KATE SNYDER (MAYOR)
PIOUS ALI (A/L)
APRIL FOURNIER (A/L)
ROBERTO RODRÍGUEZ (A/L)

ANNA TREVORROW (1)
VICTORIA L. PELLETIER (2)
REGINA L. PHILLIPS (3)
ANDREW ZARRO (4)
MARK N. DION (5)

CITY COUNCIL MEETING - NOVEMBER 20, 2023 AT 5:00 PM

The Portland City Council will hold a City Council Meeting in Council Chambers. The Honorable Kate Snyder, Mayor, will preside.

To submit written public comment on an agenda item, email publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov. Submissions must be received by 12:00 pm the day before the Council meeting to guarantee their inclusion in the agenda packet. All submissions must include the commenter's name and legal address. To help ensure your comment is submitted for the correct item, please include the order number (see below).

The City Council will conduct this meeting in-person from Council Chambers, located on the second floor of City Hall. Public comments may only be submitted in person or in writing.

To view this meeting remotely, please visit the live-stream at https://portlandme.portal.civicclerk.com/event/6494/media.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

5:00 P.M. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

RECOGNITIONS:

Recognition of outgoing elected officials for their service to the City of Portland (Mayor Snyder, Councilor Andrew Zarro, and Councilor Mark Dion)

Recognition of Kristen Dow, Director of Health & Human Services, for her service to the City of Portland - Kate Snyder, Mayor

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Meeting Minutes from November 13, 2023

LICENSES:

Order 70-23/24 Granting Municipal Officers' Approval of Board and Batten LLC, dba Jerome's. Application for Class A Lounge at 223 Congress Street - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager

Application was filed on 10/19/23. Location was previously The Snug. New City and State applications.

Five affirmative votes are required for passage after public comment.

1

Order 71-23/24 Granting Municipal Officers' Approval of Sodexo America LLC, dba Sodexo America. Application for Class III & IV at 35 Bedford Street - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager

Application was filed on 10/26/23. Location was previously The Husky Brew Cafe. New City and State applications.

Five affirmative votes are required for passage after public comment.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Order 10-23/24 Amendment to Zoning Map Amendment Re: R-5a Residential for 900 Ocean Avenue and Adjacent Parcels - Sponsored by the Planning Board, Brandon Mazer, Chair

On May 9, 2023, the Planning Board voted (5-0; Stanley and Chan absent) to find the proposed zoning map amendment from R-3 Residential to R-5a Residential to be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Portland. The Planning Board recommends to the City Council adoption of the zoning map amendment for the area of land that includes 900 Ocean Avenue and parcels 416A A001001, 416A A002001, and 416A A003000. The proposed zoning map amendment application was submitted by Ocean Avenue Residential, LLC. The change from R-3 to R-5a would permit greater density that would accommodate existing natural site amenities.

This item must be read on two separate days. It received its first reading on July 17, 2023. At that time, Councilor Andrew Zarro requested that this item be postponed to the meeting of November 20, 2023, with a workshop on the matter to be held in advance of that date. A workshop was held on October 30, 2023. Five affirmative votes are required for passage after public comment.

Order 67-23/24 Order Accepting and Appropriating Asset Forfeiture Funds to the Portland Police Department - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager

The Portland Police Department assisted with a multi-year Federal investigation which resulted in a 2017 arrest and significant asset forfeitures under the Department of Justice and the Department of the Treasury Asset Forfeiture Programs. These programs are, first and foremost, law enforcement programs and funding must only be used by the local law enforcement agency within specific permissible uses. This action accepts and appropriates $875,000 in asset forfeiture funding and appropriates it towards $875,000 of permissible uses.

This item must be read on two separate days. It received its first reading on November 13, 2023. Five affirmative votes are required for passage after public comment.

Order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property - Sponsored by Roberto Rodriguez, Councilor, and Anna Trevorrow, Councilor

This order includes amendments proposed by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez to Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code that would create a temporary exception to the City's prohibition on camping and loitering on City property and would allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property from the effective date of the amendments to April 30, 2024. The amendments do not allow camping in certain specified locations, including downtown streets or sidewalks, playgrounds, City Hall

Plaza, Monument Square, and within 250 feet of schools.

This item must be read on two separate days. It received its first reading on November 13, 2023. Five affirmative votes are required for passage after public comment.

Order 69-23/24 Approving the One-Year Extension of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Portland Police Superior Officers Association - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager

This item extends the negotiated collective bargaining agreement between the City and the Portland Police Superior Officers Association ("PPSOA") which is set to expire on December 31, 2023. The proposed agreement would extend the collective bargaining agreement for one (1) year and provide a four (4%) percent increase to superior officers effective July 7, 2024. This proposal is presented after previously receiving guidance from the City Council in executive session and after having been approved by the PPSOA.

This item must be read on two separate days. It received its first reading on November 13, 2023. Five affirmative votes are required for passage after public comment.

ORDERS:

Order 72-23/24 Accepting and Appropriating a $2,000 Donation from OldCastle Lawn & Garden, Inc. for the Shop with a Cop Program - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager

This item accepts and appropriates a donation from OldCastle Lawn & Garden, Inc. of $2,000.00 to support the Police Department's "Shop with a Cop" program.

This item must be read on two separate days. To ensure funds are available during the holiday season, staff is requesting that the second reading be waived, which requires seven affirmative votes. Staff also requests that this item be passed as an emergency so that it may go into effect immediately. Seven votes are required for passage as an emergency following public comment.

ADJOURNMENT:

ZOOM INFORMATION:

The City Council will conduct this hybrid meeting from Council Chambers, located on the second floor of City Hall. The public may attend the meeting in person, or may participate remotely via Zoom pursuant to the Remote Meeting Policy adopted by the Portland City Council. Allow your computer to install the free Zoom app to get the best meeting experience. If you are not able to attend live either in person or via Zoom, a recording will be available in the Agenda Center following the meeting.

For public comment via Zoom, you will need to use the "raise your hand" feature. To raise your hand via the telephone, please hit *9. You will be unmuted by the host when it is time for public comment.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:
https://portlandmaine-gov.zoom.us/j/86162429996?pwd=RHkvUktHcWwyVi9xY3N2Q2NOdFlnQT09
Passcode: 462065
Or One tap mobile :
+16469313860,,86162429996#,,,,*462065# US
+19292056099,,86162429996#,,,,*462065# US (New York)
Or Telephone:
Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):
+1 646 931 3860 US
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
+1 305 224 1968 US
+1 309 205 3325 US
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 564 217 2000 US
+1 669 444 9171 US
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 689 278 1000 US
+1 719 359 4580 US
+1 253 205 0468 US
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 360 209 5623 US
+1 386 347 5053 US
+1 507 473 4847 US
Webinar ID: 861 6242 9996
Passcode: 462065
International numbers available: https://portlandmaine-gov.zoom.us/u/keGBgKAlu9

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Snyder led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Snyder called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.
City Councilors Present: Councilor Fournier (Zoom) , Councilor Rodriguez, Councilor Dion, Councilor Ali, Councilor Pelletier, Councilor Phillips, Mayor Snyder
Absent: Councilor Zarro and Councilor Trevorrow

*Point of order. Councilor Trevorrow joined meeting at 5:55pm

5:00 P.M. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Mayor Snyder opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke:
Steven Scharff (Bracket Street)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Snyder opened the floor for Council Announcements. The following Councilors made an announcement:
Council Phillips, Councilor Rodriguez, Mayor Snyder

RECOGNITIONS:

Recognizing sixth and seventh grade students for their efforts in keeping the Oakdale/Back Cove neighborhoods clean by collecting trash - Kate Snyder, Mayor

Mayor Snyder recognized sixth and seventh grade students for their efforts in keeping the Oakdale/Back Cove neighborhoods clean by collecting trash.

ANNUAL MEETING:

Annual Meeting of the Corporator of Creative Portland to Accept as a Communication the Annual Report of Creative Portland for FY2023

Motion was made by Councilor Ali and seconded by Councilor Phillips to recess the City Council meeting and convene the Annual Meeting of the Corporator of Creative Portland. Passed 7-0 (Councilor Zarro and Trevorrow absent)

Annual meeting of the Corporator of Creative Portland included:
1. Receiving a communication regarding the CP FY 2023 Activity and Financial Reports
2. Transaction of other business as may be deemed necessary.

Motion was made by Councilor Ali and seconded by Councilor Rodriguez to adjourn the Annual meeting of the Corporator of Creative Portland and reconvene the City Council Meeting. Passage 7-0 (Councilor Zarro and Trevorrow Absent).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Minutes from the October 16, 2023 Council Meeting

Motion was made by Councilor Ali, seconded by Councilor Rodriguez for passage. Passage 7-0 (Councilor Zarro and Trevorrow Absent)
Mayor Snyder opened the floor for public comment. No one spoke.

PROCLAMATIONS:

Proclamation 12-23/24 Recognizing November 2023 as Native American Heritage Month - Sponsored by Kate Snyder, Mayor

Mayor Snyder read Proclamation 12-23/24 Recognizing November 2023 as Native American Heritage Month into the record.

