

**From:** [Jennings, Gayla](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Website feedback received from Arlen Shel Drake  
**Date:** Monday, June 28, 2021 7:37:34 AM

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This email was received by the Auditor's public inbox. It appears to be testimony relating to Agenda Item 519.

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**From:** Arlen Shel Drake <ashel Drake@comcast.net>  
**Reply-To:** "ashel Drake@comcast.net" <ashel Drake@comcast.net>  
**Date:** Sunday, June 27, 2021 at 8:02 PM  
**To:** Commissioner Rubio <Comm.Rubio@portlandoregon.gov>, Commissioner Ryan Office <CommissionerRyanOffice@portlandoregon.gov>, Commissioner Mapps <MappsOffice@portlandoregon.gov>, "Wheeler, Mayor" <MayorWheeler@portlandoregon.gov>, "City Auditor, Mary Hull Caballero" <AuditorHullCaballero@portlandoregon.gov>, Commissioner Hardesty <joann@portlandoregon.gov>  
**Subject:** Website feedback received from Arlen Shel Drake

**What would you like to do?**

Provide comment or feedback on a topic to all city elected officials.

## Provide a comment or feedback on a topic to all city elected officials

**Choose one or more appropriate topics**

[City projects](#)

**Other topic not listed above**

Paving the Pathway from Streets to Stability

**What would you like to say?**

I strongly support Commissioner Ryan's proposal.....I would add that with provided facilities, alternatives available with services, those choosing to stay on the streets are required to move. I want my sidewalks and City back!

## Your Contact Information

**Name**

Arlen Shel Drake

**Email Address**

ashel drake@comcast.net

**Country**

United States

**Street Address**

1718 SW PARKVIEW CT

**Unit Type**

Building

**City**

Portland

**State**

Oregon

**ZIP/Postal Code**

97221

|

**From:** [Scott Pratt](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Paving the Pathway vote  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 1:20:08 PM

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I'm writing to ask you to delay the vote on this ordinance. While it has many good aspects, we really haven't had time to evaluate it. Please take the time to get it right.

Scott O. Pratt  
Attorney at Law  
503 241-5464

**From:** [Ken Reid](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** agenda item 519  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 1:25:47 PM

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Please delay the vote on agenda item 519 to allow more time for public input. Thanks!

Ken Reid  
4122 SE Pine St.

**From:** [Erin Miller](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Public Input  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 1:28:37 PM

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Dear Council,

Please delay Commissioner Ryan's proposed ordinance on sanctioned camps. If you have ever lived by one you would truly understand the unsustainable environment these camps create for all involved. They are dirty, heavy drug use, mental health issues, attacks on each other, the public, and very little help from the city. Just two minutes ago I watched two campers from Laurelhurst Park fight each other outside of our house over drugs. It is completely ridiculous to have this many campers with very intense issues living together, and by a children's playground, next to neighbors who actually pay to live here. If we are made to live with this, and the city doesn't help enough, then we should have a say in this ordinance.

Thank you for your time,

Erin J Miller  
Voter

**From:** [ORANGE125](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** City Council Meeting 6/30/2021 - Agenda Item 519 Testimony  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 1:32:17 PM

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I am writing to express my displeasure with Councilman Ryan's attempt to hastily pass through HIS new city ordinance setting up provisions for Safe Camping spaces without so much as a hint of reaching out to the public for comment.

While the basic premise is agreeable, the way that this ordinance is written is entirely too open ended and doesn't provide any mandates for enforcement of these rules or provide a backstop for preventing the homeless epidemic from getting worse.

I do not believe that following have been thought through thoroughly enough and require public input:

- 1) Part d number 1 states that a camp must be at least 150 feet from a school (except a high school- why not a high school?), however, part d number 6 states a camp only has to be **50 feet from a park**. 50 feet is not sufficient. Why do schools get the protection of 150 feet but parks do not?
- 2) And what about playgrounds, It says nothing about offsets from a playground.
- 3) Part d number 7 is equally disturbing. A camp must be **10 feet from the entrance of a residential structure**. I don't think I have to say why this is not acceptable.

There is again, not enough detail around the steps to supply and enforce security at these camps as well as to prevent these camps from exceeding the recommended allowable size. Do not vote to pass this without a public comment period. You need to delay this vote planned for Wednesday until the public can weigh in.

Chris Kasiewicz  
VOTER

**From:** [SOLOMON CRUZ](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Houseless people and our streets and neighborhoods and parks- please move them  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 1:49:37 PM

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I have testified before, and will testify once again. Our tax paying lives are being challenged daily with house-less people obstructing our streets, parks and sidewalks. It's not safe for these house-less folks to live on the streets. We have had a huge increase in theft, our parks are not able to be utilized as hypodermic needles are laying about on ground, feces and other waste everywhere, which increases the rats. Unsafe for adults and so unsafe for our kids.

We need to find a place, vacant land where these folks can erect their tents, and social services can be delivered in a mobile situation, along with portable toilets, and washing facilities. It will be safer, and it will take these house-less folks out of our sacred neighborhoods and parks where we all pay taxes to keep them up and we can utilize these sanctuaries for our own peace of minds.

I know that there is funding to support this idea. We just need to re-divert the funds. It just needs to happen, and soon.

Our city is not-livable. Downtown businesses are leaving. Long term residents are leaving! It's really horrible.

Thank you! MaryBeth and Solomon Cruz

**From:** [greg.glarkin.com](mailto:greg.glarkin.com)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed ordinance - Agenda item 519  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 2:00:40 PM

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As per my comments below, please delay the vote on Commissioner Ryan's draft so there can be more public input.

Thank you, Greg Larkin

----- Original Message -----

From: "greg.glarkin.com" <greg@glarkin.com>  
To: "CommissionerRyanOffice@portlandoregon.gov"  
<CommissionerRyanOffice@portlandoregon.gov>,  
"Comm.Rubio@portlandoregon.gov" <Comm.Rubio@portlandoregon.gov>,  
"MayorWheeler@portlandoregon.gov" <MayorWheeler@portlandoregon.gov>,  
"MappsOffice@portlandoregon.gov" <MappsOffice@portlandoregon.gov>  
Cc: Michael Rosa <Michael@macjrosa.com>,  
"Andre.Miller@portlandoregon.gov" <Andre.Miller@portlandoregon.gov>,  
"adam.lyons@portlandoregon.gov" <adam.lyons@portlandoregon.gov>,  
"Zachary.Kearl@portlandoregon.gov" <Zachary.Kearl@portlandoregon.gov>,  
"Robert.King@portlandoregon.gov" <Robert.King@portlandoregon.gov>  
Date: June 28, 2021 5:16 PM  
Subject: Commissioner Ryan's Proposal

Commissioner Ryan,

While we appreciate the work that went into writing this draft, and there are good things in it, we strongly urge City Council to postpone voting on it until there is more public input. Some issues we have with the draft are:

1. "Referral to a Safe Rest Village is voluntary for the referred person...". If a houseless person refuses to go there, what happens then?
2. "The Impact Reduction Program" reserves posting and removal as an intervention of last resort after a long series of prior interactions to reduce harmful impacts in a particular location". What is considered "long series"? 2, 5, 15 postings? What will prevent houseless from coming back after the camp was cleared? Who will monitor the site on a regular basis?
3. There will be "every effort to minimize the involvement of law enforcement in its interactions with the houseless community as it pertains to camp removals." The camp at Laurelhurst has been determined **by the city** to be illegal and dangerous, and needs to be removed. It is said the mayor is against having police involved in removing houseless people at Laurelhurst because of activists. Yet Lucas Hillier has said that 30 police will probably be needed to clear the park. There is also concern about "optics". How does your proposal address moving forward with removing the encampment at Laurelhurst Park or other locations where there is resistance from Stop the Sweeps? How does the city take control of these situations?



