

**From:** [J. Vacarella](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** End Homeless Camping on Portland Streets NOW!  
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Portland has tolerated and coddled the violent behavior perpetrated by many of the homeless / houseless community for too long.

It is not safe for children to walk past the homeless campers who are injecting / smoking heroin or methamphetamine and whose behavior oftentimes becomes erratic or violent after doing so.

It is not safe for elderly people to come in contact with homeless / houseless people who are injecting / smoking heroin or methamphetamine in their tents and encampments along sidewalks and streets.

It is apparent that illicit drug use that has now been decriminalized in Portland goes hand in hand with homelessness and that those who have fallen into this cycle of despair are unlikely to find their way out, if they are allowed to camp wherever they please, intimidating and preventing the functional citizens of Portland from making use of public right of ways.

Portland City Council must IMMEDIATELY institute an "EITHER / OR" option for homeless / houseless individuals, where they are required to go to a location sanctioned for their temporary housing or forced incarceration and drug treatment.

Since when have those who are down and out been given license to prevent the functional and hard working citizens and their families from enjoying the city and its amenities without concern for their public safety?

The lack of accountability on the part of the city government and lack of enforcement of existing city codes to prevent the homeless / houseless from occupying public right of ways has created a situation that is now untenable.

The homeless / houseless cannot be given free reign to destroy what was once a beautiful city. The existing city council has a responsibility to reconcile their failings and institute drastic measures to immediately remedy the dangerous and inequitable situation that they have allow to fester for the past 7 years.

-Joe Vacarella

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