

From: [Hannah Rosenau](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Housing is a human right
Date: Saturday, November 12, 2022 9:53:39 AM

Hello City Council,

I'm writing in regards to the proposed budget for addressing housing for human beings in Portland. I am NOT in favor of the \$750,000 proposed for security. We don't need to continue to criminalize those with out housing, but rather ALL funds should go towards housing first. This money should be reallocated to rental assistance to keep people indoors now. Even more of the millions directed towards making the camps should be redirected into permanent housing solutions. It's disgusting to see a budget of millions with none going directly to people who have no shelter.

I send this knowing that the council no longer cares about the voice of the people- testimony and letters are just shouting into the void while you all continue to cozy up with big business & donors. I send this knowing you'll dismiss any feedback and will just continue to throw good money after bad. I send this knowing that community groups & neighbors are the ones doing the most help with the least resources.

-Hannah Rosenau

From: [Nikki Jauron](#)
To: [Clerk General](#)
Subject: Written testimony for Thursday at 2, (or whenever he passes that ***** resolution..)
Date: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 5:36:46 PM

I do not support this ordinance for a list of these reasons:

Homeless people will be subjected to gang violence within the homeless community.

This is not an aesthetic that Portland should be promoting.

This places Portland at the whimsy of the rental and housing industry.

In the event of major crisis the homeless will be affected adversely.

Humans do better in temperature regulated settings.

Running water should not be a luxury.

This creates more stigma.

We are the greatest country in the world and caste systems are terrible.

Rainwater now contains forever chemicals and is a poison.

This is a United Nations violation of multiple human rights.

This decision is unconstitutional.

Housing is a necessity when it comes to stabilizing the economy and helping people get jobs.

Animals in our community are treated better than homeless Portlanders.

Being homeless affects mental health adversely.

Living outside is extremely difficult.

Our tax dollars are about to be squandered.

Tent cities will promote and exacerbates preventable disease.

This serves as a terrible leadership example for our children.

Climate change there is no way to tell what is going to happen with the weather patterns.

Breathing in wildfire smoke is going to affect people's health.

People need privacy.

Portland will be subjected to more lawsuits and more crime.

This is not acceptable.

Being unhoused is a death sentence.

Being homeless is a barrier to services.

Many crisis lines are only open Monday through Friday 9 to 5.

This will become a strain on our healthcare systems.

Many humans already treat other people worse than we want to believe.

27 million dollars for concentration camps.

This is not an investment this is not even a band-aid.

This current body of leaders has had over a year to do better and they haven't.

Humanitarians all over the world are embarrassed for us.

Rich people use homeless people as a reason to complain.

Future investors will not be looking at Portland for anything but laughs.

From: [annie](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: fall BMP
Date: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 8:49:44 PM

I am opposed to the mayor's hateful (and probably illegal) plan to create mass encampments for unhoused people while criminalizing homelessness.

We should not be spending \$27 million for mass encampments. That money should be spent on services to get people out of homelessness and other housing options: hotel conversions, master leasing, short and longterm rent assistance, new public subsidies of affordable developments and tiny home villages.

People should have a CHOICE in where and how they live. People should have agency. They should not be treated like children, or animals. All homeless people are unique and need unique solutions. They need need dignity and sustainability.

Do not approve \$27 million for the mayor's plan.

annie capestany

97202

From: [Jenna Goldin](#)
To: [Clerk General](#)
Subject: 11/17/22 2pm Testimony - Item 979
Date: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 7:39:32 AM

My name is Jenna Goldin
Zip Code 97220
Written Testimony regarding Agenda Item 979
Ethnicity - White

History is repeating itself in Portland.

I remember in Fall 2021, when Wheeler's Fall BMP included \$44 million "To Address Homelessness"? How much of that actually went to housing? \$0. What we have seen is sweeps increase 5-fold, thereby making our unhoused neighbors even more vulnerable due to constant shuffling, loss of community and belongings. All the while JOHS supply distribution has been more than cut in half.

The current "Mass Encampment" proposal is inhumane and not cost effective.

The facts show that the main driver of homelessness is housing affordability. If we know this to be true, then why have the last 2 Fall BMP budgets not included any money for actual rental assistance, hotel conversions, etc?

We also know that criminalization has public costs. Paying to house people is less expensive than paying to incarcerate people. Also, if folks have limited rental history and a police record that is generated from this "mass encampment" plan, then there are even more barriers to getting housing in the future, thereby leading to chronic homelessness.

The proposed camps are simply too big to provide adequate resources. Our city has seen success with self-governed camps (C3PO) that provide supportive services, but these camps are significantly smaller, 20-30 people, provide quality services, and are often self-governed.

These camps are NOT cost effective. It's been done already. Example from Los Angeles: large encampment cost over \$2,600 per month per tent site.⁷ \$2,600 could pay a household's rent in warmer, more permanent housing.

My other major concern is the \$750,000 towards "Private Security" and the 24/7 hotline. Knowing the City of Portland and the history of gentrification, it's not hard to imagine that the encampments will end up in less affluent neighborhoods, likely on the outskirts of the City. This would mean that there would be private security patrolling residential areas and essentially policing unhoused folks in the camps as well as the general vicinity. Private security/police are not safe for low income folks, let alone folks with disabilities, People of Color, etc. Then, you add to it the 24/7 hotline, encouraging neighbors to call security on each other and the camp residents. It's all moving us towards a police state and incredibly concerning.

What would be a better way to spend the funds?

Invest in:

- Community-based organizations in the city
- Hotel/motel conversions
- Landlord incentive programs like Move In Multnomah
 - In just 4 months, 214 homes paid for to move people from homelessness to housing through Move In Multnomah program
- Long term rent assistance programs, like Regional Long-term Rent Assistance (RLRA)
 - 260 people in Multnomah County received permanent housing with this program in a year
- Tiny home villages, like Dignity Village, a community that has thrived for over 20 years in Portland
- Support creation of a new regional revenue stream dedicated to construction and preservation of affordable housing that is affordable to people living on 0-30% AMI.

It's been a year since the last Fall BMP of \$44 million to "Address Homelessness" and the problem has only gotten worse. Why not be creative and come up with new solutions based on real data and experience? If the **goal is to end homelessness** then money needs to be spent on housing, as well as wraparound services.

Squandering this money on harmful encampments just means low income renters and chronically houseless folks will be competing for very few units whose number of units could be significantly expanded if the 27 million went to supporting the very lowest income tier in keeping and attaining housing.

From: [Emily](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Written Testimony for 11/17/22 2pm Portland City Council Meeting - Housing is a Human Right
Date: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 9:09:56 AM

Dear Mayor Ted Wheeler and City Commissioners,

Did Fall 2021's \$44 million "To Address Homelessness" go to actually housing the unhoused? No. We are repeating the same cycle for Fall 2022's BMP budget with \$0 towards housing and a measly \$150,000 to "research" potential properties for affordable housing developments.

While the City continues to fund violent sweeps of our unhoused neighbors. While the City voted for forced criminalization of the unhoused with a camping ban. And now the City has approved a plan to intern unhoused community members in massive camps and use private security to monitor and control our unhoused neighbors.

These are not solutions. This is systemic injustice funded by our tax dollars.

We don't need \$27 million going to financing the creation of 250-person encampments and the enforcement of a city-wide camping ban. We need to fund housing. Housing is the answer to homelessness. Housing is a human right. And housing FIRST is the only sustainable solution.

We need investments in: hotel conversions, short and long-term rent assistance, new public subsidy of affordable developments, and tiny home villages. We need to fund housing programs like "Move-In Multnomah." And ultimately we need social housing as a complement to affordable housing strategies at the city and state level.

Housing is a human right and we as a City need to fund low barrier permanent housing for our unhoused neighbors. Not massive camps, not private security, and not traumatizing sweeps. It's time for us to put people first and fund housing for the unhoused.

With Urgency,
Emily Lofquist - Portland Resident & Community Member

From: [Rose Lewis](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony for 11/17 meeting
Date: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 10:19:19 AM

Mr. Mayor and esteemed City Commissioners,

Whenever the city proposes spending to combat homelessness, I like to divide that spending package by average rent for a one-bedroom apartment to see how far the money could go if applied directly to the root of the problem: the simple fact that housing is too expensive for most Portlanders. In this case, the proposed BMP spending as a "down payment" on an encampment with none of the features of a home could house 1,500 people for an entire year. Of course, many of the people currently unhoused would not be well suited to a one-bedroom apartment: they may have families or pets and want more space and more stability than a rental situation might provide. Luckily, the proposed down payment on the camp could furnish actual down payments for 270 families to purchase average market-rate homes. If the city preferred to purchase homes outright, thereby not burdening people with a mortgage, this proposed "down payment" on the mass encampment could purchase 54 houses in cash.