4. Low-impact camps must be “at least 10 feet away from entrance to a residential structure...”. You must realize that 10 feet can mean camping directly across the street or next door from a house. Do you really think most home owners of Portland would accept that?

5. In the Oregonian, Commissioner Ryan, you were quoted as saying that Portland will be safer once this ordinance is enacted. Could you explain how this will be the case? There is a criminal element in the camp across the street from our home. How will the city deal with these dangerous people?

My husband and I have lived across the street from the Laurelhurst camp for a year. We have seen numerous missteps by the city. We have seen rules and laws broken without consequence. We have been told this will get resolved, be patient. We've done that. Now it's time you do your part because, as far as we are concerned, this situation has negatively impacted livability in our neighborhood.

Sincerely,  
Greg Larkin  
Mike Rosa

Voters  
Taxpayers

**From:** [TERESA J](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony on 519 scheduled for 9:30 am July 30 2021  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 2:15:29 PM

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Comm.Ryan's proposed Safe Rest Villages Ordinance is a commendable effort to help those who want help. However, it will not create a noticeable reduction of the many, many, many homeless camps throughout our city that threaten the livability, health and safety of much of Portland. Reports from navigation teams, media interviews and the city's failure to move campers off the streets are evidence that as long as there are unregulated streets camps, the majority of campers will not voluntarily go into shelters or sanctioned camps. The unhoused who refuse to go to shelters, want to camp wherever and are problematic to Portland's neighborhoods and businesses will still do so without any interventions on the city's part to move them or enforce city rules and regulations.

There are already many city ordinances that could stop the camping, litter and violence that accompanies the multitude of unsanctioned camps throughout the city. The photo below is a clear example of city rules not enforced. Why should the citizens have any belief this new proposed ordinance will be enforced much less change the current mess that is Portland's unfettered street camping chaos?

The unhoused who seek help and are ready to be helped are rarely the problem. They seek to reintegrate with society. Those who do not want to follow rules, regulations or have any structure imposed upon them are the source of the majority of problems that radiate from the unregulated, unsanctioned camps.

Comm. Ryan has even touted the data indicating there is no crime associated with the sanctioned camps. This is not true for unsanctioned camps that Portlanders have plead to be addressed. This ordinance does not answer or even acknowledge those pleas.

This ordinance is a good start. It can be improved and become an ordinance that helps the unhoused AND the neighborhoods and businesses of Portland.

Please delay the vote and work on a more balanced version that will serve ALL of Portland.

TJ Browning

**LAURELHURST PA**

**WELCOME**

**PARK HOURS 5AM - 10PM**

For the safety and comfort of all, please observe these park rules.

- No smoking, vaping, drugs, or alcohol in the park.
- Dogs must be on leash. Please scoop and dispose of dog waste. Pets are not allowed in the play area.
- No camping
- Remove your trash - no littering, graffiti, or vandalism.
- No weapons, fighting, or disorderly conduct.
- Do not feed wildlife or birds.
- Only pre-approved motorized vehicles allowed in the park.

A park permit is required to reserve a picnic area, hold an event, or conduct any organized activity, visit [portlandoregon.gov](http://portlandoregon.gov).

**ALL CITY PARK RULES APPLY**

Emergency - dial 911  
 Police non-emergency - 503-823-3333  
 Park Rangers - 503-823-1637

**BI**

**HORA**

**5 a**

Para la seguridad estas reglas del p

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- No se permite .
- Recoja sus des basura, hacer
- No se permiter inapropiadas.
- No alimente a
- Solo se permit previamente a

Para reservar un un evento o lleva organizada se re Visite portlandor

**SE APLICAN LOS PARQUE**

Emergenci  
 Policía (no  
 Guardapar

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [margoc520@gmail.com](mailto:margoc520@gmail.com)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Ryan's proposal for safe rest villages  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 2:23:31 PM

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After reading the Revised HUCIRP Covid-19 Protocols of 5/21/2021 I asked Lucas Hillier to explain how an unauthorized homeless encampment gets a rating. He immediately responded and forwarded me the Risk Assessment Cheat Sheet.

Laurelhurst Park's unsanctioned camp meets (exceeds!) all the criteria for a high-impact encampment.

Yet, nothing has been done to remove this camp. The city does not enforce rules that are already on the books.

What would make any of us believe Dan Ryan's Safe Rest Villages proposal will help fix the problem of unsanctioned camps?

Section b states IRP will refer people to relocate. Referral is voluntary. Voluntary on whose part? The city could volunteer (or not) to refer a camper to a Safe Rest Village? The camper could volunteer (or not) to move?

Section d states it will prioritize removal of a camp if it is within 50' of a park. That distance is changed to 150' if it's a school. Nothing is stated about playgrounds in a park, which ideally are used by preschoolers and school age children. (Sadly, no children of ANY age are using the play park annex at Laurelhurst due to the unsafe conditions there.

Please delay a vote, or vote no on this proposal. I think Portlanders, both young and old, housed and unhoused, deserve better than this well intentioned, but vague proposal.

Margo Clark  
4014 NE Davis  
Portland, OR 97232

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Janet Schaeffer](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [fredrreal557@gmail.com](mailto:fredrreal557@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony on ordinance relating to Safe Rest Villages  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 2:33:01 PM

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Testimony on ordinance relating to Safe Rest Villages  
Portland City Council 6.30.2021

Commissioner Ryan, Mayor Wheeler, Commissioners,

Greetings. I am a 58-year resident of Southeast Portland who has participated in major projects to enhance the central city, including the Justice Center, Convention Center, light rail extensions and affordable housing.

I have been alarmed and discouraged by the deterioration in so many aspects of the City of Roses that provide what we used to call livability—above all, the worsening conditions for and growing numbers of unsheltered persons on our streets and sidewalks.

Safe rest villages for the houseless are urgently needed. These, along with improved police relations, restored storefronts and reclaimed public spaces, are necessary for Portland once again to be a desirable place to live, work and visit.

I am a co-author, with three others, of a two-year study culminating in a report, *The Challenge of Homelessness*. The report recommends the very actions the ordinance would begin to address: safety, shelter, hygiene, and services needed to restore to the houseless their full participation in the life of the city.

This measure is only a beginning. To meet the objectives in the findings, its scope must be expanded to fully serve the several thousand individuals in need.

By enacting this ordinance today, you will reassure Portlanders that the Council retains the capacity and resolve for taking collective action.

Regards,

Tuck Wilson  
3509 SE Claybourne St  
Portland, OR 97202

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [DOMINIC MARA](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Delay the vote on 519  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 2:36:55 PM

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To the Commissioners and other relevant leaders,

The approach to developing this proposed ordinance change has been exclusive, is unenforceable, and is unsympathetic to all of those affected in Portland.

I urge the Council to pause voting on this ordinance change and hear the voices of all citizens that each of you represent - housed and unhoused.

Please do the right thing and delay the vote on 519.