Proclamation 13-23/24 Honoring the City of Portland First Responders who Assisted with the Lewiston Mass Shooting Response Effort - Sponsored by Kate Snyder, Mayor

Mayor Snyder read Proclamation 13-23/24 Honoring the City of Portland First Responders who Assisted with the Lewiston Mass Shooting Response Effort into the record.

APPOINTMENTS:

Order 62-23/24 Confirming the Appointment of Gregory Watson as Housing & Economic Development Director - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager

Motion was made by Councilor Ali, seconded by Councilor Rodriguez for passage.
Passage 7-0 (Councilor Zarro and Trevorrow Absent)
Mayor Snyder opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke: Bill Webber (District 5), George Rheault (Hanover Street), Steven Scharff (Brackett Street), Mayor Snyder

LICENSES:

Order 63-23/24 Granting Municipal Officers' Approval of Argenta Brewing Company LLC, dba Argenta Brewing Company. Application for B/W/D on-premise consumption at 82 Hanover Street - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager

Motion was made by Councilor Ali, seconded by Councilor Rodriguez for passage.
Passage 7-0 (Councilor Zarro and Trevorrow Absent)
Mayor Snyder opened the floor for public comment. No one spoke.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Communication 15-23/24 Fiscal Year End 2023 Annual Tax Increment Financing Report - Housing & Economic Development Committee, Councilor Pious Ali, Chair

Mary Davis (Interim Director of Housing & Economic Development) gave an undate on Fiscal Year End 2023 Annual Tax Increment Financing Report.
As a communication this item requires no public comment or formal council action.

Communication 16-23/24 Update re: Emergency Shelter at 166 Riverside Parkway - Danielle P. West, City Manager

Danielle West (City Manager) gave an update on Emergency Shelter at 166 Riverside Parkway
As a communication this item requires no public comment or formal council action.

Communication 18-23/24 Greater Portland Transit District 2024 Budget and Local Assessments - Danielle P. West, City Manager

Danielle West (City Manager) gave an update on Greater Portland Transit District 2024 Budget and Local Assessments
As a communication this item requires no public comment or formal council action.

Communication 19-23/24 Letter requesting support for the City of Portland Resettlement Program - Kate Snyder, Mayor

Mayor Snyder gave an update on Letter requesting support for the City of Portland resettlement Program
As a communication this item requires no public comment or formal council action.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 3-23/24 Supporting the Establishment of a Sister City Relationship with Garissa Township, Kenya - Sponsored by Mark Dion, Councilor

Motion was made by Councilor Ali and seconded by Councilor Phillips for passage.
Passed 8-0 (Councilor Zarro absent)
Mayor Snyder opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke: Abdulla Ahmed (Portland Resident), Abdulla Ali (Portland Resident), Mohamed Kahlid (Lewiston Resident), Tarlin-no last name given (Falmouth Resident), Moses (no address given), Lewiston Resident, President of Afican Community, Councilor Ali, Councilor Rodriguez, Councilor Dion, Councilor Phillips, Councilor Pelletier, Mayor Snyder

Resolution 4-23/24 Supporting an Assault Rifle Ban and Other Gun Regulations in the State of Maine - Sponsored by Pious Ali, Councilor

Motion was made by Councilor Ali and seconded by Councilor Rodriguez for passage.
Passage 8-0 (Councilor Zarro absent)
Mayor Snyder opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke: Councilor Fournier, Councilor Phillips, Councilor Ali

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Reconsideration of Order 37-23/24 Declaring a State of Limited Emergency at 654 Riverside Street - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager

Motion was made by Councilor Ali and seconded by Councilor Rodriguez for passage as amended. Passage 6-2-1 (Councilor Trevorrow and Councilor Pelletier-No, Councilor Zarro absent)
Mayor Snyder opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke: Councilor Ali, Kristen Dow (Director of HHS), Councilor Rodriguez, Councilor Dion, Mayor Snyder

*Motion was made by Mayor Snyder and seconded by Councilor Rodriguez to amend Council order to change the review date from in the second to last paragraph of the order from November 20, 2023 to February 5, 2023
"that this Order shall remain in effect until ~~November 20, 2023,~~ Feburary 5, 2024, where it shall be placed on the City Council's agenda for review"
Mayor Snyder opened the floor for comments on the amendment. The following individuals spoke: Councilor Rodriguez, Mayor Snyder, Danielle West (City Manager)
Amendment passed 7-1-1 (Trevorrow- No, Councilor Zarro absent)

Order 55-23/24 Designating and Adopting the Municipal Development Program for the Riverton Park Affordable Housing Development and Tax Increment Financing District - Sponsored by the Housing & Economic Development Committee, Councilor Pious Ali, Chair

*Orders -55-23/24 through Order 58-23/34 were read into the record together and public comment was taken at the same time.

Motion was made by Councilor Ali and seconded by Councilor Rodriguez for passage. Passage 8-0 (Councilor Zarro absent).
Mary Davis (Interim Director of Housing and Economic Development gave an overview of items 55-23/24 through 58-23/24
Mayor Snyder opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke: Tyler Plant (Portland Housing Authority), George Rheault (Hanover Street), Councilor Rodriguez, Mary Davis

Order 56-23/24 Approving the Credit Enhancement Agreement with Riverton Park LP - Sponsored by the Housing & Economic Development Committee, Councilor Pious Ali, Chair

*Orders -55-23/24 through Order 58-23/34 were read into the record together and public comment was taken at the same time.

Motion was made by Councilor Ali and seconded by Councilor Phillips for passage. Passage 8-0 (Councilor Zarro absent).
Mary Davis (Interim Director of Housing and Economic Development gave an overview of items 55-23/24 through 58-23/24
Mayor Snyder opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke: Tyler Plant (Portland Housing Authority), George Rheault (Hanover Street), Councilor Rodriguez, Mary Davis

Order 57-23/24 Appropriating $589,897 in HOME Investment Partnership Program Funds to Portland Housing Development Corporation RE: Riverton Park - Sponsored by the Housing & Economic Development Committee, Councilor Pious Ali, Chair

*Orders -55-23/24 through Order 58-23/34 were read into the record together and public comment was taken at the same time.

Motion was made by Councilor Ali and seconded by Mayor Snyder for passage. Passage 8-0 (Councilor Zarro absent).
Mary Davis (Interim Director of Housing and Economic Development gave an overview of items 55-23/24 through 58-23/24
Mayor Snyder opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke: Tyler Plant (Portland Housing Authority), George Rheault (Hanover Street), Councilor Rodriguez, Mary Davis

Order 58-23/24 Appropriating $910,103 in Housing Trust Fund to Portland Housing Development Corporation RE: Riverton Park - Sponsored by the Housing & Economic Development Committee, Councilor Pious Ali, Chair

*Orders -55-23/24 through Order 58-23/34 were read into the record together and public comment was taken at the same time.

Motion was made by Councilor Ali and seconded by Councilor Phillips for passage.

Passage 8-0 (Councilor Zarro absent).
Mary Davis (Interim Director of Housing and Economic Development gave an overview of items 55-23/24 through 58-23/24
Mayor Snyder opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke: Tyler Plant (Portland Housing Authority), George Rheault (Hanover Street), Councilor Rodriguez, Mary Davis

Order 59-23/24 Accepting and Appropriating a $100,000 Grant from The Glickman Foundation - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager

Motion was made by Councilor Ali and seconded by Mayor Snyder for passage. Passage 8-0 (Councilor Zarro absent).
Mayor Snyder opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke: Glenn Cummings (CEO of Glickman Foundation), Mayor Snyder

Order 60-23/24 Accepting and Appropriating a $45,200 grant from the Governor's Office for Policy, Innovation, and the Future - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager

Motion was made by Councilor Ali and seconded by Councilor Rodriguez for passage. Passage 8-0 (Councilor Zarro absent).
Mayor Snyder opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke: Bill Webber (Portland Climate Action)

Order 61-23/24 Zoning Map Amendment to B-2b Community Business for the area of land around the intersection of Washington Avenue, Bates Street and Veranda Street - Sponsored by the Planning Board, Brandon Mazer, Chair

Motion was made by Mayor Snyder and seconded by Councilor Ali to postpone item until December 18, 2023. Passage 8-0 (Councilor Zarro absent).
*Item postponed.