I say all of this to provide the council and the public with a really concrete idea of the amount of money that is being proposed for a system that flatly will not solve our housing crisis. People who choose to use the proposed mass camps will still be homeless, and people who don't choose to use the proposed camps will be subject to criminal penalties and harassment by a police bureau that is willfully noncompliant with a federal settlement intended to curb the bureau's inhumane and unlawful treatment of the disabled.

I suggest members of council familiarize themselves with the reasons people have given for their refusal of existing services, and then see how many of those reasons are baked-in parts of the mass camp proposal: lack of privacy, insulting and excessive surveillance, threats of criminalization, and inadequate resources for people suffering from substance use disorder. I agree heartily that camping on the streets and in dangerous areas is not a solution to our housing crisis, but mass internment camps with no legal alternative aren't solutions either. I commend council for their commitment to build more units of affordable housing, a goal we are already failing to meet, and I wonder whether this money could accelerate that process rather than being wasted on a non-solution that will exacerbate the problem.

I am especially hesitant to divert this funding away from areas of urgent need, such as replacing the faulty electrical system at the Justice Center. I congratulate Budget Director Kinard for locating an area where funding could be easily repurposed: the \$3.7 million the police bureau has failed to spend. Even that amount of money, if spent appropriately, could house 205 people in market rate apartments for an entire year. Do that instead.

Thank you for your time.
Rosalind Lewis
Homeowner
97214

From: [Ada Dortch](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Impact NW testimony
Date: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 12:05:08 PM
Attachments: [Impact NW submitted testimony - Mayor 27M budget .docx](#)

On behalf of Impact NW, please find attached our written testimony in response to Mayor Wheeler's plan to request \$27M from the Fall Budget Monitoring Process (BMP).

Thank you,

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Ada Dortch

Director of Development and Advocacy

P: 503-804-0914

E: adortch@impactnw.org

She/her/hers

****Make Your Impact***

Impact NW's written testimony in response to Mayor Wheeler's plan to request \$27M from the Fall Budget Monitoring Process (BMP)

On behalf of Impact NW, we are submitting written testimony to the City Council in response to the Mayor's plan to request \$27M from the BMP to fund recently passed resolutions, including the creation of mass encampments and enforcement of a city wide camping ban.

Impact NW is a non-profit in the Portland area dedicated to preventing homelessness. We work with over 22,000 people each year to find and maintain safe and stable housing. Our 160+ staff do the hard work of realizing our mission; connecting with the most vulnerable people in the community; and the hard work of navigating a system so that they can either find housing or stay housed, so they don't end up in tents. We do this on a much smaller budget than the Mayor's proposed budget for encampments. Therefore, we ask that you listen and take advice from our experience and expertise in this area.

We believe that there are more feasible, cost effective and humane solutions to addressing the homelessness crisis. These are outlined in [Impact NW's Homelessness Prevention Strategy](#). We call for a housing-first approach to addressing the homelessness crisis and a budget that prioritizes housing. We believe that solutions that you invest in should be trauma-informed, human centered, and reflect the desires of the people who are experiencing homeless or housing insecurity.

Impact NW asks that strategies and funds better align with a housing-first approach such as accessing empty apartments, offering vouchers, master leasing, and access to low-barrier shelters. We do not agree with stigmatizing and penalizing people for sleeping outdoors, especially when there isn't an adequate system for getting people safely housed indoors.

From: [Madison Mordaunt](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: 979 Written Testimony
Date: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 1:15:20 PM

To the city council,

Having voted for every tax increase to help solve the housing crisis I am angered that my money is being used to criminalize houselessness rather than provide housing for people. I continue to be shocked and appalled at the use of funding to terrorize one of the most disenfranchised groups of people.

Furthermore, the proposal to construct mass fenced-in encampments with no safe-use sites or the ability to cook food while also not providing enough meals per day is absolutely ignorant of real and valid needs. It reeks of concentration and internment camps, which is abhorrent to even consider.

I urge you to reconsider the purpose of these funds and truly exhaust every avenue that provides housing to people. Please, use these funds to provide housing. Only providing housing will fix the housing crisis.

Thank you,

--

Madison Mordaunt

Finance - Teacher - Artist

Pronouns: They/She/He

Acknowledging that I live and work on stolen land of the Cowlitz, Clackamas, and Molalla indigenous tribes.

From: [Katie Knutsen](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Written testimony for agenda item 979
Date: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 8:28:48 PM

Please present my written testimony for the Portland City Council meeting on 11/17:

With regard to the spending plan for the \$27 million from the BMP I urge the city council to allocate funds to strategies that address root causes of homelessness in this city rather than throw money at a large encampments that would criminalize homelessness and only continue the cycle of poverty, homelessness, involvement in the justice system, and recidivism that has fueled the housing and substance use crisis we're now in.

Please, please, please consider using the funds for promising and evidenced based strategies that help people out of poverty, substance use, and homelessness, such as:

- long term rent assistance programs
- community based organizations in the city
- low barrier recovery/treatment housing
- landlord incentive programs
- tiny home villages (like dignity village)
- creation of a new and sustainable revenue stream dedicated to construction and preservation of affordable housing for those who live on 0-30% AMI

Forcing our community members living without housing out of or into certain spaces without addressing the root causes of how they got there in the first place is not even a band aid to the problem. Please spend this \$27 million wisely.

Thank you,
Katie Knutsen

From: [Nicole](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 979 - Public Testimony
Date: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 8:56:29 PM

To Portland City Council and My Fellow Community Members,

Regarding Agenda Item 979, I join in chorus with the throngs of other concerned members of the public when I express umbrage that The City plans to use millions of dollars to offer subpar and offensive solutions to housing Portlanders. Portland *icon* Mac Smiff pointedly called out that spending 27 million dollars to keep homeless people outside is a "scam, bro" and I will add that the current plan and budget are major failures of City leadership. Portland Community Organizations (including the Welcome Home Coalition and Shift Accounting) are calling for better ideas and are offering practical, local solutions that should be adopted. I believe that the ideas set forth by local community organizations must be prioritized over the investment in outdoor camps, which in my opinion sound like they would be rivaling the US border camps so many rightfully deplored.

For your immediate consideration are the following:

- Hotel/Motel Conversions
- Landlord incentive programs like Move In Multnomah
- Long term rent assistance like Regional Long-Term Rent Assistance (RLRA)
- Tiny Home Villages like Dignity Village
- Affordable Housing for people making 0-30% Annual Median Income

DON'T CRIMINALIZE POVERTY, YOU SCROOGES!

Sincerely
Nicole Mercier, SE Portland

w a k e a s l e e p i n g d r u i d

From: [Jessi Presley-Grusin](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Item 979
Date: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 9:57:37 PM

To whom it may concern,

As a resident of Portland I strongly oppose the budget being proposed in order to pay for what is essentially an act of criminalizing poverty in general and houselessness in particular. It is an ineffective and unrealistic plan, and paying for it is a waste of our money. If you want to see fewer people living on our streets you should implement solutions that make housing a priority and have already been proven to work.

Things such as:

- Community-based organizations in the city
- Hotel/motel conversions
- Landlord incentive programs like Move In Multnomah
- Long term rent assistance programs, like Regional Long-term Rent Assistance (RLRA)
- Tiny home villages, like Dignity Village, a community that has thrived for over 20 years in Portland
- The creation of a new regional revenue stream dedicated to construction and preservation of affordable housing that is affordable to people living on 0-30% AMI.

I am asking that you stop and reconsider how this plan of action will not only further dehumanize some of our most vulnerable community members, but also represent a massive misuse of funds.

Sincerely,
Jessi Presley-Grusin

From: [Jay Monk](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Responding to agenda item 979
Date: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 10:03:12 PM

Hi, I want to submit comment on the Portland City Council. I am responding to news content I read on The Oregonian <https://oregonlive.com/portland/2022/11/portland-to-vote-on-initial-millions-for-new-homelessness-plan.html> and social media content from Shift Accounting, LLC.

I believe that affordable housing first should be the solution that Portland pursues to help people get off the streets. I have heard feedback from peers that mass encampments like the city plans to build will increase crime suffered by the most vulnerable people, houseless folks forced to live there. The plan by Mayor Ted Wheeler segregates people based on their socioeconomic and housed status. Banning unsanctioned camping and forcing people into sanctioned encampments will create ghettos within Portland. This is not good leadership for a City that has declared itself a sanctuary city.

I ask that City Council reject the plan by Mayor Wheeler and consider alternatives that are centered on the voices and needs of people needing the service. The Mayor and City council needs to be mindful of their responsibility to serve all the people of Portland.