Kind regards,

Dominic

**From:** [Michael Rosa](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Miller, Andre](#); [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Lyons, Adam](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [Kearl, Zach](#); [Commissioner Mapps](#); [greg glarkin.com](#); [King, Robert](#); [Commissioner Rubio](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item# 519: Commissioner Ryan's Proposal (Please Delay Vote for More Public Input)  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 2:40:11 PM

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As my husband, Greg Larkin, points out below, there are many issues that need to be addressed that are lacking in this proposal. Commissioner Ryan's proposal:

- 1) Does not address those street campers who refuse to move and they are not required to do so. Why isn't this addressed because, as is often the case, there are a lot more of these individuals?
- 2) Lacks and enforcement mechanism? There is no enforcement today and look where we are now.
- 3) Allows camping within 50 ft of park, 10 feet of housing structure and business entrances. Given where my spouse and I live, campers are about 20 feet from our house along the Laurelhurst Park annex, and the attached pictures are what we deal with daily? Reality: Things spill over and damage livability for everyone. Exploding tents, biohazards, illegal fires, camper thefts, home invasions, etc.
- 4) Lacks any discussion around criminal concerns and how these will be remedied.

Campers often make choices contrary to what is in the best interest for residential neighborhoods in terms of public safety and health. Examples of this are everywhere. Commissioner Ryan's proposal does nothing to address these. Please allow public input to address these.

Thank you  
Michael Rosa  
3652 SE Oak Street

On June 28, 2021 5:16 PM greg glarkin.com <greg@glarkin.com> wrote:

Commissioner Ryan,

While we appreciate the work that went into writing this draft, and there are good things in it, we strongly urge City Council to postpone voting on it until there is more public input. Some issues we have with the draft are:

1. "Referral to a Safe Rest Village is voluntary for the referred person...". If a houseless person refuses to go there, what happens then?
2. "The Impact Reduction Program" reserves posting and removal as an intervention of last resort after a long series of prior interactions to reduce harmful impacts in a particular location". What is considered "long series"? 2, 5, 15 postings? What will prevent houseless from coming back after the camp was cleared? Who will monitor the site on a regular basis?
3. There will be "every effort to minimize the involvement of law enforcement in

its interactions with the houseless community as it pertains to camp removals.”

The camp at Laurelhurst has been determined **by the city** to be illegal and dangerous, and needs to be removed. It is said the mayor is against having police involved in removing houseless people at Laurelhurst because of activists. Yet Lucas Hillier has said that 30 police will probably be needed to clear the park.

There is also concern about “optics”. How does your proposal address moving forward with removing the encampment at Laurelhurst Park or other locations where there is resistance from Stop the Sweeps? How does the city take control of these situations?

4. Low-impact camps must be “at least 10 feet away from entrance to a residential structure...”. You must realize that 10 feet can mean camping directly across the street or next door from a house. Do you really think most home owners of Portland would accept that?

5. In the Oregonian, Commissioner Ryan, you were quoted as saying that Portland will be safer once this ordinance is enacted. Could you explain how this will be the case? There is a criminal element in the camp across the street from our home. How will the city deal with these dangerous people?

My husband and I have lived across the street from the Laurelhurst camp for a year. We have seen numerous missteps by the city. We have seen rules and laws broken without consequence. We have been told this will get resolved, be patient.

We’ve done that. Now it’s time you do your part because, as far as we are concerned, this situation has negatively impacted livability in our neighborhood.

Sincerely,  
Greg Larkin  
Mike Rosa

Voters  
Taxpayers











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Non-toxic  
Sterile Syringe  
Unless Syringe is Opened

WARNING:  
Do not use with any other brand of syringe.

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**From:** [Therese Leineweber](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Comm.Ryan's proposed Safe Rest Villages Ordinance  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 2:51:15 PM

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Dear Commissioners,

Please delay the vote on **Comm.Ryan's proposed Safe Rest Villages Ordinance** to allow more time for public input. This ordinance should improve the livability of those living in the camps, and those who live in neighborhoods or run businesses adjacent to the camps. Will current laws and ordinances be enforced, as they are not enforced currently? How will criminal activity be dealt with in the camps? What can be done to ensure the safety and well-being of the unhoused in the camps and the housed near these camps? What is the plan for those that do not want to follow any rules or regulations? Is allowing camping within 10 ft of a business or home entrance, or 50 ft of a park really enough distance? Those living in the nightmare on SE 37th near Laurelhurst Park would not think that is the case.

Please delay the vote on **Comm.Ryan's proposed Safe Rest Villages Ordinance** to allow more time for public input.

Therese Leineweber

**From:** [Steven Rebischke](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Commissioner Ryan's proposed Safe Rest Villages Ordinance  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 2:53:28 PM

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Commissioner Ryan's proposed Safe Rest Villages Ordinance is a commendable effort to help those who want help. However, it will not create a noticeable or meaningful reduction of the vast array of homeless camps throughout our city that threaten the livability, health and safety of much of Portland. Reports from navigation teams, media interviews and the city's failure to move campers off the streets are evidence that as long as there are unregulated streets camps, the majority of campers will not voluntarily go into shelters or sanctioned camps. They just won't. The unhoused who refuse to go to shelters, want to camp wherever they please and are direly problematic to Portland's neighborhoods and businesses. They will continue to do so without any interventions on the city's part to move them or enforce city rules and regulations. This ordinance will do very little without enforcement - the city has repeatedly demonstrated NO willingness to enforce laws and ordinances to date; especially when grievance "advocates" are involved. In fact, one could say that grievance "advocates" - especially the armed and aggressive ones involved at Laurelhurst and elsewhere are determining what will/will not be enforced. A pathetic display by our elected officials.

There are already many city ordinances that could stop the camping, litter and violence that accompanies the multitude of unsanctioned camps throughout the city. The photo below is a clear example of city rules not enforced. Why should the citizens have any belief this new proposed ordinance will be enforced much less change the current mess that is Portland's unfettered street camping chaos?

The unhoused who seek help and are ready to be helped are rarely the problem. They seek to reintegrate with society. Those who do not want to follow rules, regulations or have any structure imposed upon them are the source of the majority of problems that radiate from the unregulated, unsanctioned camps.

Comm. Ryan has even touted the data indicating there is no crime associated with the sanctioned camps. This is not true for unsanctioned camps that Portlanders have plead to be addressed. Quite the opposite is true, in fact. They are bastions of lawlessness, filth/health hazards and consistent ADA non-compliant zones. This ordinance does not answer or, sadly, even acknowledge those pleas from citizens or these issues. Denying reality will not move us, collectively, forward.

This ordinance is a good start. It can be improved and become an ordinance that helps the unhoused AND the neighborhoods and businesses of Portland.

Please delay the vote and work on a more balanced version that will serve ALL of Portland.

Steven Rebischke

**From:** [Stan Vernon](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Rubio](#); [Commissioner Mapps](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#)  
**Subject:** Please delay vote on amendment to city code on houselessness  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 3:16:38 PM

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Please delay the vote on agenda item 519 (Code Subsection 3.15.060.C.6) until more voices can be heard, especially from residents and business owners--not just the activists, who tend to be more vocal, assertive, or downright aggressive. While I applaud the idea behind the establishment of Safe Rest Villages, the ordinance as written provides for no enforcement (and camping violations were ignored even before the pandemic), and what on earth are you thinking in deprioritizing removal of camps 10 feet from a residence or business. Why do you think business owners are leaving downtown? To say that people have no compassion because they don't want campers shooting up outside their homes or businesses is ludicrous, and you know it. None of you would abide it for a minute. If campers refuse space in a sanctioned camp, you know it's because they don't want the rules and responsibilities that come with that. And if they're allowed to stay where they are, then more campers will follow, and we're right back where we started from. How come the campers are able to ignore rules the rest of us have to live by?