ORDERS:

Order 64-23/24 Authorizing Stadium Use Agreement with Portland United, LLC (USL Soccer) for the Use and Occupancy of Fitzpatrick Stadium - Sponsored by the Housing & Economic Development Committee, Councilor Pious Ali, Chair

Motion was made by Councilor Ali and seconded by Councilor Rodriguez for passage. Passage 8-0 (Councilor Zarro absent)
Ethan Hipple (Director of Parks and Recreation) gave an overview of this item.
Mayor Snyder opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke: Bill Webber (District 5), Herb Ivy (West End), Molly Brown (Portland Resident), Taylor Mannix (Portland High School Soccer Coach), Steven Scharff (Brackett Street), Emma (Bramhall Street), Sean Dundon (Past Portland Planning Board Member), Mario Moretto (Cushman Street), Nancy Walker (Sheridan Street), Tim Wells (Montreal Street), John Ochira (Portland Resident), Peter Bissell (Portland Business Owner), Barrett Takesian (Portland Out of School Time), Ronan Moss (Soccer Player), Ken Capron (Forest Ave), Rio Santos (Soccer Player), Elmer (Soccer Player), Emma (North Street), Marin Barnes (Portland Resident), Sefano (Soccer Player), George Rheault (Hanover Street), John Cross (Kennedy Park Football Club), Gabe Johnson (USL), Anthony (District 2), Crhis Theodores (Assistant Coach at St. Josephs), Karen Snyder (Waterville Street), Ian (USL

Supporter), Louie (Soccer Player), Bernard (Soccer Player), Councilor Rodriguez, Councilor Ali, Mayor Snyder, Councilor Fournier

Order 65-23/24 Accepting and Appropriating a $79,630 U.S. Department of Justice Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager

Motion was made by Councilor Ali and seconded by Councilor Rodriguez for passage as an emergency. Passage 7-0 (Councilor Zarro and Pelletier absent).
Mayor Snyder opened the floor for public comment. No one spoke.

Motion was made by Councilor Ali and seconded by Councilor Trevorrrow to wave second read. Passage 7-0 (Councilor Zarro and Pelletier absent).
Mayor Snyder opened the floor for public comment. No one spoke.
*Item passed as an emergency and goes into effect immediately.

Order 66-23/24 Approving the Second Amendment to Purchase and Sale Agreement with Douglass Commons LLC for 43 and 91 Douglass Street - Sponsored by the Housing & Economic Development Committee, Councilor Pious Ali, Chair

Motion was made by Councilor Ali and seconded by Councilor Rodriguez for passage. Passage 8-0 (Councilor Zarro absent).
Mayor Snyder opened the floor for public comment.The following individuals spoke: Karen Snyder (Waterville Street), Councilor Dion, Mary Davis (Housing & Economic Development), Matt Peters (Development Team)

Order 67-23/24 Order Accepting and Appropriating Asset Forfeiture Funds to the Portland Police Department - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager

This item is a first read.

Order 69-23/24 Approving the One-Year Extension of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Portland Police Superior Officers Association - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager

This item is a first read.

AMENDMENTS:

Order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property - Sponsored by Roberto Rodriguez, Councilor, and Anna Trevorrow, Councilor

This item is a first read.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made by Councilor Ali and seconded by Mayor Snyder to adjourn. Passage 8-0 at 8:50pm.

A TRUE RECORD

_____

Ashley Rand, City Clerk

MEMORANDUM
City Council Agenda Item

FROM:

DATE: October 30, 2023

SUBJECT: Order 70-23/24 Granting Municipal Officers' Approval of Board and Batten LLC, dba Jerome's. Application for Class A Lounge at 223 Congress Street - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager

SPONSOR: The Mayor, City Manager, City Clerk, Corporation Counsel, the Planning Board, or up to three (3) members of the Council shall sponsor any orders or other items. If sponsored by a Council Committee, please include the date the committee met and the results of the vote.

(If sponsored by a Council committee, include the date the committee met and the results of the vote.)

COUNCIL MEETING DATE ACTION IS REQUESTED:
1st Reading **Final Action**

Can action be taken at a later date: No If action cannot be taken at a later date, please explain why. Do NOT write yes or no; that will be automatically generated by the checkbox.

Does this item involve a new contract with the City: N/A

PRESENTATION: Please list the presenter(s), type, and length of presentation

I. SUMMARY

II. AGENDA DESCRIPTION
Application was filed on 10/19/23. Location was previously The Snug. New City and State applications.

Five affirmative votes are required for passage after public comment.

III. BACKGROUND
Background information that will not appear in the Agenda Description

IV. INTENDED RESULT AND/OR COUNCIL GOAL ADDRESSED

V. FINANCIAL IMPACT
Please indicate whether or not there is a financial impact. Please note that per Council Rule 12, this form must have "a separate fiscal impact statement memo attached if the impact of the item is $50,000 or more in a given fiscal year. This memo shall include details and information describing the fiscal impact including, but not limited to, projected costs, revenues or savings over a three (3) year period and/or any potential impacts on the City tax levy."

VI. STAFF ANALYSIS AND BACKGROUND
Staff Analysis that will not appear in the Agenda Description.

VII. RECOMMENDATION

VIII. LIST ATTACHMENTS
1. 2023.11.20_Jeromes
2. Jeromes_Council Packet

Prepared by:
Date: 10/30/2023

KATE SNYDER (MAYOR)
ANNA TREVORROW (1)
VICTORIA L. PELLETIER (2)
REGINA PHILLIPS (3)
ANDREW ZARRO (4)

CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL

MARK DION (5)
APRIL D. FOURNIER(A/L)
PIOUS ALI (A/L)
ROBERTO RODRÍGUEZ (A/L)

ORDER
GRANTING MUNICIPAL OFFICERS' APPROVAL OF:

Board and Batten LLC, dba Jerome's. Application for Class A Lounge at 223 Congress Street

Jerome's

223 Congress Street – Portland, Maine 04101

October 18, 2023

Mayor Kate Snyder & Members of the City Council
389 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04101

Re: Liquor License Application for Jerome's at 223 Congress Street

Dear Mayor Snyder and Members of the City Council,

It is with great excitement that we, Sasha Salzberg, Evan Carroll, and Ian Daly, submit our application for a Class A Lounge Liquor License for our new business, Jerome's, at 223 Congress Street. We submit this letter on behalf of Board and Batten LLC, doing business under the name "Jerome's." This application is the result of our purchase of "The Snug Pub" at the same location, and changes to the physical premises will be painting, decoration, and the installation of audio/visual systems.

Jerome's will be a neighborhood alternative sports pub, providing a casual atmosphere for viewing of New England sports and board sports. We hope our aesthetic and management approach will link the East End Neighborhood with New England pro-sports culture, Maine outdoor adventure culture, and urban boarding culture in an atmosphere that welcomes all to "come as you are."

Our ownership team has the professionalism and experience to make Jerome's a success. This is Sasha's fourth business venture, following most recently on her continuing business management of Bild Architecture. Additionally, Sasha has been bartending off and on since 2006. Ian has been successfully managing a much larger local venue since 2021, and has a history in the food & drink industry going back to 2015. Evan will help with facilities management and upkeep using his experience in architecture and construction. Upon opening, our ownership team will be the only staff for Jerome's, as our goal is to carefully craft the atmosphere that we want to sustain.

Our plan is to offer drinks from a full bar with a small menu of cold sandwiches, salads and snacks. On opening, we plan to operate Thursday thru Monday, opening at 4pm and closing at 11pm, except Fridays and Saturdays when we would close at 1am. Hours are subject to the live viewing of sports events that we wish to provide to our visitors. We are not applying for an Indoor Entertainment License or an Outdoor Dining License at this time.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to welcoming you all at Jerome's when we open this winter.

Sincerely,

Sasha Salzberg

CITY OF PORTLAND

Permitting and Inspections Department

Application for Food Service Establishment with Alcoholic Beverages License

Business Information		
Establishment Name (d/b/a):	Jerome's	Phone: 207-772-6839
Location Address:	223 Congress St. Portland, ME 04101	Zip:
If new, what was formerly at this location:	The Snug (same use)	
Mailing Address:	PO Box 8235, Portland, ME 04104	Zip:
Contact Person:	Sasha Salzberg	Phone: 207-284-3637
Contact Person Email:	sashasalzberg@gmail.com	
Manager of Establishment:	Sasha Salzberg Date of Birth: 10/15/1976	Phone: 207-284-3637
Owner of Premises (Landlord):	Michael Salisbury	
Address of Premises Owner (Landlord):	200 Asbury Rd, Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234	Zip:

Sole Proprietor/Partnership Information (If Corporation, leave blank)

Name of Owner(s)	Date of Birth	Residence Address

Corporate Name	Corporate Mailing Address
Board and Batten LLC	PO Box 8235, Portland, ME 04104 Zip:

Corporate/LLC/Non-Profit Organization Applicants (If Sole Proprietor or Partnership, leave blank)

Contact Person: Sasha Salzberg		Phone: 207-284-3637	
Principal Officers	**Title**	**Date of Birth**	**Residence Address**
Sasha Salzberg	Co-Owner	10/15/1976	5 Everett St. Portland, ME 04101
Evan Carroll	Co-Owner	06/29/1982	5 Everett St. Portland, ME 04101
Ian Daly	Co-Owner	1/29/1992	93 Morning St. Apt 2, Portland ME

Class of Liquor License:	(Class x) Class A Lounge

CITY OF PORTLAND

Permitting and Inspections Department

Type of food served:	Sandwiches & Snacks
Please circle all that will be served:	(Beer) (Wine) (Liquor)
Projected percentage of sales:	Generated from Food: 5% Generated from Alcohol: 95%
Hours & days of operation:	Thursday-Monday 4pm-11pm