Jay

From: [tabitha montelle](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Item #979
Date: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 10:25:48 PM

To whom it may concern,

We must solve the crisis of houseless in Oregon, doing sweeps solves nothing and often creates a much worse problem. People who are already stressed and emotionally strained upon losing their place over and over. Not to mention their support animals and often their tents and sleeping bags. That leads to minds that become numb, leads to people not caring anymore not trusting, fighting to survive. We must solve this problem, we must look at the empty places we have currently. Create a space these houseless individuals can be rehabilitated back into society. A place they can earn their bed, give them a job. They can be jobs like help cook, clean, serve, paint or do maintenance. A good majority of these people have good skills and worked hard before falling on hard times. Look into old hotels that can be converted, landlord incentives, or rent assistance programs. There has got to be a better way. Putting people in a designated camp for losing their job, or home and having to sleep in the streets is NOT solving the problem it's criminalizing it. It isn't always their fault, circumstances aren't always what they seem. These people are family, friends, loved ones and have become family to me as well!

I do what I can, I give what I can, it's time we solve this problem! In the words of Shigeo Shingo "Get to the root cause, solve the problem" If we keep throwing band-aids on this balloon it eventually will pop.

Please, these are lives, real people, like Heather, Billy, Anthony and Sonia. They need our help, you can do that. They are in need of compassion and human kindness, they need to be seen, their souls, their minds. Each person I help serve would gladly help in anyway they could if it meant getting off the street. Please I beg you - see them as humans and help them. Put that money where it will help solve the problem. Do NOT let Oregon be known as inhumane, we must help those who are struggling.

Thank you for your time

Alice Tubbs

From: dcoheninfo@comcast.net
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony to Council for 11/17/22
Date: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 11:34:36 PM

I sent this to Skyler after the meeting today with her and Sam Adams:

Hello Skyler,

I appreciated the meeting today. However, I continue to have grave reservations about the plan for the camps. The one thing I would consider as having the possibility of altering my opinion would be to know of other successful similar projects. That is why I asked for this type of information in the Chat today.

As you recommended, I just reviewed [albeit quickly] all the Footnotes to the pertinent Resolution seeking references to similar programs. I found a total of one, Medford's Urban Campground <https://www.rogueretreat.org/housing-shelter/> and <https://www.ijpr.org/poverty-and-homelessness/2022-06-16/medford-city-council-to-vote-on-land-purchase-to-relocate-urban-campground> Intended for up to 150, it only started less than a year ago, and its success rate is 33%.

All other references I saw were for either large RV parks - which I am comfortable with, or much smaller "village"-type housing - also which I am comfortable with.

I can't stress to you how crucial I think it is for the city to be able to show that its plan has a basis in proven practices/research and that experts in the field of housing for the houseless support the plan. All the verbal statements that you folks have visited, talked, seen such models are pretty much meaningless - especially when we hear from providers in Portland that the plan is inadequate at best, inhumane at worst. And, until I see such evidence as you say exists I cannot support the plan.

I am an unofficial "housing advocate", and also the Chair of the Housing Interest Group of the PDX Chapter of the League of Women Voters. Our group will be looking at this Resolution [in fact, we meet on Monday]. Right now I have nothing objective to show them that supports this being a rational, productive approach. Anything you can provide me along those lines I am happy to share with the group. Again, I am looking for models of successful, large [over 100], tent encampments and/or research that supports the idea that this vision works.

Not everyone who is houseless needs supportive services, too. If you have not yet looked at the work of Greg Colburn from UW, I encourage you to do so [Homelessness is a Housing Problem <https://homelessnesshousingproblem.com/> also, early in this webinar https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=el_v-o--6G8&t=1099s]. Colburn shows that for any two cities with the same amount of people with substance abuse, mental health problems, same social service options, level of poverty, in-migration, weather - virtually along any scale that we tend to ascribe as "reasons" for homelessness, the ONLY factor that correlates with more homelessness is lack of housing capacity. More housing = less homelessness; period.

The focus should primarily be on quickly establishing permanent housing - or at least semi-permanent. Housing with a door that locks! More villages, more Emerald Villages, etc. I truly believe that if we took 80% of our resources and put them to physical structures we would find that we could house far more people and the need for support services would diminish greatly as the capacity for housing increases.

As this wonderful 4-min video about housing a vet shows [Homeless Veteran Gets an Apartment: HOUSING FIRST WORKS https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SizHuR225Co&list=PL2dydN2nCanbZ_G-V9tlwBxx0MiqUwVr6&index=6]:

"People have a functional ability that is quite separate from their diagnosis. You can believe that the government is after you or that people are flying in from outer space and they're going to take over the planet...and you can still go shopping and all of that." In other words, housing itself has the ability to diminish other issues.

Housing - that is decent, self-respecting, private - for most people will do wonders. MOST of our efforts should be going to this, for it will: diminish the need for other expenses, reap more success for the individuals involved, and permanently solve the "homeless" issue.

As of now, with no other data to contradict me, I think the only things that creating large tent encampments will accomplish are: to temporarily hide homeless folks from the view of our "good citizens" pushing for this solution, create far more mental illness/substance abuse/god knows what else among many living in the encampments, and ultimately the experiment will fail and we will have people back on the street [or in jail] far more resistant to "solutions" that the city may want to offer them.

Show us - the citizens of Portland - the evidence of similar programs that work. Show us the experts on houseless folks who support this idea. Show us houseless folks who support it. Do a presentation with all of this.

THEN, I'll support it, too.

Donna L Cohen, MLIS, MEd
Portland, Oregon

From: [Doug Martin](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony item 979
Date: Thursday, November 17, 2022 7:40:01 AM

To the court,

I'm writing to urge a different path towards controlling houselessness.

To a lot of folks living on the streets shelters do not provide refuge, they provide yet another fear, especially for vulnerable populations. This is more of a reason to live on the streets. I don't like seeing the camps and trash and needles anymore than the next person but we have to address the underlying causes not just the bandaid to appease and quickly sweep this population under the rug, kicking the can.

Access to mental health services and medication should be easier and use some of this funding to pay for it.

Making living on the streets illegal and then forcing people to either be criminalized, forced to sacrifice their health and safety in a shelter, or be lucky enough to somehow land one of the 450 spaces this funding will *eventually* provide is inhumane.

What about rent assistance? What about programs subsidizing landlords who rent to this population? What about converting empty buildings? What about providing real services to address the root causes of homelessness like out of control costs of living including rent and homeownership that is exceedingly out of reach for lower-middle class? Inflation and high rises are further impacting this.

Please reconsider the use of these funds towards programs that'll actually help this population rather than condemning them for the systems that are out of their control.

Thank you,

Doug Martin, a concerned Portland citizen

From: [Ada Dortch](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Impact NW testimony -Nov 16-17 agenda item 979
Date: Thursday, November 17, 2022 9:58:01 AM
Attachments: [Impact NW submitted testimony - Mayor 27M budget .docx](#)

On behalf of Impact NW, please find attached our written testimony in response to Mayor Wheeler's plan to request \$27M from the Fall Budget Monitoring Process (BMP). Item 979 on the November 16-17, 2022 Council Agenda.

Thank you,

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Ada Dortch

Director of Development and Advocacy

P: 503-804-0914

E: adortch@impactnw.org

She/her/hers

****[Make Your Impact](#)***

Impact NW's written testimony in response to Mayor Wheeler's plan to request \$27M from the Fall Budget Monitoring Process (BMP)

On behalf of Impact NW, we are submitting written testimony to the City Council in response to the Mayor's plan to request \$27M from the BMP to fund recently passed resolutions, including the creation of mass encampments and enforcement of a city wide camping ban.

Impact NW is a non-profit in the Portland area dedicated to preventing homelessness. We work with over 22,000 people each year to find and maintain safe and stable housing. Our 160+ staff do the hard work of realizing our mission; connecting with the most vulnerable people in the community; and the hard work of navigating a system so that they can either find housing or stay housed, so they don't end up in tents. We do this on a much smaller budget than the Mayor's proposed budget for encampments. Therefore, we ask that you listen and take advice from our experience and expertise in this area.

We believe that there are more feasible, cost effective and humane solutions to addressing the homelessness crisis. These are outlined in [Impact NW's Homelessness Prevention Strategy](#). We call for a housing-first approach to addressing the homelessness crisis and a budget that prioritizes housing. We believe that solutions that you invest in should be trauma-informed, human centered, and reflect the desires of the people who are experiencing homeless or housing insecurity.

Impact NW asks that strategies and funds better align with a housing-first approach such as accessing empty apartments, offering vouchers, master leasing, and access to low-barrier shelters. We do not agree with stigmatizing and penalizing people for sleeping outdoors, especially when there isn't an adequate system for getting people safely housed indoors.