Stan Vernon  
Tax payer and voter

**From:** [Janet McManus](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** testimony regarding agenda item 519 for June 30, 2021H  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 3:25:01 PM

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Hello, I represent the WeShine Initiative, a new non-profit established just in the last few months. The mission of WeShine is to develop and operate welcoming, empowering, and safe outdoor-shelters in the form of micro-villages that serve 6-12 people at a time and that are located on public or private leased property in residential neighborhoods.

We are aligned with and very supportive of Commissioner Ryan's plan to provide Safe Rest Villages. We agree that there is great urgency to locate, construct and open Safe Rest Villages, as well as other alternative shelter and transitional options to meet immediate needs. In particular, we agree that the City must deploy a wide array of interventions that address the diversity of needs and experience of our houseless neighbors.

For example, while WeShine's micro-villages will provide similar baseline services as Commissioner Ryan's Safe Rest Villages, we are targeting some of the most vulnerable subsets of the houseless population. Examples could include racial and ethnic minorities, individuals fleeing violence, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, those age 55 or older with chronic health conditions, and other vulnerable groups. Neighborhood engagement is also a central tenet of our mission. Consequently, we will offer robust volunteer support for each micro-village as well as opportunities for neighbors and villagers to engage and interact in positive ways with each other. In our vision, many Portland neighborhoods will step up to be part of the solution and do their fair share of hosting and supporting WeShine micro-villages. Our small scale villages will provide a non-triggering and welcoming space for many individuals whose anxiety, behavioral health needs or other issues preclude them from thriving in a larger village setting.

--

Jan McManus, LMSW  
Pronouns: she, her, hers  
WeShine Initiative, Executive Director  
503-970-2984  
janet

**From:** [Jill Davis](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Sanctioned camps  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 3:27:54 PM

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Please delay vote!

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [kayleen3936@comcast.net](mailto:kayleen3936@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** June 30, 2021 City Council Meeting/Item 519/9:30 AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 3:37:41 PM

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Dear Mayor Wheeler and Portland City Council,

Thank you for reading my testimony in reference to Item 519 on the June 30<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting agenda.

I applaud Commissioner Ryan's efforts to take action for the houseless residents of our city. There are already many city ordinances that could stop the camping, litter and violence that accompanies the multitude of unsanctioned camps throughout the city. Why are we not enforcing the ordinances that are already on the books?

Before this ordinance is voted on, there should be time for ALL residents of Portland to weigh in on this proposed policy and how it will change the city ordinance. This is a discussion we need to have, with input not only from the houseless community, but with input from all Portlanders. There simply has not been enough time to provide comments and input. There is also quite a bit of ambiguity and room for interpretation, we should not have city ordinances with so many loopholes and gaps.

Here are my concerns with the proposal as written:

Section 1:

- a. The current language is unclear and confusing, very challenging to understand what you're trying to accomplish with this amendment to city policy. Please make the language more clear, so there is no question about what it proposes to do and not do.
- b. Referral is voluntary, what if people refuse to relocate? What happens then? This is an issue city council has been tip toeing around for years. There needs to be a clear plan of action, with defined ownership and timelines.  
The extent of services to be provided- like more robust wrap around services such as behavioral, mental health, and addiction resources- is still unclear. City Council needs to get work with the county to ensure there is clarity and commitment by the county to provide the needed wrap around services.
- c. If individuals are referred to a safe resting village and they refuse to go, what are the city's committed actions to clear encampments?

As written: "The Impact Reduction Program will conduct .....only after exhausting other attempts to reduce impact"

- There is NO defining criteria for "other attempts". There is NO timeline for "other attempts".

- This language is too vague and has too many loopholes and gaps, it requires more directive language.
- d. Low impact/High Impact, this classifying encampments system is a waste of precious resources and taxpayers money. If an encampment meets even ONE of the criteria it should be considered high impact.

Proximities need to be REVISED for all encampments- regardless of impact rating.

1. ADD high schools to the 150 feet criteria. Why would high school be 100 feet? It makes no sense.
  2. Revise 50 feet from the property lines of a developed park to 150 feet
  3. Revise 10 feet away from the entrance to a residential structure to 150 feet
  4. Revise 10 feet away from the primary entrance or emergency exit of any business or commercial property to 150 feet
- e. What does this even mean? This is poorly written.
- f. Binding City Policy: there has been a lack of public input for this to become binding city policy.

What is the strategy and timeline to get public input and comments?

Again, I applaud Commissioner Ryan's efforts to provide help and assistance to Portland's houseless community. Please let us do it with city ordinances that aren't full of loopholes and gaps.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Kayleen Kusterer

**From:** [jolene mae](#)  
**To:** [City Info](#); [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Comment on City Council Agenda item- Demolition Permit  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 4:01:15 PM

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Dear Mayor Wheeler and Esteemed City Councilors,

I write today in reference to the proposal regarding 340 NW Glisan for Demolition Review, and Bureau of Development staff's appropriate recommendation for denial.

The Old Blanchet House at 340 NW Glisan Street in the New Chinatown/Japantown National Register Historic District is a historically and culturally significant building, and deserves an opportunity for repurposing.

I hope that you have all had a chance to review the original application that created the Historic District back in 1989- it contains great notes on this structure, and shares so much about this wonderful slice of Portland's collective history:

[https://www.portland.gov/sites/default/files/2020-05/nr\\_noms\\_89001957.pdf](https://www.portland.gov/sites/default/files/2020-05/nr_noms_89001957.pdf)

From 1905 to 1931, 340 NW Glisan was known as the Yamaguchi Hotel, built by S. Yamaguchi. The hotel included a first floor saloon and was also where Yamaguchi's wife, a noted midwife in Portland's early Japanese-American community, could be found to deliver babies.

So little of Portland's early AAPI heritage remains. White pioneer heritage is preserved both in the Portland area and throughout our state. The same cannot be said of ethnic minorities. We have very nearly scrubbed any trace of minorities in Oregon's history- and the AAPI community is no exception. For many of our ancestors, this was intentional through exclusion laws in both early territorial law and later enshrined into our state constitution. When we physically destroy the last vestiges of non-white history, we reinforce the spirit behind these exclusion laws; we state the Oregon of yore is, in so many ways, the Oregon of now.

There are two choices here: to agree with the majority of Oregon's early white pioneers, that there is no place here for non-whites, and should they exist, we will look the other way begrudgingly, but we will not acknowledge them or their history or contributions. They should be grateful if we turn the other way.

Or we can show that a new generation of Oregonians values the historic contributions of all. We honor those minority legacies. We see the Yamaguchis, and so many others, and acknowledge the way they built and shaped Portland, Oregon, and the West. We want all Oregonians to cast their gaze on places like the Yamaguchi Hotel building, to channel that time, that experience, that courageous, undaunted fortitude of those who came to Portland seeking a better life with more opportunities.

Preservation is essential. And preservation can't be restricted to suburban locales. We must preserve the heritages we previously denied. You have an incredible opportunity here. Please deny demolition of 340 NW Glisan.