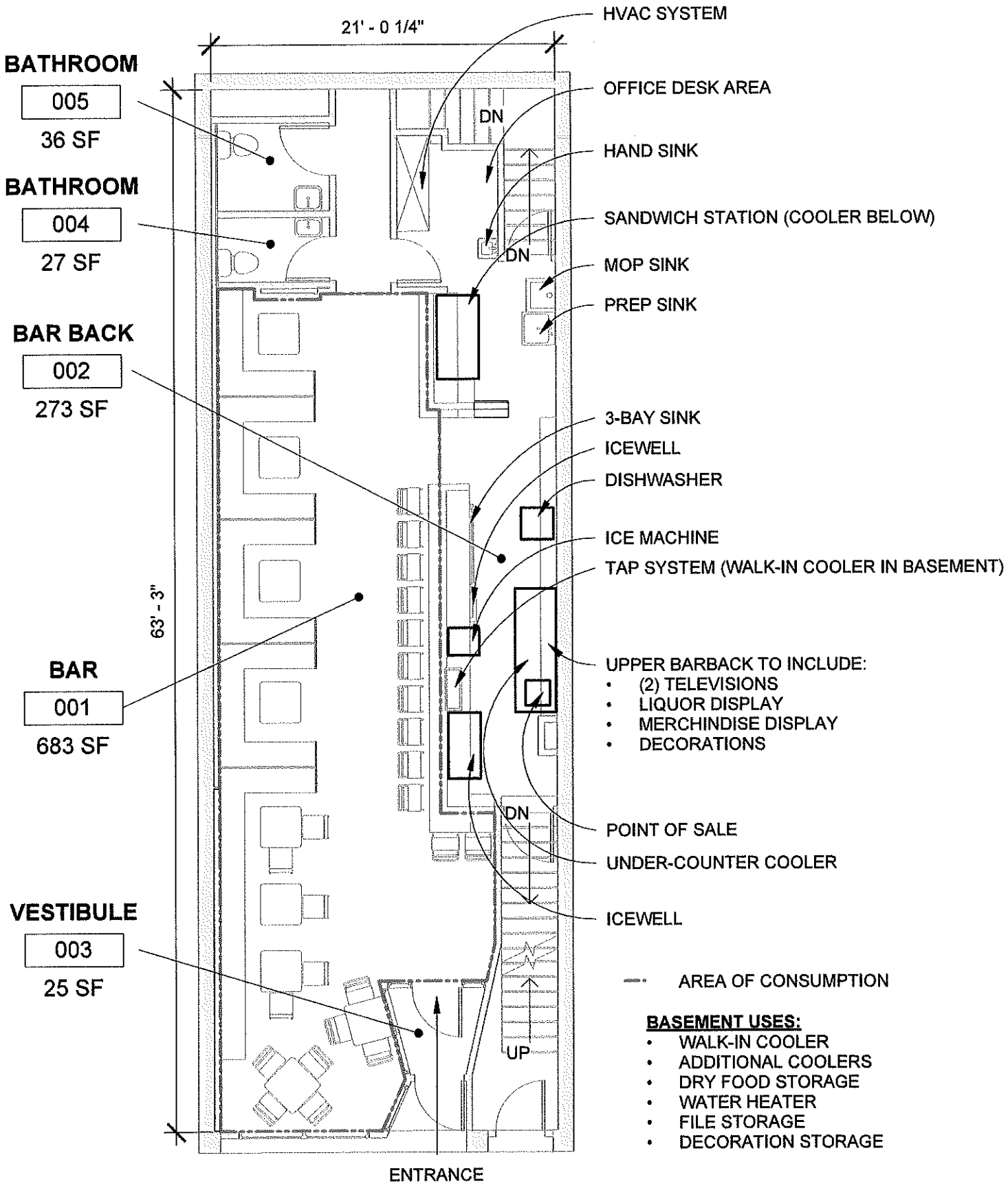
QUESTIONS	Y/N
Will full-course meals, only capable of consumption with the use of tableware, be served the entire time the establishment is open?	Y/N
If No, please explain:	
Is the establishment less than 300 feet from a school, dormitory, church or parish house, or similar establishment?	Y/N
If yes, give the distance:	
Will you have entertainment on the premises? (If yes, a Supplemental Application for Entertainment is required.)	Y/N
Will you permit dancing after 1:00 a.m.?	Y/N
Will you have outside dining? (If yes, an Outdoor Dining Application is required)	Y/N
If yes, will the outside dining be on PUBLIC or PRIVATE property (circle one).	
Will you have any amusement devices (pinball, video games, juke box)?	Y/N
If yes, please list: # of pinball machines: _____ # of amusements: _____ # of pool tables: _____	
What is your targeted opening date?	
Does the Issuance of this license directly or indirectly benefit any City employee(s)?	Y/N
If Yes, list name(s) of employee(s) and department(s):	
Have any of the applicants, including the corporation (if applicable), ever held a business license with the City of Portland?	Y/N
If Yes, please list business name(s) and location(s):	
Is any principal officer under the age of 21?	Y/N
Have applicant, partners, associates, or corporate officers ever been arrested, indicted, or convicted for any violation of law?	Y/N
If Yes, please explain: Ian Daly was arrested for a misdemeanor in 2011, and has taken the steps to clear his record.	

I Sasha Salzberg **do hereby swear and affirm that every employee in my establishment that serves alcohol to the public has attended server training, or will attend server training within 90 days of their hire. I also understand that at any time the City license administrator can, upon request, require me to produce Server Training certificates for each employee that serves alcohol to the public in my establishment. Failure to meet the training requirement imposed by section 15-41 may result in the denial of a liquor license pursuant to 28-A M.R.S.A. § 653 (2) (G).**

Applicant, by signature below, agrees to abide by all laws, orders, ordinances, rules and regulations governing the above licensee and further agrees that any misstatement of material fact may result in refusal of license or revocation if one has been granted. Applicant agrees that all taxes and accounts pertaining to the premises will be paid prior to issuance of the license.

It is understood that this and any application(s) shall become public record and the applicant(s) hereby waive(s) any rights to privacy with respect thereto. I/We, hereby authorize the release of any criminal history record information to the City Clerk's Office or licensing authority. I/We, hereby waive any rights to privacy with respect thereto.

Signature _____ _____ Title Co-Owner Date _____


21' - 0 1/4"
63' - 3"
BATHROOM
005
36 SF
BATHROOM
004
27 SF
BAR BACK
002
273 SF
BAR
001
683 SF
VESTIBULE
003
25 SF
DN
DN
DN
UP
HVAC SYSTEM
OFFICE DESK AREA
HAND SINK
SANDWICH STATION (COOLER BELOW)
MOP SINK
PREP SINK
3-BAY SINK
ICEWELL
DISHWASHER
ICE MACHINE
TAP SYSTEM (WALK-IN COOLER IN BASEMENT)
UPPER BARBACK TO INCLUDE:
• (2) TELEVISIONS
• LIQUOR DISPLAY
• MERCHINDISE DISPLAY
• DECORATIONS
POINT OF SALE
UNDER-COUNTER COOLER
ICEWELL
AREA OF CONSUMPTION
BASEMENT USES:
• WALK-IN COOLER
• ADDITIONAL COOLERS
• DRY FOOD STORAGE
• WATER HEATER
• FILE STORAGE
• DECORATION STORAGE
ENTRANCE

Zachary Lenhert <zlenhert@portlandmaine.gov>

Jerome's - Class A Lounge - 223 Congress

Zoning <zoning@portlandmaine.gov> Tue, Nov 14, 2023 at 3:57 PM
To: Zoning <zoning@portlandmaine.gov>
Cc: Zachary Lenhert <zlenhert@portlandmaine.gov>, Katlyn Sawyer <ksawyer@portlandmaine.gov>, Eric Cobb <ecobb@portlandmaine.gov>, Tom Williams <tw@portlandmaine.gov>, Jason Grant <jgrant@portlandmaine.gov>, Business Licensing <bl@portlandmaine.gov>

A Class A Lounge (Class X) is a permitted use in the IS-FBC Zone per section 9.1.7.A of Chapter 14.