From: [Mark Beck](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony on Agenda item 979, 11/17
Date: Thursday, November 17, 2022 10:05:49 AM

I am apposed to budgeting \$27M for homeless camps. Better uses for this money that might actually help the homeless are:

- Move in Multnomah, or similar landlord incentive programs
- Regional Long-term Rent Assistance (RLRA) , or similar long-term rental assistance programs
- Tiny home villages, such as Dignity Village

Thank you,

Mark Beck

5325 SE Cesar Chavez Blvd.

Portland, 97202

From: [Meg Langford](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Written testimony on Agenda 979
Date: Thursday, November 17, 2022 10:51:54 AM

Commissioners and Mayor:

The Fall Budget Monitoring Process is supposed to be used to make small budget adjustments, not big reallocations of funds used for grandstanding political aims. Many have pointed out the hypocrisy in bringing forth an absurdly costly proposal of dramatic political consequence in Fall 2022, when in 2020, fellow commissioners told Commissioner Hardesty that she was "introducing radical change" when she suggested reallocating funds from PPB to community care and need. That fact should be pointed out for the record.

There is a dire need to address the vast backlog of city maintenance projects, which of course ACTUALLY affects public safety, and funds should rightly be allocated to those.

It is my informed opinion as a constituent that the commissioners behind the proposal in Agenda 979 created the demand for this solution by endlessly droning on about how terrible things are in Portland, basically dumping on the city they're supposed to love and represent, and encouraging local media to lie to voters by connecting visible poverty with crime and ignoring the reality that we just lived through an unprecedented crisis and that the effects are visible ACROSS THE US. They then conveniently had this solution ready to go for their invented description of the issue.

There are myriad ways to support our unhoused neighbors and get them housed, many of which have been clearly communicated and shared by the agencies who actually work on the complex issues of housing. This ain't it. As far as I can tell, this is a way to divert public funds to private entities with a proven record of wrongdoing and, frankly, incompetence. Nothing will change for the undertaxed purse-clutchers driving their Teslas past people living in inadequate shelter, but everything even the tiniest shred of dignity and life, can change for the people you are choosing to punish and victimize.

To Commissioner Hardesty: Thank you for being the only honest and public service minded commissioner. I am sorry that you were sold down the river by a truly cynical group of self-interested nitwits. To the rest of you: 2024 can't come fast enough. I truly hope we will see you tied up in court until then.

Meg Langford, constituent and Portland voter since 2005
Buckman neighborhood

From: [Kim McCarty](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Council Agenda Item 979
Date: Thursday, November 17, 2022 11:49:46 AM

Honorable Mayor Ted Wheeler
City Commissioners
City Hall, 1221 SW 4th Ave.
Portland, OR, 97204

Re: City Council Agenda Item 979

Dear Mayor Wheeler, Commissioner Ryan, Commissioner Hardesty, Commissioner Mapps, and Commissioner Rubio:

This morning I learned Commissioner Dan Ryan and the entire City Council will direct the Portland Housing Bureau to refrain from advancing \$7 million of funds currently allocated in this year's budget for the Joint Office of Homeless Services unless and until the County Commission approves an additional allocation of at least \$15 million towards emergency rental assistance and eviction legal defense financial assistance. I am shocked that after the Commissioners listened to approximately 7 hours of public testimony about how a more compassionate and implementable approach including homelessness providers is needed, instead we are now hearing strong-arm strategies. We wonder why the City made a public announcement to withhold money from the Joint Office of Homeless Services jointly financed and controlled by the City and the County. What has happened to communication between these jurisdictions?

CAT has been vocally advocating for the City to work closely with the homeless housing providers, the Joint Office of Homeless Services, and the County to design the best approach to the obvious crisis of homelessness in our city. The State has made it clear that without adequate housing, arresting someone for sleeping on the street or in a tent violates the civil liberties of Oregonians. This plan to create huge, policed tent-cities that homeless people are compelled to use violates respect for civil liberties.

CAT recently had the opportunity to hear directly from the Commissioner's Office; they understood we are entering a housing crisis of new proportions of homelessness driven by evictions with deep disparities for communities of color. We asked that more homelessness providers be consulted about the right approach to address increasing homelessness. CAT told the Commissioners Office that emergency rental assistance paired with eviction protections was in our opinion a critical use of City Resources for this anticipated next wave of homelessness when landlords are allowed to increase rents to 14.6 % this January. Some have argued that many landlords will not increase rents, but notices have been received and even if not all renters get a rent increase the equivalent of an eviction notice, our safety net system is in no way prepared for even a few more people without a roof over their heads.

Thank you for considering my comments on the very important task that you have of ensuring housing for everyone.

Sincerely,

Kim

Kim McCarty, Executive Director (She | Her)
Community Alliance of Tenants

Address: 1320 NE 63rd Ave. Portland, OR 97213

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 11176, Portland, OR 97211

Cell phone - 503.780.3771

Renters Rights Hotline - 503.288.0130

| www.oregoncat.org



If you receive an eviction notice contact the [eviction defense project](#) at 888-585-9638 or fill out the [web form](#). **Rent assistance** may be available through community action agencies for a limited time only. [Seek options here](#).

Land Acknowledgement: We acknowledge that we are on the occupied homeland of indigenous communities in Oregon. Today, there are 9 “federally recognized” tribes in the state of Oregon. But before settlers came to take the land here in Oregon, there were more than 60 tribes in this area. We also recognize and honor the strength, resilience and capacity of indigenous people in our region. Land is not just merely the space that our bodies occupy; it is a vault of culture, story, art, history, and tradition. We say this acknowledgement to show respect and as a recognition of the truth.

From: [Jennifer Parrish Taylor](#)
To: [Clerk General](#)
Subject: ULPDX Written Testimony: Amend the FY 2022-23 Revised Budget and make other budget-related changes (amend Ordinance 191050)
Date: Thursday, November 17, 2022 12:46:49 PM
Attachments: [ULPDX Written Testimony - Amend the FY 2022-23 Revised Budget and make other budget-related changes \(amend Ordinance 191050\).pdf](#)

My name is Jennifer Parrish Taylor, and I am the Director of Advocacy and Public Policy for the Urban League of Portland. I am writing testimony regarding Mayor Wheeler's five-point-plan from a few weeks ago and the Fall Budget Monitoring Process revisions proposal to fund the large-scale camps.

We have concerns about the revised proposed budget the city has published concerning the mass camps that were approved prior. In a November 8th County briefing on Emergency Rent Assistance Program and evictions prevention, it was revealed that there currently exists a \$15 million dollar gap in funding and that the city is threatening to withhold back an additional \$8 million dollars in operating funds for the Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) if they do not redirect money from their budget to fund the city's proposed camps. It is deeply troubling that politics and strong-arm tactics look to be at play. Our communities deserve and demand better.

Also, we have questions as to why the city is allocating \$3.5 million to create its own city outreach team. First, the proposed amount is an entirely insufficient for a team of 50 people as it does not account for the supplies, management, etc., that is required to run such a team. For comparison, the City's Homelessness and Urban Camping Impact Reduction Program (HUCIRP) requested \$5,552,541 for the fiscal year 2022-2023, to support 5 full time employees and provide garbage removal, hygiene access, resource referral and job opportunities, and remove campsites that pose the highest risk to health and safety. This is a small team with big tasks, we do not see how \$3.5 million will support the work of a 50-person team. Also, how has this outreach plan included the feedback of community? Second, an existing outreach system of providers with frontline experience already exists. How is the city planning to engage with these existing teams? At the county level, we know, that on average they do a better job of making the connection between their antipoverty work with their overall work to reduce homelessness; for the city to operate as if they are unrelated demonstrates a lack of understanding.

Currently, the Portland Housing Bureau is developing affordable housing under the Portland Housing Bond. Through this bond, there are 15 properties that are in predevelopment, construction, or open; out of the 15 properties, only 5 are open. The cost to develop these properties ranges from \$14,383,900 - \$47,000,000 with a total of 612 regulated affordable housing units which include 53 permanent supportive housing units. The Portland Housing Bond shows that with proper planning, affordable and permanent housing solutions can be achieved. We recommend that the Portland Housing Bureau use the \$19 million plus the funds anticipated from Multnomah County, Metro, and the State of Oregon to think of creative ways to address the crises such as buying down rents for existing market housing, increasing the supply of low barrier housing, and developing more affordable housing in the Portland Metro area.

The City Council is rushing through this plan to fund these mass camp sites, and it will cost its constituents significantly. The proposed starting budget is just \$27 million, and we know that additional costs will be needed to maintain and operate these camps over the years as other cities have learned. If the city calculates \$32,000 per tent with 250 tents per site, that's \$8,000,000 for 1 camp site. This clearly is not cost effective. We know that it is not only more cost effective in the long run, but more impactful for the city to provide supportive housing as it costs on average \$16,500 per person per year, or \$45 per day. Not only should the city be doubling down on its investments in providing supportive housing, but it should increase access to safe, affordable housing. Multnomah County's Joint Office of Homeless Services has served 6,000 people in shelters, assisted 4,560 people move into housing, and has prevented 35,550 avoid homelessness through prevention services in the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year. We should continue to invest in these known and successful programs rather than strip funding from efforts to place our homeless neighbors in safe affordable housing, which is both expensive and prolongs the length of time that folks are homeless.

