

United House of Prayer For All People
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Apostle D. Thompson, Pastor 503-995-5336

BY: _____
NOV 03 2022
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To: Mayor Wheeler;

Recently I have heard of your idea to prohibit "camping" on public sidewalks. I am writing you this letter, because I believe you are arriving at the solution.

I moved to Portland in 1993 and discovered that it was a clean, modern, forward-thinking community. In 2008 I moved away, then was transferred back in 2016.

When I returned, however, I found that Portland was not the same city I fell in love with years ago. The homeless, which used to be called "vagrants", and which the Bible calls beggars, weren't a problem back then. Every great city has the poor..."The poor ye have with you always", Jesus said...but other cities are doing a much better job of containment.

I have been back six years, but I have already personally witnessed business owners cleaning up defecation deposited on their sidewalk; I have seen a homeless man shoving a needle in his arm, down by Union Station; and everyone can see the tents & trash bags springing up like mushrooms all over the city. My wife won't shop downtown because the homeless have free rein to sleep on public sidewalks, and even to pitch tents. Recently one of her co-workers at the V.A. Hospital returned from a trip to Florida, saying, "I didn't see any homeless at all!"...Well, there are homeless everywhere, but other cities are doing a much better job of containment.

It takes a determined mind, and a strong spirit to accomplish what needs to be accomplished.

I just pray that you will use your mind, spirit, and ability to energize Portland. This city can become a clean, modern, tourist-friendly city once again.

Minister of the Gospel,

Ap. D. Thompson
October 15, 2022