

Submitter: AL Berger

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

This is the wrong direction for Portland or Oregon to go in. Portland has been at the epicenter of Oregon's homeless crisis & it looks like a shit show. After Martin V Boise was announced City leaders seemed to throw their hands up in the air & said look our hands are tied, we can't do anything. On top of that there were a loud group of people who said "if you give them tents, then it will be easier to connect them to services". So, we handed out tents (JOHNS handed out 1.5 million? \$ last year alone). Then we were told "if you stop telling them to move, we can easily locate the homeless & get them into services." So (along with Martin V Boise) sweeps were halted. Millions of dollars later we have streets that are clogged with tents, tarps, shit, needles & every type of trash you can image. Every news segment has homeless people saying, "nobody has reached out to us". One man lived in a tent right by the Blanche house for 2 years until he was stabbed to death. You can look up dozens of news articles about fires, violence, outbreaks of shigella, overdoses & death. This is what you are going to expand to our parks & finish the infiltration to our neighborhoods. There is already no accountability for getting homeless individuals off the streets, this will exacerbate the issue until everything is unlivable. We need more options for homeless people to utilize such as sanctioned sites, motel rooms & tons on tons of affordable housing & wrap around services. Not expanding camping to all of PDX. That will increase the need for cleanup services such as Rapid (we paid them 4.5 million in the latest contract). This is insanity at its best. Pay for tents, homeless outreach groups get ?? millions, then then when it's so bad that Rapid is called in, we pay to clean it up & whack-a-mole it somewhere else. Nobody gets services, the homeless are again rotting under bridges, we've wasted millions & with this rule/law now everyone's home is covered in trash & shit.

Allowing those camping in someone's front yard to sue for harassment? The City would fine the homeowner for trash, but then the City also gets sued by the homeless person in the homeowners right of way? Thus, making the taxpaying homeowner paying for all of it. The tent handout, the nonexistent outreach, the clean-up & now the lawsuits.

This is insanity.