Jolene Thomson

PO Box 241

Halsey, OR 97348

(mailing only)



**From:** [Mercedes Elizalde](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Central City Concern's comment on Agenda Item 519 - 6/30 morning agenda  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 4:30:15 PM  
**Attachments:** [CCC comment on Agenda Item 519 \(1\).pdf](#)

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**Mercedes Elizalde** (she, her)  
[Central City Concern](#)  
Public Policy Director  
[Mercedes.Elizalde@cccconcern.org](mailto:Mercedes.Elizalde@cccconcern.org)  
(503) 935-7726

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**Date: 6/30/2021**

**RE: Council Agenda Item #519**

Central City Concern (CCC) is a non-profit direct service organization that provides integrated primary and behavioral health care, supportive and affordable housing, and employment services to people impacted by homelessness in the Tri-County area. Central City Concern operates about 2,100 units of affordable housing, serves 9,000 patients annually through our 12 Federally Qualified Health Centers, makes 1,200 job placements annually and operates social services for reentry and diversion programs in Portland and across the metro area.

Homelessness is the result of varied and compounding factors. These include historical system failures such as the lack of housing affordability, income inequality, perpetuating systemic racism, over incarceration and failed reform efforts, disruptive market incentives that drive opioid & alcohol addiction, ongoing breakdowns in behavioral health access and insufficiently resourced, un-leveraged, and misaligned systems and policies. Individual factors such as a history of trauma, domestic violence, behavioral health challenges, and chronic health conditions also contribute to risk factors for experiencing or prolonging someone's experience of homelessness. These individual factors and system failures compound impacts, but negative impacts are ultimately driven by public policy and structural factors that maintain those system failures. What has resulted is widespread homelessness and "deaths of despair" as manifestations of our lack of a cohesive crisis response and overall disconnected system of care.

Ending homelessness requires systematic change that includes, a shared understanding of the drivers of homelessness at a population level; aligning resources, key partners, incentives, and policy choices to creating housing stability and connection to social and economic supports across multiple systems; and we need programs that are built to be flexible to meet individual needs over time. This should be the focus regardless of if an intervention or investment is considered short term.

As you consider agenda item 519 to develop safe rest villages, we ask that you consider how this policy change and city investment can be part of a strategy to address both individual factors and system failures that are perpetuating unsheltered homelessness.

A minimum standard service package should be developed to effectively match the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness to address their individual needs in both the short and long term. An approach that only focuses on short-term changes will ultimately perpetuate the structural factors that drive homelessness.



## CENTRAL CITY CONCERN

HOMES HEALTH JOBS

We hope that as this process moves forward, the Joint Office of Homeless Services will have an active role in developing a minimum service standard that would include:

- Income (employment/benefits attainment + rent assistance)
- Shelter and Housing placement (temporary to permanent housing)
- OHP or other health insurance enrollment
- Case management for care coordination
- Peer support for ongoing engagement

In the ordinance we notice that many of these exact interventions are called out, the City agreeing and recognizing their need and value. But then later in the ordinance they are not included in the services expected to be paired with the safe villages. This is an example of where the systems we put in place are made to intentionally fall short, hoping that the individual connections will make up for the gap. Keep in mind that the system failures will always push more people into housing instability than individual factors.

We are excited to see the commitment from the City Council to respond to the needs of people sleeping unsheltered and we ask that you maintain high expectations of yourselves and of us as whole community. We can have a future where all our community members are housed, healthy, economically resilient and socially connected, and we will be more likely to reach that goal if we maintain high expectations, right alongside foundational values like harm reduction.

Thank you for your leadership,  
Mercedes Elizalde  
Public Policy Director  
Central City Concern

**From:** [Sean Burgess](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Tetsimony for Agenda Item 519 on June 30th, 2021  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 4:30:31 PM

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Thank you for your efforts to improve livability for all Portland residents. As presently written, it appears Commissioner Ryan's proposed ordinance lacks enforceability (i.e. "Referral to a Safe Rest Village is **voluntary**") and will share the fate of the pile of existing ordinances already on the books.

What happens when somebody refuses to leave the camp location of their choosing after being referred to a Safe Rest Village with moving assistance?

Thank you,

Sean Burgess

**From:** [James Tunley](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [Commissioner Rubio](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [Commissioner Mapps](#); [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Hardesty, Jo Ann](#); [Meyer, Katie](#); [Torres, Kellie](#); [Warner, Chris](#); [Kearl, Zach](#); [Castro, Cynthia](#); [King, Robert](#); [McKillip, Heather](#); [Bradley, Derek](#); [Lee, Bobby](#); [Miranda, Adriana](#); [Edwards, Karly](#); [Bond, Mark](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony on 519 scheduled for 9:30 am July 30 2021  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 5:21:26 PM

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I would like to testify on Comm Ryan’s “Paving the Pathway from Streets to Stability” proposal. I have two main concerns, namely:

1) The lack of balance addressing the needs of all relevant groups in Portland - the unhoused, housed residents, and business owners. While the amendment frequently references proposals to improve liveability of the unhoused (this should be applauded) it has little to no references about the liveability concerns of housed residents and business owners.

- For those who choose not to relocate to a Safe Rest Village (past experience indicates there will be a large number) and instead choose to stay in an unsanctioned camp, what happens?
- As frequently pointed out to Comm Ryan’s office and all of city hall, unsanctioned campsites result in a rise in crime and safety issues in the neighborhoods they are located. There is no references to how crime and safety issues will be resolved.
- As frequently pointed out to Comm Ryan’s office and all of city hall, unsanctioned camps result in large build up of unsanitary trash including used needles and drug paraphernalia that goes uncollected posing severe risks to all. There is no references to how trash and drug paraphernalia issues will be resolved.
- As frequently pointed out to Comm Hardesty’s office, and all of city hall, unsanctioned camps result in severe fire risks from propane tanks and open fires mixed with heavy drug usage and tinder dry conditions throughout Portland. There is no references to how fire safety issues will be resolved.

2) Enforcement. The city has many existing codes, which many unsanctioned camps are breaking regularly yet the city does not act. What will be different with this amendment to the code.

- One could look at many camps across the city to find all the above. Laurelhurst Park is just one example where lawlessness rules, trash and used needles litter the park, streets and playground, and open fires and propane tanks are abundant. Despite the pleas of housed residents for 6 months, the situation has only deteriorated. This is despite the unsanctioned camp being in breach of Portland Park’s “no camping” rule, as well as PBOT’s “no camping / parking” signs (as well as many, many other breaches on a daily basis) - yet the city takes zero action. What will change with enforcement with this amendment?
- The city backed down from relocating the camp in March, due to Stop the Sweeps activists and the city’s desire to avoid bad optics, despite frequently admitting to housed residents how unsafe the camp is. Once this new amendment is in place, will the city suddenly act if another activist group shows up or will the status quo persevere.

It is great that you are making changes to amend city ordinances to improve the liveability of the unhoused, now it is time to listen to the voices from the housed and business owners and

make amendments that help to improve all of Portland's liveability. Please delay the vote until this can be done

Regards  
James Tunley

**From:** [P.B](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony; TERESA J.](#)  
**Subject:** Delay the Vote on Agenda Item #519  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 5:44:13 PM

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Re: Commissioner Ryan's Proposed Ordinance  
Comment: Please Delay vote to allow more Public Input.  
Testimony: See Below

To Whom It May Concern:

I ask that you PLEASE delay the vote on 519 and consider more public testimony. The whole neighborhood feels it is unsafe in the area now, and that the Ordinance proposed is not definitive enough to address many serious concerns.

Below are THREE incidents that occurred involving me and my property...in just the last two weeks. There have been many, many more in the last two years, too many to recount here.