Lastly, we must also look at ways to keep currently housed Portlanders in their homes. Rent for a Portland one-bedroom apartment has risen by 34% since last year. The eviction court filings due to non-payment of rent has also

increased to 68% from last year's 48%. We need solutions to keep people housed. We are in support of Commissioner Dan Ryan proposal to direct \$5 million from General Funds towards Emergency Rental Assistance to prevent eviction for 1000 households from now through June of 2023 as well as allocating \$1.8 million towards Portland Housing Program Legal Defense Program because these solutions keep people housed. The City must take the time to strategically plan, collaborate, source, and fund the project. And in the meantime, support initiatives that are already in place to support folks experiencing houselessness. The \$4.1 million allocated to build the first tent site and \$3.8 million for the office that sweeps encampments to continue operating through June should be put towards the Move-In Multnomah initiative and the 3,000 Challenge policy recommendations.

Thank you,

Jennifer Parrish Taylor
Director of Advocacy and Public Policy | Urban League of Portland
phone: 503.280.2600 ext. 609 | fax: 503.281.2612
10 N Russell St | Portland, OR | 97227

[TopWorkPlaces2022] <<https://ulpdx.org/news/2022/9/top-workplaces-2022>>



Date: November 17, 2022
To: Mayor Wheeler and Portland City Commissioners
From: Jennifer Parrish Taylor, Director of Advocacy and Public Policy the Urban League of Portland
Re: Amend the FY 2022-23 Revised Budget and make other budget-related changes (amend Ordinance 191050)

Mayor Wheeler and Portland City Commissioners:

My name is Jennifer Parrish Taylor, and I am the Director of Advocacy and Public Policy for the Urban League of Portland. I am writing testimony regarding Mayor Wheeler's five-point-plan from a few weeks ago and the Fall Budget Monitoring Process revisions proposal to fund the large-scale camps.

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Thank you,

Jennifer Parrish Taylor
Director of Advocacy and Public Policy
Urban League of Portland
Portland, OR 97227
Phone: 503.280.2600
Fax: 503.281.2612

From: [Andy Miller](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony on Agenda Item 979 - Fall BMP
Date: Thursday, November 17, 2022 1:42:40 PM
Attachments: [OJF Logo Primary Vertical RGB 9b9d42e4-162c-4d00-a8c9-186a8f70d8aa.png](#)
[f_logo_RGB-Black_72_f2a5c90b-f0fb-4558-a950-3b9e0266ac98.png](#)
[Twittersocialicons-roundedsquare-black_5f3b5556-f19f-4398-9d0d-43c30e43866c.png](#)
[Instagram Glyph Black 450479f1-26e3-4329-b0b9-86ec372edc6c.png](#)

Mayor Wheeler and Members of the Council:

On behalf of Our Just Future, I submit the following comments and as they relate to the Fall Budget Monitoring Process. We are gravely concerned that the City is proposing to quickly implement its camping ban/mass encampment strategy without having thought through several key questions and alternative approaches. Furthermore, we believe that the funding available for allocation today could be put to better use to address our housing shortage and homelessness crisis. We urge the Council to reconsider this approach and offer the following comments:

- **Fund Housing:** Despite broad acknowledgement of our housing shortage, the City is for the second year in a row passing a supplemental budget focused on our homeless crisis without allocating a single dollar for actual housing – which would be a better use of one-time funding than feeding ongoing service expenses like outreach and camp operations.
- **A Better Way:** Providers and advocates have been advancing strategies like those in the [3000 Challenge](#) that model best practices already in use to end unsheltered homelessness in places like [Houston](#) and [Helsinki](#). These are housing-based solutions that do not rely on the slow-build approach of conventional affordable housing but that instead put new resources to work to fast-track permanent housing options targeted to the needs of folks right now on the street. We would much rather see new, one-time investments focused on expanding and advancing these strategies.
- **Camp Operations Raise Ongoing Questions:** Putting aside questions of legality, advisability and viability – the camping ban/camps strategy feels under-developed to begin budgeting for construction and operations. The City is beginning to allocate funding and “[flex its muscles](#)” with the County toward a strategy that is still incomplete in terms of cost assessment and actual operations. It will be counterproductive to begin to spend on camp development until we better understand costs, how these will relate to existing commitments like the Safe Rest Villages, the existing housing placement system, etc. It is clear that the City plans to rely on the State and County to help fund ongoing camp operations – but we still lack specifics and alignment on how the camps will operate and whether we can afford to maintain them over time. Before we invest at the scale contemplated in today’s budget, we should have a more shared understanding of how these camps will operate and how we can afford their ongoing operation when we cannot afford all the housing and services our community needs.
- **City Becoming A Homeless Service Provider?:** The BMP documents reference the formation of navigation teams staffed by employees of the City of Portland. This feels like a new role for the City and positions the City as a new service provider. What is the rationale for providing

these services from government directly?, Will these navigation team members be paid a living wage and be provided livable benefits? If the City can afford that for its own employees (we hope so), why can't the City provide sufficient funding to existing service providers so we can ensure living wages and livable benefits for our teams already doing the work? We are already losing staff to our public sector partners and have seen this accelerate when the City or County employs folks in similar positions - because they are able to offer better comp and benefits than our contracts allow us to provide.

We urge the Council to postpone approval of the BMP until we can answer critical questions and consider more viable uses of precious public funding to help end the crisis on our streets.



Andy Miller
Executive Director at Our Just Future
He/him ([why pronouns?](#))

10550 NE Halsey St., Portland, OR, 97220
Office: [\(503\) 548-0240](tel:5035480240) | Cell: [\(503\) 709-8046](tel:5037098046)



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Because people have varied capacity and needs, we do our best to offer alternative communication methods and timelines whenever possible. Please let us know if you need one.

Our Just Future was formerly known as Human Solutions. [Learn about this name change.](#)

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From: [Sandy Chung](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Written testimony on Item 979
Date: Thursday, November 17, 2022 2:02:03 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[City of Portland -ACLU of Oregon - Testimony on 979 - Opposition to Criminalization & Mass Encampments \(11.17.22\).pdf](#)

Hello, attached is my written testimony on item 979 on the agenda at 2pm today. I will also be testifying in person before Council today.

Thank you,
Sandy

Sandy Chung
Pronouns: she, her

Executive Director
American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon
P.O. Box 40585 Portland, OR 97240
(971) 358-2017 | schung@aclu-or.org
aclu-or.org  



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November 17, 2022

Portland City Council
City of Portland
1221 SW 4th Ave.
Portland, OR 97204

RE: Testimony in Opposition to City of Portland plan to implement mass encampments and criminalization of houseless people - Council Agenda Item 979

Dear Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners Hardesty, Mapps, Rubio, and Ryan,

I am the Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon. The ACLU of Oregon is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing civil liberties and civil rights, with more than 28,000 members across the state and many of these members in the Portland area.

The ACLU of Oregon and others have made it clear to you that your proposal to criminalize houseless people when there are not sufficient shelter spaces in Portland will likely violate the law.¹

I also want to share with you guidance from the US Interagency Council on Homelessness, the federal agency with the sole mission of preventing and ending homelessness.

On October 26 of this year, USICH issued guidance titled, "Collaborate, Don't Criminalize"

The guidance states:

"Mayors and other local officials are under pressure to do something, anything. With severe shortages of affordable housing, funding that is insufficient to meet the need, and a pandemic that has stretched already strained systems, many communities are understandably struggling with how to address homelessness. But blaming, criminalizing, and moving people from streets to jails does not solve homelessness or fix the systems that created it."²

¹ <https://homelesslaw.org/supreme-court-martin-v-boise/>

² USICH Guidance About Criminalization of Homelessness:
<https://www.usich.gov/news/collaborate-dont-criminalize-how-communities-can-effectively-and-humanely-address-homelessness>

The guidance is clear that policies that criminalize homelessness are “ineffective, expensive, and actually worsen the tragedy of homelessness.”³

In 2018, USICH also released guidance about “sanctioned encampments” which cautions:

“Creating these environments may make it look and feel like the community is taking action to end homelessness on the surface—but, by themselves, they have little impact on reducing homelessness.”

“Creating these environments can be costly in money, staff time, and effort.

“These environments can prove difficult to manage and maintain.”

“Although often proposed as “temporary” approaches, these programs prove difficult to close once they open.”⁴

Instead of implementing ineffective strategies that will waste millions in taxpayer monies, please create real solutions based on knowledge from experts like USICH and people with lived experiences with homelessness.