Ann Machado
Zoning Administrator
[Quoted text hidden]

portland

Zachary Lenhert <zlenhert@portlandmaine.gov>

Jerome's - Class A Lounge - 223 Congress

Eric Nevins <ericn@portlandmaine.gov> Sun, Nov 5, 2023 at 1:30 PM
To: Zachary Lenhert <zlenhert@portlandmaine.gov>
Cc: Ron Kelton <rkelton@portlandmaine.gov>, Fire Prevention <fireprevention@portlandmaine.gov>, Laurie Carlson <lac@portlandmaine.gov>, Katlyn Sawyer <ksawyer@portlandmaine.gov>, Zoning <zoning@portlandmaine.gov>, Eric Cobb <ecobb@portlandmaine.gov>, Benjamin Pearson <bnp@portlandmaine.gov>, Tom Williams <tw@portlandmaine.gov>, Jason Grant <jgrant@portlandmaine.gov>, Treasury Division <treasury@portlandmaine.gov>, Christina Stacey <cstacey@portlandmaine.gov>, Business Licensing <bl@portlandmaine.gov>

Approved
[Quoted text hidden]
--
Eric Nevins
Lieutenant
Portland Police Department
(207) 874-8513

City of Portland | Permitting and Inspections
Zachary Lenhert, Licensing and Housing Safety Manager

November 13, 2023

Board and Batten LLC
P.O. Box 8235
Portland, ME 04104

Re: Board and Batten LLC, dba Jerome's. Application for Class A Lounge at 223 Congress Street

Dear Board and Batten LLC:

This letter shall serve as a reminder of the public hearing before the Portland City Council on Monday November 20, 2023 at 5:00 p.m., for the review of application for Class A Lounge at 223 Congress Street. The meeting will take place in person at Portland City Hall, in City Council Chambers on the 2nd Floor of 389 Congress Street.

You or a representative of the business must be present at this meeting in the event that the city council has questions regarding the license application. If there is no representation and questions arise, the item may be postponed.

Please contact our office directly with questions at (207) 874-8557 or at bl@portlandmaine.gov.

Sincerely,

Z Lenhert

Zachary J. Lenhert
Licensing and Housing Safety Manager

Legal Advertisement

Notice of Public Hearing
City of Portland

A Public Hearing will be held on November 20, 2023 at 5:00 P.M., Board and Batten LLC, dba Jerome's. Application for Class A Lounge at 223 Congress Street - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES
BUREAU OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND LOTTERY OPERATIONS
DIVISION OF LIQUOR LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT

Division Use Only
License No:
Class: By:
Deposit Date:
Amt. Deposited:
Payment Type:
OK with SOS: Yes ☐ No ☐

Application for an On-Premises License

All Questions Must Be Answered Completely. Please print legibly.

Section I: Licensee/Applicant(s) Information; Type of License and Status

Legal Business Entity Applicant Name (corporation, LLC): Board and Batten, LLC	Business Name (D/B/A): Jerome's
Individual or Sole Proprietor Applicant Name(s):	Physical Location: 223 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101
Individual or Sole Proprietor Applicant Name(s):	Mailing address, if different: PO Box 8235, Portland, ME 04104
Mailing address, if different from DBA address:	Email Address:
Telephone # Fax #: 207-284-3637	Business Telephone # Fax #: 207-772-6839
Federal Tax Identification Number: 93-3791997	Maine Seller Certificate # or Sales Tax #: 1169-9937
Retail Beverage Alcohol Dealers Permit: N/A	Website address:

1. New license or renewal of existing license? ☒ New Expected Start date: 01/01/2024
   ☐ Renewal Expiration Date: 12/31/2024

2. The dollar amount of gross income for the licensure period that will end on the expiration date above:
   Food: $ 10,000.00 Beer, Wine or Spirits: $ 200,000.00 Guest Rooms: $ 0.00

3. Please indicate the type of alcoholic beverage to be sold: (check all that apply)
   ☒ Malt Liquor (beer) ☒ Wine ☒ Spirits

4. Indicate the type of license applying for: (choose only one)

☐	Restaurant (Class I, II, III, IV)	☐	Class A Restaurant/Lounge (Class XI)	☒	Class A Lounge (Class X)
☐	Hotel (Class I, II, III, IV)	☐	Hotel – Food Optional (Class I-A)	☐	Bed & Breakfast (Class V)
☐	Golf Course (included optional licenses, please check if apply) (Class I, II, III, IV)	☐	Auxiliary	☐	Mobile Cart
☐	Tavern (Class IV)	☐	Other: _____		
☐	Qualified Caterer	☐	Self-Sponsored Events (Qualified Caterers Only)		

Refer to Section V for the License Fee Schedule on page 9

5. Business records are located at the following address:

223 Congress St, Portland, ME 04101

6. Is the licensee/applicant(s) citizens of the United States? ☒ Yes ☐ No

7. Is the licensee/applicant(s) a resident of the State of Maine? ☒ Yes ☐ No

NOTE: Applicants that are not citizens of the United States are required to file for the license as a business entity.

8. Is licensee/applicant(s) a business entity like a corporation or limited liability company?

☒ Yes ☐ No If **Yes**, complete Section VII at the end of this application

9. For a licensee/applicant who is a business entity as noted in Section I, does any officer, director, member, manager, shareholder or partner have in any way an interest, directly or indirectly, in their capacity in any other business entity which is a holder of a wholesaler license granted by the State of Maine?

☐ Yes ☒ No

☐ Not applicable – licensee/applicant(s) is a sole proprietor

10. Is the licensee or applicant for a license receiving, directly or indirectly, any money, credit, thing of value, endorsement of commercial paper, guarantee of credit or financial assistance of any sort from any person or entity within or without the State, if the person or entity is engaged, directly or indirectly, in the manufacture, distribution, wholesale sale, storage or transportation of liquor.

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please provide details: _____

_____

11. Do you own or have any interest in any another Maine Liquor License? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please list license number, business name, and complete physical location address: (attach additional pages as needed using the same format)

Name of Business	License Number	Complete Physical Address

12. List name, date of birth, place of birth for all applicants including any manager(s) employed by the licensee/applicant. Provide maiden name, if married. (attach additional pages as needed using the same format)

Full Name	DOB	Place of Birth
Sasha Salzberg	10/15/1976	Brattleboro, VT
Evan Carroll	06/29/1982	Portland, ME
Ian Daly	01/29/1992	Nashua, NH

Residence address on all the above for previous 5 years

Name
Sasha Salzberg
Address:
5 Everett Street Portland, ME 04101

Name
Evan Carroll
Address:
5 Everett Street Portland, ME 04101

Name
Ian Daly
Address:
93 Morning St. Apt. 2, Portland, ME 04101

Name
Ian Daly
Address:
PO Box 355 Carnelian Bay, CA 96140

13. Will any law enforcement officer directly benefit financially from this license, if issued?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, provide name of law enforcement officer and department where employed:

_____

14. Has the licensee/applicant(s) ever been convicted of any violation of the liquor laws in Maine or any State of the United States? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, please provide the following information and attach additional pages as needed using the same format.

Name: _____ Date of Conviction: _____

Offense: _____ Location: _____

Disposition: _____

15. Has the licensee/applicant(s) ever been convicted of any violation of any law, other than minor traffic violations, in Maine or any State of the United States? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, please provide the following information and attach additional pages as needed using the same format.

Name: _____ Date of Conviction: _____

Offense: _____ Location: _____

Disposition: _____

16. Has the licensee/applicant(s) formerly held a Maine liquor license? ☐ Yes ☒ No

17. Does the licensee/applicant(s) own the premises? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If No, please provide the name and address of the owner:

Michael Salisbury, 200 Asbury Rd, Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

18. If you are applying for a liquor license for a Hotel or Bed & Breakfast, please provide the number of guest rooms available: 0.00

19. Please describe in detail the area(s) within the premises to be licensed. This description is in addition to the diagram in Section VI. (Use additional pages as needed)

Premises consists of (1) serving room, (2) bathrooms, (1) vestibule, (1) basement storage area, and (1) bar-back area. Serving area includes, bar seating, table seating and booth seating.

20. What is the distance from the premises to the **nearest** school, school dormitory, church, chapel or parish house, measured from the main entrance of the premises to the main entrance of the school, school dormitory, church, chapel or parish house by the ordinary course of travel?

Name: St Paul's Anglican Church

Distance: 750.00

Section II: Signature of Applicant(s)

By signing this application, the licensee/applicant understands that false statements made on this application are punishable by law. Knowingly supplying false information on this application is a Class D Offense under Maine's Criminal Code, punishable by confinement of up to one year, or by monetary fine of up to $2,000 or by both.

Please sign and date in blue ink.

Dated: 10/19/2023

Signature of Duly Authorized Person

Sasha Salzberg
Printed Name Duly Authorized Person

Signature of Duly Authorized Person

Evan Carroll
Printed Name of Duly Authorized Person

Section III: For use by Municipal Officers and County Commissioners only

The undersigned hereby certifies that we have complied with the process outlined in 28-A M.R.S. §653 and approve this on-premises liquor license application.

Dated: _____

Who is approving this application? ☐ Municipal Officers of _____

☐ County Commissioners of _____ County

☐ **Please Note:** The Municipal Officers or County Commissioners must confirm that the records of Local Option Votes have been verified that allows this type of establishment to be licensed by the Bureau for the type of alcohol to be sold for the appropriate days of the week. Please check this box to indicate this verification was completed.