---

June 27, 2021

Last Friday morning, June 25, at about 8:20 A.M., my friend Jim Loennig and I were in his car on our way to an appointment and decided to cut over to C.C. Blvd. (SE 39th) on SE Oak, from my place at 33rd & Pine.

When we passed SE 37th on Oak, we were astounded by how narrow the street became, due to vehicles, tents, and garbage piled high on the street. Ahead, we saw a guy who had set up one of the big Orange plastic "Caution" Cones in the MIDDLE of the street.

He had a big glass bottle set up on top of the cone, and was taking wild swings at it with a baseball bat. As we slowly approached, he didn't stop and wait for us to pass by, as we expected. Instead, he took a BIG swing at the bottle, and of course the glass SHATTERED and sprayed shards of glass all over Jim's car. Given the circumstances, we didn't bother to get out and ask for his insurance information to repair damage.

As we moved forward to get by, he looked at us with a scary, threatening look that said, "If you even DARE stop or say anything, I am going to TRASH your car with this bat," and

started swinging it wildly. This man was clearly disturbed and probably on Drugs.

It is VERY unsafe and unconscionable to allow someone like this to LIVE in an encampment in a neighborhood with many children and families walking and driving at all times of the day and night.

---

June 22, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to vociferously corroborate comments made about how NARROW SE Oak Street has become, and the danger this "encampment" poses to the public. Unfortunately, the camp has turned one of the primary access streets, Oak Street, into a GAUNTLET (rather than a street) for those simply trying use it.

Last night, at about 11:30 P.M., on June 21st, I was on my way home from the Stadium Fred Meyer going North on SE C.C. Blvd./39th Avenue. At Oak, I decided to cut over to my house at 267 SE 33rd Avenue. BAD decision! At that point, not having been through the Oak St. "encampment" for a few weeks, I was shocked to see that it had become more of a narrow "path" than a street.

As I slowly and carefully traversed this "path" (impeded by tents, vehicles on both sides and piles of garbage), I saw that up ahead there were several people standing in the middle of the street between two vehicles parked on either side of the street. The space between the vehicles was barely enough for a car to "squeeze" through, but with 4-5 people standing in the space between, passing through would be impossible unless they moved.

I sensed something was "up" and considered backing up to avoid whatever "it" was. But doing that for more than a LONG block-and-a-half along this "path" didn't seem like a good idea. So, I kept slowly moving forward until I came to the people, who were casually standing there talking, which they continued to do, while completely ignoring me.

After sitting there for a moment, with no indication they intended to move or even acknowledge my presence, I VERY lightly tapped on my horn. The result? It was like I'd



committed a Cardinal Sin. As if by design, a swarm of people suddenly came out of the woodwork and started slapping and pounding on my car.

Terrified, I had to quickly calculate my options. Since I was very close to the people blocking my path, I tried revving the engine loudly to scare them. Luckily, it worked and they jumped aside. Knowing this might be my only chance to escape, I stepped on the gas and drove out of there as fast as I could, while making sure I didn't hit anyone. I was totally convinced that if I stopped, it would have been the end of my car (as I knew it), and maybe even ME...!

As I drove I heard things hitting the car, and a 50ish guy with a bad limp carrying a baseball bat came out from the south side of Oak, but I was able to swerve to the right as he swung the bat at my car.

When I got home, I found dirt, handprints and a dent on the driver's side 1/4 panel next to the hood of my car, which definitely hadn't been there before. Even so, I felt VERY lucky to have escaped this mob from our "Friendly Neighborhood Encampment".

In retrospect, I believe they were "spoiling": for a confrontation, an opportunity to assert control and authority over "their" territory. The "Road Closed" sign, which appeared the next morning at SE C.C. Blvd. & Oak made PERFECT sense to me. Oak is THEIR street now...

---

June 10, 2021

To Whom it May Concern:

TJ,

After seeing the "Anonymous" message, and the ones about all the stolen Package Receipts in the Park, I want to report something that happened yesterday about 7:00 P.M. It may have something to do with all the LOST/STOLEN package receipts.

I was in my kitchen, cutting up some vegetables for I was cooking, when motion below the window caught my eye. ALAS, for the first time in 21 years, it was happening, I was watching an UNINVITED, and UNWELCOME person (hoodie black top, camouflage

pants hanging down far below his waist, dreadlocks past his shoulders, etc.) sauntering past the window.

This is at least 150 ft. onto my property and there was absolutely NO reason for this person to be back there. He was CLEARLY casing the place, and/or looking for something to steal. I watched him as he sidled up to my side door.

[NOTE: he had Nothing in his hands]

After he went out of sight, I headed for the side door to confront him. As I approached I could see through the window that he was looking down at an Amazon package, which must have just been delivered. In other words, he was not looking for the doorbell.

After making sure he didn't have a weapon in his hands, I threw open the door, and aggressively said, "what can I do for you?" He was startled, and started backing up, blurting out some BS story about how HE had just delivered the package, because someone had mistakenly delivered it next door, then to another house around the corner, but he and his friends had gone to get it for me and he was bringing it by...just crazy talk.

I stood there waiting as he kept backing up, making excuses, until he got to the head of the stairs by my garage. There he stopped, so I picked up the package and said, "I didn't know you were delivering the package." He mumbled some more, then went down the stairs, blabbering until he reached the sidewalk, where he stopped to gather himself.

Then, as he started walking west on SE Pine, he looked up, saw I was still watching, and let out this weird "giggle." It was like, "He he he, we both know I was trying to steal your property, but I got caught, tried to cover with ridiculous lies, but I'm so cute, and I'll steal you blind every chance I get."

This morning, my neighbor across the street told me he had seen the guy go up on my front porch and look through all the windows, then go around the side of my house out of his view.

He said it had looked really suspicious, so he was about to call me when he saw the guy coming down the stairs by my garage.

Clearly the people in the homeless camp are extending their reach and looking for "soft targets" further afield, deeper into the neighborhood. So, I expect exponential increases in

theft and vandalism as the initially-easy targets closer by have tightened up their defenses.

But what if I had not been home? At the very least, I would have lost the package. But this guy was CLEARLY on Drugs, so what else would he have done? Please, isn't there anything MORE we can do to protect ourselves?

Phil Bevans  
267 SE 33rd Avenue  
Portland, OR 97214

**From:** [Kyra Thompson](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Ordinance  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 6:00:54 PM

---

Now with attachments:

Dear Mayor, Commissioners and other governmental staff,

While the proposed ordinance may help some experiencing homelessness with help and support that they desperately need but it will make livability harder for many other Oregonians.

