissioner Gonzalez and urge him to repeal his ban on tents and tarp distribution in Portland. His actions have unduly punished the most vulnerable members of our society, subjected them to being defenseless against a brutal winter storm, and were made with no improvements made to the alternative options available. I am concerned with the actions of government officials who talk out both sides of their mouth – claiming to be deeply concerned with the welfare of the homeless population, while stripping them of the ability to stay warm in one of the coldest nights in recorded history.

⁶ <https://www.kgw.com/article/weather/severe-weather/portland-snow-commute-wednesday-road-conditions/283-023088ce-f343-4061-8d9d-e677c180f509>

⁷ <https://weather.com/weather/monthly/l/Portland+OR?canonicalCityId=c40ea029567346e5ac018cfad4d-1949d051f3098aff5aa605e0009ef5576d804>

From: [Silver Bat](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 172
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 8:30:00 AM

Hello,

My name is Marie Landrigan and I would like to testify about the decision made by Public Safety commissioner Rene Gonzalez to ban Portland Street Response which is a city-run outreach program, and all employees from other sectors within his bureaus from distributing tents and tarps to unhoused people during this winter. A few days after this decision, there were deadly storms in Portland resulting in 11 inches of snow and ice.

This is not humane.

We need to do better

From: [Isabel Thomas](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: City Council Meeting Item 172
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 9:28:42 AM

March 1, 2023

Portland City Council
Police Accountability Commission Quarterly Report Oct-Dec 2022

Dear City Council members and Police Accountability Commission members,

I am writing today to urge the continued oversight of the police by independent PAC members. Holding the police accountable for their chosen actions in a given instance is key to attempting any potential police reform. I think that striving to maintain transparency and centering the communities that the police claim to be serving is the best way to encourage accountability.

If we are going to continue to pour large amounts of the city's resources into continued over policing of our black and brown neighborhoods the very least the city can do is provide clear transparency around access to police records, evidence, and data, and access to police databases. As well as maintaining the power to compel testimony. I support these oversights and hope to see continued expansion of access by the public to police records and the ability to hear police testimony.

I would lastly like to state the continued need for independent oversight and urge caution on conflicts of interest that can potentially arise for the commission members to remain, not unbiased or objective but on the side of the people and communities that the police claim to protect but instead routinely subject to oppressive over policing and violence.

Ultimately our communities are what make or break Portland and centering our BIPOC communities will be more beneficial for the culture of Portland than centering police fragility ever could.

Thank you for your time,

Isabel Thomas

From: [Juliana at Roots & Shoots Photography](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: agend 172
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 9:38:12 AM

Hello,

I'm demanding an end to the ban on distributing tents to people who are unhoused and enduring freezing temperatures.

Thank you,

Juliana Maschion

City Council Meeting - Wednesday, March 1, 2023 9:30 a.m.

Agenda No.	First Name	Last Name
172-01	Philip	Chachka
172-02	Aj	McCreary
172-03	Brittany	Brock
172-04	Deian	Salazar
172-05	Mallory	Bustos
172-06	Keeley	Higgins
172-07	Rashelle	Chase-Miller
172-08	Debbie	Aiona