All Portlanders cannot afford any more wasted time and resources to address homelessness.

In summary, the ACLU of Oregon opposes the creation and implementation of expensive, ineffective, and inhumane policies that create mass encampments and criminalize of homeless people.

Respectfully,



Sandy Chung
Executive Director
ACLU of Oregon
Pronouns: she, her

³ *Id.*

⁴ USICH Guidance with Cautions About Encampments:

https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Caution_Sanctioned_Encampments_Safe_Zones_052318.pdf

[Learn More About the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness](#)



by USICH Executive Director Jeff Olivet 10/26/2022

Collaborate, Don't Criminalize: How Communities Can Effectively and Humanely Address Homelessness

Criminalizing homelessness is becoming more common. While laws that criminalize homelessness have long been in existence, recent years have witnessed many states and communities across the United States enacting laws that fine and arrest people for doing activities in public that are otherwise legal in the setting of a home: sleeping, sitting, eating, drinking.

These policies are ineffective, expensive, and [actually worsen](#) the tragedy of homelessness. There is a better way to respond to this crisis.

Mayors and other local officials are under pressure to do something, anything. With severe shortages of affordable housing, funding that is insufficient to meet the need, and a pandemic that has stretched already strained systems, many communities are understandably struggling with how to address homelessness. But **blaming, criminalizing, and moving people from streets to jails does not solve homelessness or fix the systems that created it.**

Most states ([48](#)) now outlaw daily survival activities, such as sleeping, eating, sitting, or living in their car. In the last 15 years, there has been a [50% rise](#) in so-called camping bans that make it illegal for certain people to

sleep in public spaces; nearly three-fourths ([72% of cities](#)) now have such a ban, and **these laws are becoming tougher**.

But these discriminatory laws are not effective. Some laws punish people with up to \$5,000 fines they cannot afford and with jail time that puts jobs in jeopardy and sends people back out to the streets, where their new criminal records will only make it harder to find housing and jobs. Some of these laws even threaten to withhold state funds from local governments and nonprofits if camping bans are not enforced. They put governments at risk of expensive civil-rights lawsuits and distract from implementing programs and strategies that are both [effective and cost-effective](#). Such programs include Permanent Supportive Housing and Housing First, which **treat homelessness as a housing and health crisis—not a problem for the criminal justice system** to solve.

Criminalizing homelessness is expensive. It can cost [three times more](#) to enforce anti-homeless laws than to find housing for people who don't have it. Criminalization is a waste of time for police officers who should be getting guns off the street—not moving people around them. Criminalization fills jails up with people who are more likely to be [victims](#) of violent crime than perpetrators and with people who need treatment (which jails are not equipped to provide) for mental and substance use disorders. And, most importantly, **criminalization does not reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness**. It breaks connections people had made with providers trying to help and exacerbates homelessness and the conditions that lead to it—such as health problems and racial disparities.

Every year, well over a million people experience homelessness in the United States, and for the first time ever, more individuals experiencing homelessness are living outside on the streets or in their cars than staying in shelters. People simply have nowhere else to go. **Housing is too expensive, and there are not enough shelter beds.** In [no U.S. state](#) can someone work full-time for minimum wage and still afford rent for a modest two-bedroom apartment. For every 100 extremely low-income renters, [only 36](#) affordable units are available. Where are the others supposed to live? Many shelters are full. Some have requirements that ban people if they are not sober. Other shelters force people to part with belongings, pets, or significant others if they want to sleep indoors.

There is a better way to respond to homelessness—one that results in fewer tents, more people in homes, and more cost savings—and it starts with collaboration, not criminalization.

Homelessness is a public health and housing crisis, and the response should be driven by solutions that ensure housing and wraparound support—from health care, including mental and substance use treatment, to job training and education. This requires constant communication across agencies, sectors, and jurisdictions. It also needs elected officials, businesses, the faith community, and the people experiencing homelessness to be involved in policymaking.

There is no quick or one-size-fits-all solution to homelessness, but best practices have emerged. After studying community responses and collaborating with federal agencies, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness created [7 principles for addressing encampments](#)—the most visible form of homelessness that has intensified the pressure to criminalize. If a community takes the time and makes the investments to implement these principles, more people will be able to move off the streets and into homes.

At the core of these principles is the need to **connect people as rapidly as possible to housing**—or low-barrier shelter, if permanent housing is not immediately available. By embracing Housing First—instead of locking people up for struggling to survive—one city [saved](#) \$2.4 million and housed 1,000 people in a single year. **But while housing is the immediate solution, it is not the only solution.** To truly solve homelessness, we must provide people with the voluntary supports they need *and* want, including mental health care and substance use treatment.

Homelessness is not and should not be a partisan issue. It exists in all communities—regardless of how the people in them vote. President George W. Bush embraced Housing First, [spurring](#) a 30% decline in chronic homelessness from 2005 to 2007, and both Republican and Democratic mayors participated in the Obama administration's challenge to end veteran homelessness. When we came together across party lines, we cut veteran homelessness in half. There is no time for division or finger-pointing.

Recognizing the urgency of this crisis, the Biden-Harris administration has released **unprecedented funding to help communities** respond to homelessness. President Biden doubled the homeless services budget. The American Rescue Plan's **emergency housing vouchers** quickly moved more than 70,000 people into housing—and [leasing faster](#) than any previous HUD voucher. **HOME-ARP funds** can be used to convert hundreds of vacant hotels and motels into affordable housing or shelter. **State and Local Fiscal Recovery funds** are [building more affordable housing](#), and the White House [released a plan](#) to close the gap in the housing supply in five years. President Biden also ordered police to find alternatives to arrest and incarceration, and the administration announced a [first-of-its-kind package of funding](#) specifically for unsheltered and rural homelessness. These important initiatives serve as a down payment on the work of ending homelessness once and for all.

Not having a home is a tragedy—not a crime. Let's treat it as such.

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Caution is Needed When Considering “Sanctioned Encampments” or “Safe Zones”

In their 2017 Point-in-Time counts, some communities reported significant increases in the number of people experiencing homelessness. These increases were driven primarily by increases in the number of individuals (people in households without children) who are unsheltered—living and sleeping outside, in tents, in parks, in cars or RVs, in encampments, or in other places not meant for human habitation. These increases were seen largely in communities facing significant challenges within their rental markets—rapidly increasing rents, competition for units, and a limited supply of housing that people can afford.

Addressing the needs of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness is an issue that often generates contentious, emotional debates across communities. It requires urgent action. Understandably, leaders and housing and services providers within such communities want to find ways to address both the immediate safety and living conditions of the people who are unsheltered and the concerns of other community members.

In response, some communities have created, or are considering creating “sanctioned encampments,” “safe zones,” or other similar settings with a goal of helping people stay in a safer and more sanitary environment, without the risk of being arrested or cited. Sometimes these settings feature sheds or other structures, or provide areas for people to stay in their cars or RVs. Others simply provide places for people to sleep in their own tents or on mats. Some communities have created these environments as a voluntary option for people living in unsafe situations. In other cases, people living outside may be compelled to move to the designated locations through the threat of citation or arrest. Before communities make the decision to create such environments, it is important to weigh the costs and consequences of that action, and the impact on the community’s systemic efforts to end homelessness.


As we respond to the crisis of unsheltered homelessness, we must not repeat past mistakes of focusing only on where people will be tonight. We must simultaneously be focused on where people can succeed in the long term—and we know that is permanent housing.

Executive Director Matthew Doherty
Housing First Partners Conference
April 10, 2018

If your community is exploring this step, here are a few cautions we think you should consider and discuss:

- **Creating these environments may make it look and feel like the community is taking action to end homelessness on the surface—but, by themselves, they have little impact on reducing homelessness.** Ultimately, access to stable housing that people can afford, with the right level of services to help them succeed, is what ends homelessness. People staying within such settings are still unsheltered, still living

outside, and remain homelessness – and oftentimes, these settings are not providing them with a truly safe, healthy, and secure environment. It is also important to note that the intended target population may not decide to enter these settings. Additionally, if there is not adequate planning and resources devoted to help people exit these settings on a path out of homelessness, creating these settings alone does not reduce homelessness in communities.



Ultimately, access to stable housing that people can afford—with the right level of services to help them succeed—is what ends homelessness.