Signature of Officials	Printed Name and Title

This Application will Expire 60 Days from the date of Municipal or County Approval unless submitted to the Bureau

Included below is the section of Maine's liquor laws regarding the approval process by the municipalities or the county commissioners. This is provided as a courtesy only and may not reflect the law in effect at the time of application. Please see http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/28-A/title28-Asec653.html

§653. Hearings; bureau review; appeal

1. Hearings. The municipal officers or, in the case of unincorporated places, the county commissioners of the county in which the unincorporated place is located, may hold a public hearing for the consideration of applications for new on-premises licenses and applications for transfer of location of existing on-premises licenses. The municipal officers or county commissioners may hold a public hearing for the consideration of requests for renewal of licenses, except that when an applicant has held a license for the prior 5 years and a complaint has not been filed against the applicant within that time, the applicant may request a waiver of the hearing.

A. The bureau shall prepare and supply application forms.

B. The municipal officers or the county commissioners, as the case may be, shall provide public notice of any hearing held under this section by causing a notice, at the applicant's prepaid expense, stating the name and place of hearing, to appear on at least 3 consecutive days before the date of hearing in a daily newspaper having general circulation in the municipality where the premises are located or one week before the date of the hearing in a weekly newspaper having general circulation in the municipality where the premises are located.

C. If the municipal officers or the county commissioners, as the case may be, fail to take final action on an application for a new on-premises license or transfer of the location of an existing on-premises license within 60 days of the filing of an application, the application is deemed approved and ready for action by the bureau. For purposes of this paragraph, the date of filing of the application is the date the application is received by the municipal officers or county commissioners. This paragraph applies to all applications pending before municipal officers or county commissioners as of the effective date of this paragraph as well as all applications filed on or after the effective date of this paragraph. This paragraph applies to an existing on-premises license that has been extended pending renewal. The municipal officers or the county commissioners shall take final action on an on-premises license that has been extended pending renewal within 120 days of the filing of the application.

D. If an application is approved by the municipal officers or the county commissioners but the bureau finds, after inspection of the premises and the records of the applicant, that the applicant does not qualify for the class of license applied for, the bureau shall notify the applicant of that fact in writing. The bureau shall give the applicant 30 days to file an amended application for the appropriate class of license, accompanied by any additional license fee, with the municipal officers or county commissioners, as the case may be. If the applicant fails to file an amended application within 30 days, the original application must be denied by the bureau. The bureau shall notify the applicant in writing of its decision to deny the application including the reasons for the denial and the rights of appeal of the applicant.

2. Findings. In granting or denying an application, the municipal officers or the county commissioners shall indicate the reasons for their decision and provide a copy to the applicant. A license may be denied on one or more of the following grounds:

A. Conviction of the applicant of any Class A, Class B or Class C crime;

B. Noncompliance of the licensed premises or its use with any local zoning ordinance or other land use ordinance not directly related to liquor control;

C. Conditions of record such as waste disposal violations, health or safety violations or repeated parking or traffic violations on or in the vicinity of the licensed premises and caused by persons patronizing or employed by the licensed premises or other such conditions caused by persons patronizing or employed by the licensed premises that unreasonably disturb, interfere with or affect the ability of persons or businesses residing or located in the vicinity of the licensed premises to use their property in a reasonable manner;

D. Repeated incidents of record of breaches of the peace, disorderly conduct, vandalism or other violations of law on or in the vicinity of the licensed premises and caused by persons patronizing or employed by the licensed premises;

D-1. Failure to obtain, or comply with the provisions of, a permit for music, dancing or entertainment required by a municipality or, in the case of an unincorporated place, the county commissioners;

E. A violation of any provision of this Title;

F. A determination by the municipal officers or county commissioners that the purpose of the application is to circumvent the provisions of section 601; and

G. After September 1, 2010, server training, in a program certified by the bureau and required by local ordinance, has not been completed by individuals who serve alcoholic beverages.

3. Appeal to bureau. Any applicant aggrieved by the decision of the municipal officers or county commissioners under this section may appeal to the bureau within 15 days of the receipt of the written decision of the municipal officers or county commissioners. The bureau shall hold a public hearing in the city, town or unincorporated place where the premises are situated. In acting on such an appeal, the bureau may consider all licensure requirements and findings referred to in subsection 2.

A. Repealed

B. If the decision appealed from is an application denial, the bureau may issue the license only if it finds by clear and convincing evidence that the decision was without justifiable cause.

4. Repealed

5. Appeal to District Court. Any person or governmental entity aggrieved by a bureau decision under this section may appeal the decision to the District Court within 30 days of receipt of the written decision of the bureau.

An applicant who files an appeal or who has an appeal pending shall pay the annual license fee the applicant would otherwise pay. Upon resolution of the appeal, if an applicant's license renewal is denied, the bureau shall refund the applicant the prorated amount of the unused license fee.

Section IV: Terms and Conditions of Licensure as an Establishment that sells liquor for on-premises consumption in Maine

- The licensee/applicant(s) agrees to be bound by and comply with the laws, rules and instructions promulgated by the Bureau.
- The licensee/applicant(s) agrees to maintain accurate records related to an on-premise license as required by the law, rules and instructions promulgated or issued by the Bureau if a license is issued as a result of this application.
    - The licensee/applicant(s) authorizes the Bureau to obtain and examine all books, records and tax returns pertaining to the business, for which this liquor license is requested, and also any books, records and returns during the year in which any liquor license is in effect.
- Any change in the licensee's/applicant's licensed premises as defined in this application must be approved by the Bureau in advance.
- All new applicants must apply to the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) for its Retail Beverage Alcohol Dealers permit. See the TTB's website at https://www.ttb.gov/nrc/retail-beverage-alcohol-dealers for more information.

Section V: Fee Schedule

Filing fee required. In addition to the license fees listed below, a filing fee of $10.00 must be included with all applications.

Please note: For Licensees/Applicants in unorganized territories in Maine, the $10.00 filing fee must be paid directly to County Treasurer. All applications received by the Bureau from licensees/applicants in unorganized territories must submit proof of payment was made to the County Treasurer together with the application.

Class of License	Type of liquor/Establishments included	Fee
Class I	**For the sale of liquor (malt liquor, wine and spirits)**	$ 900.00
	This class includes: Airlines; Civic Auditoriums; Class A Restaurants: Clubs with catering privileges; Dining Cars; Golf Courses; Hotels; Indoor Ice-Skating Clubs; Indoor Tennis Clubs; Vessels; Qualified Caterers	
Class I-A	**For the sale of liquor (malt liquor, wine and spirits)**	$1,100.00
	This class includes only hotels that do not serve three meals a day.	
Class II	**For the Sale of Spirits Only**	$ 550.00
	This class includes: Airlines; Civic Auditoriums; Class A Restaurants; Clubs with catering privileges; Dining Cars; Golf Courses; Hotels; Indoor Ice-Skating Clubs; Indoor Tennis Clubs; and Vessels.	
Class III	**For the Sale of Wine Only**	$ 220.00
	This class includes: Airlines; Civic Auditoriums; Class A Restaurants; Clubs with catering privileges; Dining Cars; Golf Courses; Hotels; Indoor Ice-Skating Clubs; Indoor Tennis Clubs; Restaurants; Vessels; Pool Halls; and Bed and Breakfasts.	
Class IV	**For the Sale of Malt Liquor Only**	$ 220.00
	This class includes: Airlines; Civic Auditoriums; Class A Restaurants; Clubs with catering privileges; Dining Cars; Golf Courses; Hotels; Indoor Ice-Skating Clubs; Indoor Tennis Clubs; Restaurants; Taverns; Pool Halls; and Bed and Breakfasts.	
Class III and IV	**For the Sale of Malt Liquor and Wine Only**	$ 440.00
	This class includes: Airlines; Civic Auditoriums; Class A Restaurants; Clubs with catering privileges; Dining Cars; Golf Courses; Hotels; Indoor Ice-Skating Clubs; Indoor Tennis Clubs; Restaurants; Vessels; Pool Halls; and Bed and Breakfasts.	
Class V	**For the sale of liquor (malt liquor, wine and spirits)**	$ 495.00
	This class includes only a Club without catering privileges.	
Class X	**For the sale of liquor (malt liquor, wine and spirits)**	$2,200.00
	This class includes only a Class A Lounge	
Class XI	**For the sale of liquor (malt liquor, wine and spirits)**	$1,500.00
	This class includes only a Restaurant Lounge	

Section VI Premises Floor Plan

In an effort to clearly define your license premise and the areas that consumption and storage of liquor authorized by your license type is allowed, the Bureau requires all applications to include a diagram of the premise to be licensed.

Diagrams should be submitted on this form and should be as accurate as possible. Be sure to label the following areas: entrances, office area, coolers, storage areas, display cases, shelves, restroom, point of sale area, area for on-premise consumption, dining rooms, event/function rooms, lounges, outside area/decks or any other areas on the premise that you are requesting approval. Attached an additional page as needed to fully describe the premise.

See attached "Liquor License Plan SKA001"

Section VII: Required Additional Information for a Licensee/Applicant for an On-Premises Liquor License Who are Legal Business Entities

Questions 1 to 4 of this part of the application must match information in Section I of the application above and match the information on file with the Maine Secretary of State's office. If you have questions regarding your legal entity name or DBA, please call the Secretary of State's office at (207) 624-7752.

