

Committee members,

I am writing to urge you to continue to work on the passage of HB 4054.

As a resident of the Lents neighborhood-one of the poorest and most diverse in the city-I have seen our community severely impacted by people illegally camping on ODOT property.

As the chair of the Lents Neighborhood Livability Committee, I have volunteered hundreds of hours in the community. The number one concern has been the impact of these illegal camps on neighbors. Seeing that Lents has many jurisdictions to report problems to, residents have been stymied when it comes to reporting issues on ODOT property. The "turfing" between agencies has been extremely challenging and ineffective at addressing issues.

The trash and biohazards (feces, urine, syringes) have made utilizing the ODOT managed -multi-use path (MUP) -through Lents dangerous. Our elementary school backs up to this path and children-often alone, have to utilize this path to get to and from school and the Boys and Girls Club. The path has been so filled with camps and biohazards the police recently went to the school and asked officials and parents to not utilize the path. The general public cannot safely get to school, homes or transportation when they live near ODOT property.

The Portland Police have arrested hundreds of people for felonies on ODOT land JUST in Lents since April.

ODOT posts camps for cleaning in 6-8 week cycles. When they clean campers are not directed to help or engaged with social services. They simply move a few feet and the cycle starts again.

Families living along ODOT property are scared. They cannot let their children outside, they are constantly having people set up or enter into their property, their children cannot sleep at night as campers shine lights in windows. They have begged our neighborhood association, ODOT, the mayor for help. This is still unresolved and many of the children will have trauma symptoms for years.

The city of Portland has established a camp reporting and clean up site with their One Point of Contact. They provide a rapid response to biohazard clean up. They also provide connection to local social services to campers- something ODOT cannot provide as they are a transportation agency.

I have added a clip from the Lents Town Hall-video on YouTube which provides testimony from families impacted by illegal camps on ODOT property.

Please help support the Lents community-housed and unhoused. The situation on ODOT land is not safe for anyone-campers included. Our children deserve a safe walk to school and home.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Young

Lents Community Member

To Connect directly to the interview with the family near mup, click this link

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oG4LtzShMOw&feature=player_embedded&start=2865

Sent from my iPhone