- **Creating these environments can be costly in money, staff time, and effort.** Creating and then operating such settings typically requires significant funding, energy, and staff time from both public and private agencies devoted to locating and arranging for the use of sites, educating and engaging neighbors, addressing any permitting requirements, providing a secure and hygienic environment, setting up and maintaining any structures, providing adequate services and supports, and many other planning and operational details. It is critically important to discuss the opportunity costs of pursuing these efforts, and whether critical resources would be better focused on other strategic activities—or used directly for permanent housing and services interventions—that could have a greater impact on ending people’s homelessness.
- **These environments can prove difficult to manage and maintain.** For example, communities often find that temporary sheds (which are sometimes referred to as “tiny homes”) or other structures that may have been put up in these settings do not hold up over time and require significant upgrades and/or repairs. Maintaining a hygienic environment can prove challenging if there are not adequate sanitation facilities at the sites. And there often need to be significant investments into security to be able to ensure the safety and well-being of people staying in these settings, as many people may be vulnerable to victimization and such communities can become targets for illegal activities, such as drug sales and human trafficking.
- **Although often proposed as “temporary” approaches, these programs prove difficult to close once they open.** While a community may intend for these settings to be a temporary part of its response to homelessness, they can prove difficult to close, especially if there are not adequate plans and resources dedicated to helping people exit these settings and end their homelessness.

If your community does decide to proceed despite these cautions, we’d suggest you also discuss the following:


- **Are we doing all we can within our existing emergency shelter programs, and can we also create more effective indoor shelter or crisis housing options, if needed?** These outdoor environments should not take the place of suitable indoor emergency shelter and other crisis housing options, which can be provided in a variety of settings, from designated facilities, to hotels and motels, to new and existing housing units, and many others. Many communities are transforming their current shelter systems or creating additional safer, low-barrier indoor shelter spaces where people can come inside “as they are” and access services.

Communities have removed barriers to entry, including by accepting diverse household compositions, staying open 24/7 or for extended hours, welcoming people with behavioral health care needs, providing for secure storage of belongings, and allowing for pets. In addition, communities are focused on increasing their capacity

to directly link individuals in emergency shelter or other crisis housing options to resources and services that help them to move out of homelessness.

For most communities, improving the existing shelter system can address the needs of people sleeping unsheltered and in encampments. Similarly, providing more housing options for people in shelters can help people exit more quickly and expand the number of people a shelter can serve over time. When creating new shelter and crisis housing capacity, communities are also purposefully using sites that can be used in the future for other purposes, such as conversion to permanent housing.

- **Are we planning and budgeting for how people staying in these settings will be able to exit homelessness and access permanent housing?** The creation of these environments is often pursued with urgency, but the planning is sometimes too rushed and the alignment of the services and housing solutions that will be necessary to help people exit is often thought of as something that can be addressed later. If these settings are to play any meaningful role in ending people's homelessness, it is vitally important to ensure that people staying in them will have ready access to the services necessary to address their needs and to exit homelessness. Planning and adequately budgeting for people's permanent housing outcomes should be central from the very first conversations and at every stage of the planning processes. That budgeting should include costs aligned with the number of successful exits being pursued. For example, if every "slot" or "space" is intended to turn over through successful exits every 60 days, has planning and budgeting addressed how 6 such successful exits per "slot" or "space" will be achieved?
- **Are we aiming as high as we can in providing a high-quality environment within these temporary settings?** Families and individuals experiencing the crisis of unsheltered homelessness deserve access to decent, high-quality places to stay as they create their paths out of homelessness. The creation of poor quality environments can reinforce negative perceptions about what people experiencing homelessness need or deserve as living environments. In many cases, the planning for these settings in communities does not seem to have been thoughtful enough about the quality of the environment they are providing; sometimes even basic safety or health issues, such as ventilation or heat, have not been planned for. There should be close consultation with public health officials to be sure land being used is not contaminated, that essential health, hygiene, and safety needs are being met, and that further public health problems are not being created. It is also essential to discuss whether the settings being planned will provide an environment for the target population—which sometimes includes pregnant women and children—that is aligned with your community's values and expectations. *For example:* Within your community's systemic response to homelessness, is it acceptable for infants and small children to be sleeping in tents or in sheds tonight?
- **Are we assessing the outcomes, impact, and cost-effectiveness of these efforts?** Programs being operated in such settings should be integrated into the community's existing Homeless Management Information System



**Families and individuals
experiencing the crisis of
unsheltered homelessness
deserve access to decent, high-
quality places to stay as they
create their paths out of
homelessness.**

and performance measurement processes. The outcomes being achieved—including a primary emphasis on the outcome of exits from homelessness—should be carefully measured and monitored. The community should assess whether the investment of costs—including all planning, capital, operations, services, and housing placement assistance costs—is proving to be a cost-effective investment in comparison with other actual or potential strategies and programs.

At USICH, and with our federal and national partners, we will continue to work with communities that are grappling with these challenges and connect them to peers in other communities to learn from each other. We will also continue to develop and provide more guidance regarding effective responses to these challenges. Contact your [USICH Regional Coordinator](#) if you need help thinking through these issues.

As you consider these cautions and concerns and engage in discussions, here are some USICH resources that may be helpful:

- [Ten Strategies to End Chronic Homelessness](#)
- [Ending Homelessness for People Living in Encampments](#)
- [Case Studies on: Ending Homelessness for People Living in Encampments](#)
- [The Role of Outreach and Engagement in Ending Homelessness](#)
- [Key Considerations for Implementing Emergency Shelter Within an Effective Crisis Response System](#)
- [Asking the Right Questions about Tiny Houses](#)
- [Strategies to Address the Intersection Between the Opioid Crisis and Homelessness](#)
- [Resources for Building an Effective Crisis Response System](#)
- [The Housing First Checklist: Assessing Projects and Systems for Housing First Orientation](#)

From: [Doyle Thibert](#)
To: [Clerk General](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 979
Date: Thursday, November 17, 2022 2:48:19 PM

Agenda Item 979

I am an ex-felon from 1977, and my life was forever ruined.

Despite my best efforts, I have not been able to rise above the stigma attached to my robbery 1 conviction.

Many times, I have been turned away from housing, from employment and/or fired from work due to my felony conviction. To state that I have been homeless, sofa surfing, or otherwise kicked to the streets because of my felony conviction is not an anomaly. Too many citizens such as myself are forced to suffer undue hardship put upon them by the corrections/judicial system. I, personally, have been homeless due to this stigma several times in my life. The long struggle to get back on one's feet financially is further wrought with the constant barriers to employment and housing

I have been fired for this felony conviction from work in the water/wastewater treatment field, from work at 211info here in Portland, from work in School District maintenance, from work climbing High Tension Wire towers, from work as a Plumbing Apprentice, from work with OR State Parks Reservations, from Portland City Hall information line. I have worked dozens of short-term back breaking labor jobs in warehouses, etc. I have traveled with the carnival. I have listlessly wandered the streets of downtown Portland, OR in the pouring rain, not knowing what the next day might bring.

The list of how many times I have been let go from gainful employment due to some coworker and/or supervisor's particularly vengeful judgment of myself and my 40-years in the past felony conviction, is long, very long indeed.

7 years plus of college and finally a Bachelor of Science in Human Development from Warner Pacific did not improve my standard of living, nor my profound loss of place in society, my loss of family and friends, et al.

It is not that I am unaware of the consequences of my actions against another citizen, as much as I am never allowed to speak to this person or to ask their forgiveness and to apologize for my careless actions. I am not allowed to do much of anything to reconcile the situation.

Thanks for your time and have a great day and a great week

doyle

--

Doyle B. Thibert
650 S LOWELL ST
APT 604
PORTLAND, OR 97239-4800

doyle.thibert@gmail.com

503-964-3313

From: [Brian Hoop](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Council item 979, Thurs. Nov 17, 2022 - fall BMP
Date: Thursday, November 17, 2022 4:18:39 PM
Attachments: [FINAL Comments Item 979 homelessness-affordable-housing Housing Oregon 11-17-22.pdf](#)

Please find attached and below comments addressing Council item 979 for Thursday, November 17, 2022 regarding the fall BMP.

Dear Mayor Wheeler and members of the Council:

As you consider Council item 979 to invest \$27 million towards implementation of earlier passed resolutions to shift the City's strategy towards addressing chronic homelessness in Portland, I urge you to hold yourselves accountable to the same expectations you would have when considering funding other City programs and projects.

There should be measurable benchmarks documented in a written plan for this new untested strategy that deviates from the current well vetted strategies adopted through a collaborative process with your County and Metro partners. I am not aware of a written plan based on proven strategies backed up by data outside of the rough sketches provided in the resolutions presented several weeks ago.

Another hallmark of creating public policy, especially with the City of Portland, is a commitment to a public process that engages community, key organizational stakeholders, and those with lived experiences affected by such proposals.

While it is a foregone conclusion strategic disagreements exist on this issue with most nonprofit service organizations, you have a responsibility, nonetheless, to engage with these organizations as you move forward with implementation of your adopted strategies.

Housing Oregon's member organizations, both homeless service providers and affordable housing developers, are ready to engage in a community involvement process to share their knowledge and expertise.

I again implore you to not abandon the spirit of collaboration with Multnomah and Metro governments. Despite clear differences of opinion, the current strategies being funded and implemented by these partners and nonprofit service providers are working.