Please see comments below in red.

d. The Impact Reduction Program will de-prioritize the removal of low-impact encampments that are located:

1. At least 150 feet away from any public, private or parochial preschool, elementary or secondary school, other than a high school;
2. At least 150 feet away from a childcare facility or preschool recorded program as defined in ORS 329A.250;
3. At least 100 feet away from a high school; **Why not 150 feet for high schools? These are still minor children and should/need to be protected.**
4. Outside a designated environmental overlay zone, natural area, scenic overlay zone, or flood hazard area as adopted by the City;
5. Outside a wildfire hazard area as designated by the City and other government partners;
6. At least 50 feet away from the property lines of a developed park; **Parks should have the same designation as a school at least 150 feet. This is a place for those school children mentioned above to play with their friends and families. What about playgrounds?**
7. At least 10 feet away from the entrance to a residential structure unless said structure is a childcare facility or preschool recorded program as defined in directive d.2 above; and **Really??? Children and their families live in these residential properties as well as the elderly and other Portlanders. Take a look at attachment #1, this is taken outside homes that have children in residence. Please take it to 150 feet.**
8. At least 10 feet away from the primary entrance or emergency exit of any business or commercial property. **Do you want these businesses to thrive? Please give our local businesses a chance to recover from the pandemic. Please see attachment #2 & #3.**

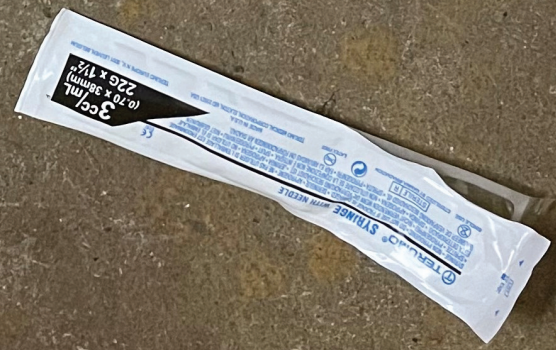
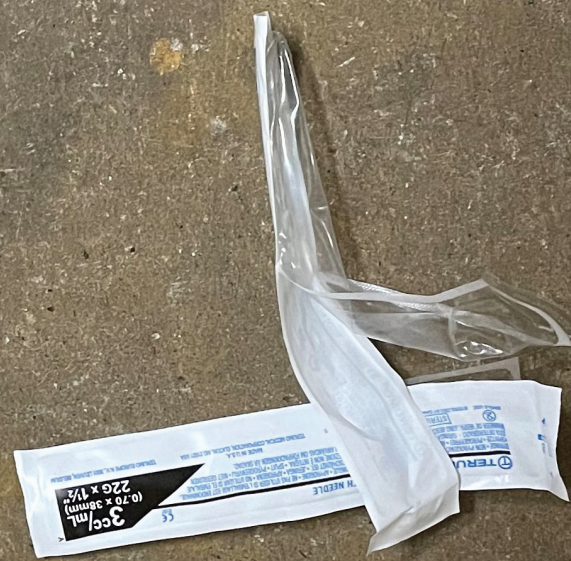
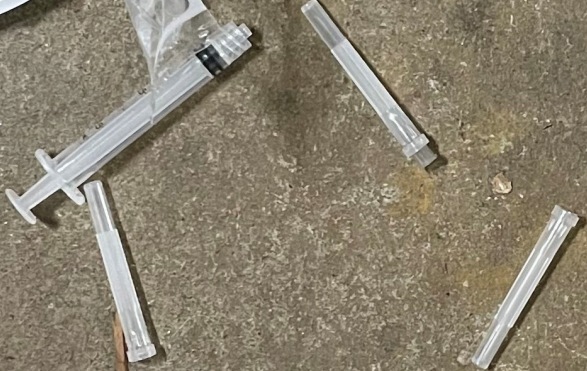
Please rethink these points that have comments in **RED**.

Sincerely,

Kyra Thompson/Taxpayer







**From:** [P.B](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony; TERESA J.](#)  
**Subject:** Delay the Vote on Agenda Item #519  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 5:44:13 PM

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Re: Commissioner Ryan's Proposed Ordinance  
Comment: Please Delay vote to allow more Public Input.  
Testimony: See Below

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Phil Bevans  
267 SE 33rd Avenue  
Portland, OR 97214

**From:** [mit@2dogtails.com](mailto:mit@2dogtails.com)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** In regards to ordinance item 519.  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 6:32:22 PM

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Commissioner Ryan,  
The dimensional the setbacks from your proposed village outline in item 519 to adjacent spaces/ uses needs much further consideration.  
150 feet set back is a good starting point anything less is laughable.  
As you and your staff search for sites a wider buffer is necessary.

The past year and a half the 80 feet from my house to the illegal camping on SE 37th and SE Oak has proven to be not enough. It is absolutely horrible, loud and depressing here in Portland on Se 37th Avenue.

Tim Clemen  
441 SE 37th Ave.  
97214

**From:** [Marisa Espinoza](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** written testimony for agenda item 519 for today's meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 30, 2021 7:39:45 AM  
**Attachments:** [NWPP written testimony council item 519 june 30 2021.pdf](#)

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Good morning,

Please find in the attached file Northwest Pilot Project's written testimony on Council Agenda Item 519 for the June 30, 2021 meeting.

Would you mind confirming that the file was received? Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your time!  
--Marisa

**Marisa Espinoza | Pronouns: she, her, hers**

How to pronounce: "mah-ree-sah." More here: <https://bit.ly/3A9jqsx>

**Public Policy Coordinator | Northwest Pilot Project | [nwpilotproject.org](http://nwpilotproject.org)**

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, NWPP's office is closed to the public until further notice.*

*Please visit our website or call 503-227-5605 for assistance and we will respond as quickly as possible.*



HOUSING SENIORS | CREATING HOPE | PILOTING CHANGE

Mayor Ted Wheeler and City Commissioners  
City of Portland  
Attn: Council Clerk  
1121 SW 4th Avenue, Room 130  
Portland, Oregon 97204

RE: Council Agenda Item 519

June 30, 2021

Dear Mayor and City Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Agenda Item 519 on behalf of Northwest Pilot Project, which provides housing stabilization and case management services to people aged 55 and older experiencing housing instability and homelessness in Multnomah County. We also work to end homelessness for low-income seniors, who are among the fastest growing segments of the unhoused population.<sup>1</sup>

As the Urban Institute reported last year, people experiencing unsheltered homelessness have “longer experiences of homelessness, greater likelihood of physical trauma, greater likelihood of living in an encampment, and less likelihood of engagement in services.”<sup>2</sup> These experiences have lasting effects on our seniors, who for over the past decade have faced increasingly long wait times to transition out of homelessness and into permanent housing. From our point of view, experiences of unsheltered homelessness among older adults often involve losses of both material possessions as well as less tangible resources such as social support from health providers and trusted friends and family. Risk factors such as social isolation, untreated health conditions, injuries, victimization, and criminal justice system involvement commonly result from such losses, and these can create significant barriers in housing access.

We truly appreciate the work of the Council and Commissioner Ryan to address the crisis of unsheltered homelessness in our city. We are especially grateful for the anticipated creation of Safe Rest Villages through American Rescue Plan Act funds. We know from decades of experience that short-term, survival-focused investments have an impact on long-term housing outcomes, and can reduce the preventable trauma, mortality risk, and potential barriers and health complications experienced by many of the households who seek housing assistance through service providers like NWPP.

However, in our review of the proposed ordinance to amend PCC 3.15.060.C.6, we have identified a number of concerns and questions about how this policy may actually lead to a substantial increase in removals of sites and encampments by HUCIRP. As a provider of emergency housing assistance to a drastically growing number of older adults experiencing homelessness, we know how necessary it is to reduce the health and social impact of campsite removals on the lives of vulnerable people living unsheltered, and how an encampment “sweep” can have life-threatening consequences, especially for older adults.

Our understanding of current HUCIRP policy and how it prioritizes sites and encampments for removal has been informed by conversations with staff and a review of the Risk Assessment Tool Cheat Sheet, which provided us with a better picture of the evaluation process that takes place and how encampments are prioritized for removal.

