

# Portland City Council Agenda Written Testimony

Row 3

---

<b>Name</b>	Rhea Hannon, Sisters of the Road
<b>Agenda Item</b>	404
<b>Position</b>	Oppose
<b>Comments</b>	
<b>Email Address</b>	rhea@sistersoftheroad.org
<b>Submitted</b>	05/23/23 3:05 PM
<b>Final Meeting Date</b>	05/24/23
<b>Public Records Acknowledgement</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Attachment</b>	Yes

---

**SISTERS  
OF THE  
ROAD**

---



Portland City Council

1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 130, Portland, OR 97204

Re: Update resolution connecting mental health and substance abuse recovery services to unhoused individuals  
(amend Resolution 37595)

Dear Portland City Councillors,

I urge you to reconsider your amendment to Resolution 37595.

You stated in the agenda item that “the City has invested more time in designing shelter spaces for potential shelter sites and determined that more beds would be more appropriate for a campus.” How was this determined? Who was involved in that process? Specifically, which stakeholders were involved in a decision that seems driven by economic factors rather than human safety. Why were others excluded?

This economic motive is further exemplified by your statement that “the physical site size will remain the same, but include 140 pods.” If this site was initially planned to host 150 people, another hundred individuals in the same square footage is unjust. Overpopulating your first planned sanctioned encampment will almost certainly lead to conflict, overcrowding, scarcity of resources, and unsafe living conditions.

You also stated that “this ordinance does not amend the budget.” How, exactly, will the “All In” money be spent? Will you increase funding for provided services to match the proposed population growth? Why not put additional funds toward increased services instead of increasing the number of pods available?

Finally, why was this amendment put on the Consent Agenda instead of the Regular Agenda? Doing so prevents the possibility of deliberation or discussion and obscures your actions- even the agenda item name is misleading.

Your constituents are watching. We see patterns forming. We recognize that the shifted project scope aligns more closely with your initial plans.

Again, I urge you to reconsider. At the very least, reconsider your decision not to listen to the people you are supposed to serve.

Sincerely,

Rhea Hannon, Sisters of the Road

**City Council Meeting - Wednesday, May 24, 2023 9:30 a.m.**

<b>Agenda No.</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>
404-01	Josie	Kressner