5,759 units funded by voter approved construction bond measures have already been produced or are under development. Multnomah County, with support from the voter approved Metro Supportive Housing Services measure, moved 4,500 homeless individuals into housing in the past year.

These are proven strategies including opening additional shelter beds, offering rent assistance to keep people in their current housing, creating permanent supportive housing with wrap around behavioral health services, purchasing hotels to convert

into emergency shelter, and moving people into permanent housing. Housing First strategies are working.

The challenges we face as a community are historic and will require a sustained and focused commitment to follow through on what we know works. Yes, changes need to happen including working with the State to identify additional funding for mental health and addiction recovery services and identifying the next generation of funding to replace expiring voter approved construction bonds.

Now is not the time to shift funding from proven strategies that are working to untested strategies that make the visible and uncomfortable crisis of street camping go away without solving the long term problem of housing those who are chronically homeless.

Housing Oregon is the membership-based statewide association of affordable housing nonprofit developers committed to serving and supporting low-income Oregonians across the housing needs spectrum – from homeless to homeowner. We are working towards a day when every Oregonian has a safe and healthy place to call home.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments and for your public service to our communities.

--

Brian Hoop
Housing Oregon
Executive Director
P: 503-475-6056
E: brian@housingoregon.org
PO Box 8427
Portland, OR 97207
www.housingoregon.org

Pronouns: He/Him/His



Thursday, November 17, 2022

*Sheila Stiley, Board
chair – NW Coastal
Housing*

*Kymberly Horner –
Vice-chair - Portland
Community
Reinvestment Inc.*

*Rachael Duke,
Secretary -
Community Partners
for Affordable
Housing*

*Trell Anderson,
Treasurer –NW
Housing Alternatives*

*David Brandt,
Housing Works*

*Wakan Alferes
Homes for Good*

*Ernesto Fonseca -
Hacienda CDC*

*Maria Elena Guerra -
Farmworker Housing
Development Corp*

*Nkenge Harmon
Johnson – Urban
League of Portland*

*Kristy Rodriguez –
Housing Authority of
Malheur & Harney
Counties*

Mayor Ted Wheeler
Members of City Council
City of Portland
1221 SW 4th Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

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P.O. Box 8427, Portland, OR 97207

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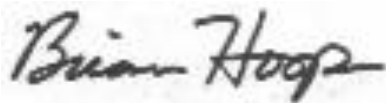
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Housing Oregon is the membership-based statewide association of affordable housing nonprofit developers committed to serving and supporting low-income Oregonians across the housing needs spectrum – from homeless to homeowner. We are working towards a day when every Oregonian has a safe and healthy place to call home.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments and for your public service to our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Brian Hoop". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brian Hoop
Executive Director
Housing Oregon

From: [annie](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: agenda item 979
Date: Thursday, November 17, 2022 8:42:48 PM

First, i would like to address the hypocrisy of accusing a Black woman of inciting "radical change" for asking for a \$18 million reduction in police budget during the 2020 fall BMP, but then entertaining the mayor's request for \$27 million.

The Fall BMP is supposed to be about tweaking the budget, not for large money re-allocations. what about the agreement that 50% of available fund must be allocated to infrastructure (and judging by the pot holes in my street, there is lots of infrastructure to be fixed. we can also use some street signs. Signage is horrible in portland. half the time i don't know what street i am on cuz the sign is so faded or it doesnt exist...)

I don't like that the mayor's program criminalizes homeless people. Many people are homeless because of the evils inherent in the capitalistic system, and the greed and/or unkindness of other, and medical problems. In other words, no fault of their own, and definitely not a crime. Why aren't you locking up the corporations who stole their wages? or polluted their air? Stop criminalizing petty crimes and mental illness. Don't force people to do community service (free labor for Downtown Clean & Safe, and for the PBA.) Instead, make companies pay living wages. End discrimination in hiring. Help people who used to be in custody (but are perfectly smart and hard-working) get jobs.

And don't use homelessness as an excuse to send people to mental institutions. No involuntary commitments!

We don't need more funds for private security. Private security is scary. THeY prey on homeless. THeY are not properly trained. They are dangerous. We need services, not security. We definitely don't need to pay private companies to do the work that government should do. We should not be helping private companies make a profit, especially not off the forced labor of people who are already suffering and exploited.

Say NO to the mayor's money grab. Say no to criminalizing homelessness.

We need services and HOUSING, not sweeps and security patrols.

No to the mayor's plan.

ana maria

97202

From: [Rae Nathanson](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Written testimony for Council agenda item 979
Date: Friday, November 18, 2022 7:30:55 PM

To Ted Wheeler & the City Council,

Over the past 5 years, I have been a housing advocate with various social service organizations around greater Portland & the surrounding counties. The measures that passed and funding that has been requested for mass campsite & a camping ban will directly harm our houseless neighbors across the city. I implore & encourage you to listen to what the most impacted communities are saying, alongside the many, many organizations & individuals doing direct outreach work with the houseless community of Portland. All of the voices of those on the front lines are in alignment that this is not where this funding should be going.

All of you are housed. Some of you have multiple houses. You cannot imagine what it is like to be living under a city government that funds regular sweeps, anti-homeless infrastructure like boulders & fences around the underpasses of bridges where houseless communities have created a semblance of safety in a city that is actively, aggressively anti their very existence. I have been there with houseless neighbors when Rapid Response has taken & trashed their belongings. I have seen how relationships & trust are cultivated in camps at Laurelhurst, along Powell, at Buckman. I have cooked for & connected with houseless community members all around the city these past 2 years. This plan is not trauma-informed, and it is certainly not informed by the perspectives of those most impacted by it.

We can see right through you - the way you prioritize the business associations, the neighborhood associations. Your office's attempts to put bans on the ways houseless community are trying to survive are little more than holding power & control over people who hold considerably less institutional power than yourselves. As someone with a background in trauma work, I'll share with you what we call holding power & control over other- abuse.

I ask you to find some common thread of humanity, and reconsider how city funds & taxpayer dollars are being used to cause such direct harm & displacement to our neighbors. It's getting colder, and people are freezing. There are visionary ideas that you aren't taking into enough account. Reallocate these funds to mutual aid projects and programs being led by those most affected by these very decisions. Actually listen to the feedback from your constituents. Please, listen to us. Listen. And do the right thing.



Rae Nathanson

Family Resource Navigator

E: rnathanson@impactnw.org

P: 503-489-7034

he/him & they/them

[why pronouns matter!](#)

[IMPACTNW.ORG](https://www.impactnw.org)

From: [Crystal Ginger](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Written testimony for Council agenda item 979
Date: Monday, November 21, 2022 8:55:08 AM

To whom it may concern,

I think the funding for mass campsites and an enforceable camping ban is a terrible idea. Instead you should listen to the needs and wants of the homeless people who will be directly impacted by these choices--don't spend money on something that they already know won't work and will in fact make their lives worse. I would rather this funding be spent on something that works, like the development and expansion of the availability of affordable housing.

Best,
Crystal Ginger

--



Crystal Ginger
Workshop Facilitator
P: (503) 708-4454
E: cginger@impactnw.org
She/her and he/him
IMPACTNW.ORG

City Council Meeting - November 16, 2022 2:00 p.m.

Agenda No.	First Name	Last Name
979-01	Kaitlyn	Dey
979-02	Leah	Cabler
979-03	Sanga (Demetria)	Mbaklene (Hester)
979-04	David	Hopper
979-05	Joanne	Rees
979-06	Daisy	Quiñonez
979-07	Ben	Kopsa
979-08	Shannon	Kearns
979-09	Donovan	Scribes
979-10	David	Wieland
979-11	Ashley	Schofield
979-12	Jasmine	Friedrich
979-13	Chris	L
979-14	Jeffrey	Liddicoat
979-15	Don	Porth
979-16	Sarah	Baker
979-17	Terry	Foster
979-18	Hailley	Nolan
979-19	Sage	Schick
979-20	Sandra	Comstock
979-21	Molly	Hogan
979-22	Michelle	Hornbeck
979-23	Danielle	Maillard
979-24	Scott	Castner
979-25	Ethan	Kraemer
979-26	Jennifer	Pereau
979-27	Maggie	Powers
979-28	Alan	Kessler
979-29	Dana	Coffman
979-30	Frann	Michel
979-31	Sandy	Chung
979-32	Bernard	Riddle
979-33	Michele	Veenker
979-34	Tim	McCormick
979-35	Nikki	Jauron
979-36	Madison	Mordaunt
979-37	Judy	Wilder
979-38	Linda	Buckley

979-39	Ethan	Harrison
979-40	David	Brink
979-41	Jennifer	Parrish Taylor
979-42	Desiree	Mariscal
979-43	Brian	Hoop