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<sup>1</sup> The Emerging Crisis of Aged Homelessness (2019), Dennis Culhane, PhD et al.  
<https://www.aisp.upenn.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Emerging-Crisis-of-Aged-Homelessness-1.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Unsheltered Homelessness: Trends, Characteristics, and Homeless Histories (2020) Urban Institute  
<https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/103301/unsheltered-homelessness.pdf>

From what we understand of current HUCIRP policy as well as the proposed ordinance, defining "low-impact" with lower distance thresholds than what is listed on the Risk Assessment Tool Cheat Sheet in certain categories, while also specifying distance thresholds for locations that are not currently named in the Risk Assessment, could result in sites or encampments that would otherwise be considered "medium impact" (not a formal category in the Risk Assessment, but based on their relative position on the Risk Assessment scale where points are calculated in accordance with degree) to be categorized as "high impact," thus increasing the number of sites that would now be at significantly greater risk of being removed than without these proposed amendments.

For example, in Section 1, item d.6 where the proposal states that HUCIRP will de-prioritize the removal of encampments that are at least 50 feet away from the property lines of a developed park, this would suggest that encampments less than 50 feet away from the property lines will land in the "high impact" category and thus be prioritized for removal. In comparing this to the Risk Assessment Tool Cheat Sheet, one immediately notices that current HUCIRP policy appears to only identify parks with playgrounds, while the proposed ordinance includes all developed parks. With regards to the scoring of the relevant category, "Proximity to school, park with playground, or private residence," we can see that only encampments that are literally on park property would receive the maximum of 5 points towards their total score. Those bordering playgrounds would receive 4 points, those within 500 feet of a playground would receive three, and so on until a site that is more than 1000 feet from a playground would receive 0 points.

In a similar example, items d.1 through d.3 state that HUCIRP will de-prioritize removal of encampments that are at least 100-150 feet away from schools and childcare facilities, depending on the facility type. Meanwhile, the Risk Assessment Tool prioritizes sites that are on or border school property, while sites within 500 feet of a school would receive 3 points in the evaluation.

Another significant example is item d.8, which states that HUCIRP will de-prioritize removal of encampments that are at least 10 feet away from the entrance or exit of any business or commercial property. In the Risk Assessment Tool, it appears that businesses and commercial properties are not named at all, though encampments in close proximity to these locations may still be prioritized through existing policy if they pose other environmental, health and safety, or accessibility risks. But this addition to identified locations in HUCIRP policy would suggest that the proposed ordinance will allow for removal of encampments near businesses that would otherwise not be prioritized or considered "high-impact."

Our concern is that within current HUCIRP policy, total points calculated within one category of the Risk Assessment do not automatically translate to prioritization for removal. Depending on how the proposed ordinance's change to procedure comports with this points system, we foresee these changes resulting in substantially increased removal of encampments. We have reached out to Commissioner Ryan's office to request additional evidence or information that could reassure us that this policy would not substantially increase campsite removals and we would be pleased to discuss this with staff in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, we believe it is necessary for Council to more carefully evaluate where this proposed ordinance as well as existing policy around encampment removal could promote negative health and social impacts on households experiencing unsheltered homelessness. The existing Risk Assessment Tool does not appear to have been updated recently and should be done promptly with the input of a broad set of stakeholders including people with lived experience of homelessness, service providers, and public health experts. There are many technical and logistical considerations for implementation of this tool and we are especially concerned about the potential for re-traumatization and perpetuation of racism and other systemic inequalities when sites are both evaluated and removed. We strongly urge the Council to evaluate where there may be unaddressed gaps in the system and process of removing encampments while ensuring that the health and safety of both housed and unhoused residents of our city are prioritized.

We truly appreciate the work of the Council to address the needs of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Marisa Espinoza  
Public Policy Coordinator, Northwest Pilot Project



**From:** [Terry S. Connolly](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 519 - June 30, 2021 Meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 30, 2021 8:07:15 AM  
**Attachments:** [Portland Ordinance - Paving the Pathway to Stability.docx](#)

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Please distribute the attached letter to the Mayor and Commissioners and include it in the record for today's City Council meeting.

Thank you.

June 30, 2021

Mayor Ted Wheeler and Portland City Commission  
1221 SW 4th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97204

**RE: Paving the Pathway from Streets to Stability**

Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners:

Good morning. My name is Jim Francesconi. I am here today to testify in **support** of the ordinance, **“Paving the Pathway from Streets to Stability”**.

As Commissioner Ryan stated in his Sunday Oregonian column, a value which I know you and most Portlanders share: “Housing is a human right, and houselessness is a humanitarian crisis. We must meet our unhoused neighbors where they are by creating managed villages that provide safety, sanitation, and case management services...”

Portland is at a critical moment when several converging crises are threatening our progressive values. Homelessness is the obvious crisis—we see it everywhere and every day, with associated trash and public health and safety issues. This confounds and frustrates neighbors, many of whom truly want to help but don’t know where to turn.

What we do not see is the violence perpetrated directly on individuals experiencing homelessness. Women are victimized and are often forced into sex trafficking. Veterans and other individuals kill themselves as a result of hopelessness, despair and underlying mental health issues. People of color, particularly those who are Black and/or Native American, are overrepresented. People suffering from alcohol, opioid, and other forms of addiction die from overdoses in their tents. Or from heat, or cold. In 2019, 119 human beings died on our streets because they did not have a safe place to live. And those were the ones we knew about.

Therefore, we have assembled a group of concerned citizens who want to do our part to help. Our goal is to help local governmental leaders alleviate the humanitarian crisis and direct human suffering facing our City and County.

To these ends, we have hired ECONorthwest and John Tapogna to conduct a cost and impact analysis of various alternative models based upon those intended to be served and for how long. We hope to have this work completed in approximately 30 days.

We are also working with service providers to understand the continuum of services needed to support people experiencing homelessness, and develop standards based on that information. Having measurable and meaningful goals will ensure that our investments in safer and healthier alternative shelter options are fully leveraged as part of a longer-term strategy to reduce the number of people living unsheltered and, ultimately, get people housed. The goal of these safe resting places must be to end the homelessness of the people who reside there, not simply their relocation.

On that note, we applaud Chair Kafoury's commitment to better integrate behavioral health support and case management into housing and homeless services, and we are working to support this effort as well. There is an important opportunity to align the work of "Streets to Stability" with the goals of the Supportive Housing Service's measure.

Finally, we know that this ordinance is only part of "Paving a Pathway from the Streets to Stability". We are hopeful that we are on the cusp of a comprehensive, integrated, and lasting strategy to reduce homelessness in our city, county, and region. Unprecedented federal, state, and voter approved local investments, continued leadership from the County, City, and focused public and private partnerships give us hope that we can treat the homeless and our neighborhoods with the respect and compassion that they deserve and that our residents demand. And that our progressive values will remain intact.

Thank you.

Jim Francesconi  
Moda Health

**City Council Meeting - Wednesday, June 30, 2021 9:30 a.m.**

<b>Agenda No</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Zip</b>
519.01	David	Tunley	97232
519.02	Marisa	Espinoza	97214
519.03	Peter	Parks	97217
519.04	Mimi	German	97203
519.05	Heather	Tayte	97227
519.06	Sabina	Urdes	97266
519.07	Chris	LeDoux	97215
519.08	TJ.	Browning	97214
519.09	Tim	McCormick	97219
519.10	Gill	Williams	97214
519.11	Fiona	Burgess	97239
519.12	Vivien	Lyon	97215
520.13	Benjamin	Donlon	97209
519.14	Bernard	de Livaudais	97205