

Submitter: Andrew Hallberg
On Behalf Of: Myself
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure: HB3501

I am against expanding homeless rights and for protecting our community and the people who live in Portland. I have had a homeless person try to sleep on my porch, I told them to leave, I have had a homeless person messing around in my front garden I told them to leave, I have had a homeless person rifling through my mail and I told them to leave, I had a person park their car the wrong way on the one way street in front of my house and then proceed to pass out in the drivers seat with a needle in their arm, I called the police and when they did nothing, I asked the driver to leave after they woke up 10 hours later. They left me two needles out front after they left. I do believe it is ok to protect your community from dangerous people and environments. Unfortunately while we have issues with crime and drug use at The level we have it today, anyone experiencing homelessness will have to spend time with people who are criminally active even if the crime is as small as J walking or littering. Without focusing first on ensuring people follow the law and we reduce crime and danger, I don't think expanding homeless services is a good idea.

It is not my duty as a homeowner to let anyone who wants to destroy the neighborhood I live on and cause men, women, children and elderly to be scared in their own home or neighborhood. It is the duty of the public to protect our society and city to ensure we can feel safe and vibrant at home and in our community. If and when we get the crime problems under control we could start to look at ways to make homeless folks lives better.

The homeless situation has gotten out of control. Here are some more things I've seen within blocks of my house. There is a small park where homeless folks use as a permanent home it gets sweepers and is back the next day, Going street has 5-6 extra large RVs sitting there for years now, I've seen 5-6 cars sideway burned, or being actively chipped into pieces off Going Street next to the rather large homeless camps. I have seen a man sitting at the max stop with a needle in his arm colored red with blood. I have had someone total the car they were driving into a pole one block from my house and then get out and walk away from the vehicle holding a chainsaw. I've had windows broken twice on cars parked on the street. I've had 6-10 abandoned cars with no one living in them one block from my house. I've heard gunshots 20 times in the last year and am thankful when I don't hear anyone scream or call for help. And I would consider my neighborhood a safe neighborhood. When I did call the police to help I have had 11 minute wait times, I would expect to have someone answer in 20 seconds or less, 11 minute response times from 911 should be criminal because it could lead to additional deaths.

When walking around Portland and downtown especially there are so many people that need mental help and they are completely out of their minds either on drugs or their mind is fried from drugs or other issues. These are the people we should focus on helping.

I would support a homeless camp outside of Portland with some services but I don't support people taking over our parks, sidewalks, neighborhoods, and especially with the rate of crime and drug use today there is no room for a light handed protect the homeless policy in Portland. We do need to correct our community before our decisions end up causing lasting damage to the culture, vibrancy and people who make Portland so great.

Sincerely, your neighbor and homeowner in Portland