All Questions Must Be Answered Completely. Please print legibly.

1. Exact legal name: Board and Batten, LLC
2. Doing Business As, if any: Jerome's
3. Date of filing with Secretary of State: 10/02/2023 State in which you are formed: Maine
4. If not a Maine business entity, date on which you were authorized to transact business in the State of Maine: N/A
5. List the name and addresses for previous 5 years, birth dates, titles of officers, directors, managers, members or partners and the percentage ownership any person listed: (attached additional pages as needed)

Name	Address (5 Years)	Date of Birth	Title	Percentage of Ownership
Sasha Salzberg	5 Everett St. Portland ME 04101	10/15/1976	Co-Owner	51.0000
Evan Carroll	5 Everett st. Portland ME 04101	06/29/1982	Co-Owner	29.0000
Ian Daly	93 Morning St. Apt.2 Portland	01/29/1992	Co-Owner	20.0000
Ian Daly	PO Box 355 Carnelian Bay, CA	01/29/1992		

(Ownership in non-publicly traded companies must add up to 100%.)

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES
BUREAU OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND LOTTERY OPERATIONS
DIVISION OF LIQUOR LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT

TELEPHONE: (207) 624-7220
FAX: (207) 287-3434
EMAIL INQUIRIES: maineliquor@maine.gov

Thank you for your interested in becoming a licensed establishment to sell and serve alcoholic beverages in Maine. To avoid any delay in the processing of your application and the subsequent issuance of your liquor license, please use the following checklist to assist you in completing the application. If you are renewing your license, this checklist is useful as well.

- ☒ Your application has been completed in its entirety and is legible. For a renewal, please submit your application 30 days prior to the expiration date of your liquor license.
- ☒ Your application is signed and dated by a duly authorized person.
- ☐ The application is signed and approved by the Town or City Municipal Officers or County Commissioners.
- ☒ The license fee submitted is for the correct fee for the license class for which you are applying and includes the $10.00 filing fee.
  - ☒ The check must be made payable to "Treasurer, State of Maine"; both the license and filing fees can be submitted on one check.
  - ☐ If the licensee/applicant(s) is in an unorganized township, the application must be approved by the County Commissioners and the $10.00 filing fee must be paid to them. Please be sure to include a copy of the receipt of payment with your application.
- ☒ N/A For a renewal, the dollar amount of your gross income for food, liquor and guest rooms, if applicable must be completed – see Section I.1
- ☒ A diagram of the facility to be licensed must accompany **all** applications whether for a new license or the renewal of an existing license
- ☒ If you are a registered business entity with the Maine Secretary of State's office like a corporation or a limited liability company, you must complete Section VII of the application. This does not need to be completed if you are a sole proprietor.
- ☒ Have you applied for other required licensing from other state and federal agencies? See attached list.

Important – all applications whether for a new license or to renew an existing license for an on-premises liquor licenses must contact their Municipal Officials or the County Commissioners in unincorporated places to have their application approved and signed prior to submitting it to the Bureau for further consideration.

The address to send your completed application to:

1. Mailing address:
   Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations
   Division of Liquor Licensing and Enforcement
   8 State House Station
   Augusta, ME 04333-0008
2. Courier/overnight address:
   Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations
   Division of Liquor Licensing and Enforcement
   19 Union Street, Suite 301-B
   Augusta, ME 04330

The following licenses/permits may be required prior to be licensing as an on-premises licensee with the Bureau

Obtained ✓	License/Permit	State/Federal Agency to Contact	Telephone Number	Physical Location
X	Seller Certificate or Sales Tax Number	Maine Revenue Services www.maine.gov/revenue	(207) 624-9693	51 Commerce Dr, Augusta
	Health License	Health and Human Services www.maine.gov/dhhs	(207) 287 5671	286 Water St, 3rd floor, Augusta
	Victualer's License	Municipality where premise is located.	Contact your town office or county office	Contact your town office or county office
	Shellfish License	Marine Recourses www.maine.gov/dmr	(207) 624-6550	• 32 Blossom Lane, Augusta • 194 McKown Point Rd, West Boothbay Harbor • Lamoine State Park, Lamoine • 650 State St, Bangor • 317 Whitneyville Rd, Jonesboro
	Dance or Entertainment License	Fire Marshall's Office www.maine.gov/dps/fmo	(207) 626-3882	45 Commerce Drive, Suite 1, Augusta
X	Federal I.D. Number	www.irs.gov	(800) 829-4933	
X	Legal business names for corporations and limited liability companies and "Doing Business As" Names (assumed names)	Secretary of State, Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions www.maine.gov/sos/cec	(207) 624-7752	111 Sewall St, 3rd Fl, Augusta
	Retail Beverage Alcohol Dealers Permit	Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) https://www.ttb.gov/nrc/retail-beverage-alcohol-dealers	(877) 882-3277	

Jerome's

On Tap:

Coors Light
Guiness
Oxbow Luppolo
Citizen Cider
Dasch Hard Seltzer
Oxbow Seasonal
Bissell Substance
Pinot Grigio
Cabernet Savignon
Prosecco

Bottles and Cans:

Budweiser
Bud Light
Pabst Blue Ribbon
Corona Extra
Modelo
Sacred Pofane Dark Lager
Norumbega Dry Cider
Sour Beer
Wild Maine Hard Seltzer
High Noon Hard Seltzer
Orono Tubular

NA Bottles and Cans:

Corona NA
Athletic NA IPA or Cerveza
Lagunitas Hop Water

Soft Drinks:

Coke or Pepsi products - Fountain
Ginger Beer - Bottle
Root Beer - Bottle
Juice
Coffee
Tea
Raspberry Lime Ricky
Red Bull - Can
Liquid Death Soda Water - Can

Cocktails:

Jerome's Jack and Coke: Jack Daniels Whiskey, Coca Cola, optional Lime
Fresh Margarita Fizz: Espolon Tequila, Triple Sec, Agave syrup, fresh lime juice, club soda
Xtra Lime Gin & Tonic: Bombay Sapphire Gin, tonic, extra fresh lime juice
Uncle Buddy's Cape Cod: Tito's Vodka, cranberry Juice, lime
Rig and Rum Roll: Captain Morgan's Spiced Rum, Sprite, lime
Amaretto Sour Plus: Amaretto & Jim Beam Bourbon Whiskey, fresh lemon lime mix, sugar water
Aperol Spritz: Prosecco, Aperol, club soda
Red Sangria: Cabernet, Brandy, apple, orange, brown sugar

Jerome's

Appetizer:

Savory Snack Plate	Cheese, crackers, pepperoni, pickles
Sweet Snack Plate	Grapes, apple slices, peanut butter dipping sauce, yogurt pretzels
Savory & Sweet Combo Plate	Cheese, crackers, pepperoni, pickles, grapes, apple, peanut butter, yogurt pretzels
Mixed Nuts Bowl	Salted, roasted, mixed nuts

Salads:

House Mixed Greens Mini/Full Size	Mixed greens, tomato, onion, shredded carrot, mini or full size
Caesar Mini/Full Size	Romaine, Parmesean, croutons, tossed in caesar dressing, mini or full size
Special Salad	Mixed greens, onions, shredded carrot, seasonal fruit, cheese, nuts
Wedge Salad	Iceberg wedge, Blue cheese, dressing

Sandwiches:

Ham & Cheese	Honey Ham, Swiss cheese, shredded iceberg lettuce, shaved red onion, pickles, tomato, horseradish mustard aioli, bulky roll
Turkey & Cheese	Peppered Turkey, spring mix, shaved red onion, chive onion cream cheese & pesto, everything bagel
Cold Cut Supreme	Turkey, Ham, Salami, Pepperoni, Provolone, iceberg lettuce, diced white onion, diced tomato, pickles, olives, oil & balsamic vinegar, italian roll
Vegetarian Wrap	Red Pepper Hummus, sprouts, carrot, cabbage, cucumber, spring mix, sliced avocado, spinach or tomato wrap, add Siracha
Canned Fish & Mayo	Tuna, mayo, grapes, walnuts, celery, salt and pepper, topped with spring mix/ or with horseradish mustard aioli &chopped pickles, bread optional
Canned Poultry & Mayo	Chicken, pesto aioli base topped with spring mix, plain or spicy mayo, add pickles, bread optional
BBQ PB&J	Peanut butter & jelly topped with BBQ chips, white bread

All Sandwiches come with choice of Side Chip and Slice Pickle- Plain, Salt and Pepper, Sour Cream and Onion, BBQ- FOX FAMILY BRAND

MEMORANDUM
City Council Agenda Item

FROM:

DATE: October 30, 2023

SUBJECT: Order 71-23/24 Granting Municipal Officers' Approval of Sodexo America LLC, dba Sodexo America. Application for Class III & IV at 35 Bedford Street - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager

SPONSOR: The Mayor, City Manager, City Clerk, Corporation Counsel, the Planning Board, or up to three (3) members of the Council shall sponsor any orders or other items. If sponsored by a Council Committee, please include the date the committee met and the results of the vote.

(If sponsored by a Council committee, include the date the committee met and the results of the vote.)

COUNCIL MEETING DATE ACTION IS REQUESTED:
1st Reading **Final Action**

Can action be taken at a later date: No If action cannot be taken at a later date, please explain why. Do NOT write yes or no; that will be automatically generated by the checkbox.

Does this item involve a new contract with the City: N/A

PRESENTATION: Please list the presenter(s), type, and length of presentation

I. SUMMARY

II. AGENDA DESCRIPTION

Application was filed on 10/26/23. Location was previously The Husky Brew Cafe. New City and State applications.

Five affirmative votes are required for passage after public comment.

III. BACKGROUND

Background information that will not appear in the Agenda Description

IV. INTENDED RESULT AND/OR COUNCIL GOAL ADDRESSED

V. FINANCIAL IMPACT

Please indicate whether or not there is a financial impact. Please note that per Council Rule 12, this form must have "a separate fiscal impact statement memo attached if the impact of the item is $50,000 or more in a given fiscal year. This memo shall include details and information describing the fiscal impact including, but not limited to, projected costs, revenues or savings over a three (3) year period and/or any potential impacts on the City tax levy."

VI. STAFF ANALYSIS AND BACKGROUND

Staff Analysis that will not appear in the Agenda Description.

VII. RECOMMENDATION

VIII. LIST ATTACHMENTS

1. 2023.11.20_Sodexo
2. Sodexo_Council Packet

Prepared by:
Date: 10/30/2023

KATE SNYDER (MAYOR)
ANNA TREVORROW (1)
VICTORIA L. PELLETIER (2)
REGINA PHILLIPS (3)
ANDREW ZARRO (4)

CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL

MARK DION (5)
APRIL D. FOURNIER(A/L)
PIOUS ALI (A/L)
ROBERTO RODRÍGUEZ (A/L)

ORDER
GRANTING MUNICIPAL OFFICERS' APPROVAL OF:

Sodexo America LLC, dba Sodexo America. Application for Class III & IV at 35 Bedford Street

SKENE LAW FIRM, P.C.

A NEW JERSEY PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
2614 ROUTE 516, 2ND FLOOR • OLD BRIDGE, NEW JERSEY • 08857
PHONE: 732-727-5030 • FAX: 732-727-5028
WWW.SKENELAWFIRM.COM

ROBERT D. SKENE * +
LISA M. MILLER * + ^

LINDSEY FARINA * +
AMANDA TAYLOR *

* NEW JERSEY BAR ADMISSION
+ NEW YORK BAR ADMISSION
^ PENNSYLVANIA BAR ADMISSION

October 2, 2023

VIA FEDEX DELIVERY
City of Portland
Office of the Mayor and City Council
389 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101

Re: Application for Food Service Establishment
With Alcoholic Beverages License
Sodexo America, LLC
35 Bedford Street
Portland, ME 04103

To Whom It May Concern:

Please be advised that our firm represents Sodexo America, LLC in its alcoholic beverage regulatory matters. At this time, our client wishes to apply for a Class III & IV liquor license for the above referenced premises as they will be providing food and beverage services for the Husky Brew Café on the University of Southern Maine's Portland Campus. The café will be open Monday-Friday from 7am and 9pm for staff, faculty and students.

Upon your review of the foregoing, please do not hesitate to contact our office with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

SKENE LAW FIRM, P.C.

Danielle Notarmuzi, Paralegal

SKENE LAW FIRM, P.C.

A NEW JERSEY PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
2614 ROUTE 516, 2ND FLOOR • OLD BRIDGE, NEW JERSEY • 08857
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ROBERT D. SKENE * +
LISA M. MILLER * + ^

LINDSEY FARINA * +
AMANDA TAYLOR *

* NEW JERSEY BAR ADMISSION
+ NEW YORK BAR ADMISSION
^ PENNSYLVANIA BAR ADMISSION

October 2, 2023

VIA FEDEX DELIVERY
Attn: Permitting and Inspections Dept.
City of Portland
389 Congress St, Room 307
Portland, ME 04101

Re: Liquor License Application
Sodexo America, LLC
35 Bedford Street
Portland, ME 04103

Dear Madam/Sir:

Please be advised that our firm represents Sodexo America, LLC in it alcoholic beverage regulatory matters. At this time, our client wishes to file an application to obtain a liquor license for the above premises. In support of same, enclosed please find the following items:

- Letter of Intent.
- City of Portland Application for Food Service Establishment with Alcoholic Beverages License.
- ME BABLO Application for an On-Premises License.
- Premises diagram.
- Premises menu.
- Documentation authorizing Sodexo America, LLC to operate at the premises,
- Check in the amount of $1,135.00 made payable to the City of Portland, representing the licensing and application fees.

Upon your review of the foregoing, please accept same for filing.

Please contact our office at (732) 727-5030 or dnotarmuzi@skenelawfirm.com with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

SKENE LAW FIRM, P.C.

Danielle Notarmuzi, Paralegal

CITY OF PORTLAND

Permitting and Inspections Department

Application for Food Service Establishment with Alcoholic Beverages License

Business Information			
Establishment Name (d/b/a):	Sodexo America, ~~LLC~~	Phone:	
Location Address:	35 Bedford Street, Portland, ME	Zip: 04103	
If new, what was formerly at this location:			
Mailing Address:	9801 Washingtonian Blvd, Suite 1255-A, Gaithersburg, MD	Zip: 20878	
Contact Person:	Danielle Notarmuzi	Phone: (732) 727-5080	
Contact Person Email:	dnotarmuzi@skenelawfirm.com		
Manager of Establishment:	Olivia Ducette Date of Birth: 8/12/1979	Phone:	(207) 572-9749
Owner of Premises (Landlord):	University of Southern Maine		
Address of Premises Owner (Landlord):	35 Bedford Street, Portland, ME	Zip: 04103	

Sole Proprietor/Partnership Information (If Corporation, leave blank)

Name of Owner(s)	Date of Birth	Residence Address

Corporate Name	Corporate Mailing Address
Sodexo America, LLC	9801 Washingtonian Blvd, Suite 1255-A, Gaithersburg, MD Zip: 20878

Corporate/LLC/Non-Profit Organization Applicants (If Sole Proprietor or Partnership, leave blank)

Contact Person: Debby Rowles		Phone: (301) 987-4504	
Principal Officers	**Title**	**Date of Birth**	**Residence Address**
Sarosh Mistry	President	8/28/1969	3229 Via Seranova Henderson, NV 89044
Thomas Morse	Vice President	4/29/1958	152 Treehaven St, Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Joan Rector McGlockton	Treasurer	6/4/1958	7206 Bells Mill Rd, Bethesda, MD 20817

Class of Liquor License:	Class III and IV

CITY OF PORTLAND

Permitting and Inspections Department

Type of food served:	American
Please circle all that will be served:	~~Beer~~ Wine Liquor
Projected percentage of sales:	Generated from Food: 75% Generated from Alcohol: 25%
Hours & days of operation:	Monday-Friday: 7am-9pm

QUESTIONS	Y/N
Will full-course meals, only capable of consumption with the use of tableware, be served the entire time the establishment is open?	Y/N
If No, please explain:	
Is the establishment less than 300 feet from a school, dormitory, church or parish house, or similar establishment?	Y/N
If yes, give the distance:	
Will you have entertainment on the premises? (If yes, a Supplemental Application for Entertainment is required.)	Y/N
Will you permit dancing after 1:00 a.m.?	Y/N
Will you have outside dining? (If yes, an Outdoor Dining Application is required)	Y/N
If yes, will the outside dining be on PUBLIC or PRIVATE property (circle one).	
Will you have any amusement devices (pinball, video games, juke box)?	Y/N
If yes, please list: # of pinball machines: _____ # of amusements: _____ # of pool tables: _____	
What is your targeted opening date?	
Does the Issuance of this license directly or indirectly benefit any City employee(s)?	Y/N
If Yes, list name(s) of employee(s) and department(s):	
Have any of the applicants, including the corporation (if applicable), ever held a business license with the City of Portland?	Y/N
If Yes, please list business name(s) and location(s):	
Is any principal officer under the age of 21?	Y/N
Have applicant, partners, associates, or corporate officers ever been arrested, indicted, or convicted for any violation of law?	Y/N
If Yes, please explain:	

I Thomas Morse **do hereby swear and affirm that every employee in my establishment that serves alcohol to the public has attended server training, or will attend server training within 90 days of their hire. I also understand that at any time the City license administrator can, upon request, require me to produce Server Training certificates for each employee that serves alcohol to the public in my establishment. Failure to meet the training requirement imposed by section 15-41 may result in the denial of a liquor license pursuant to 28-A M.R.S.A. § 653 (2) (G).**

Applicant, by signature below, agrees to abide by all laws, orders, ordinances, rules and regulations governing the above licensee and further agrees that any misstatement of material fact may result in refusal of license or revocation if one has been granted. Applicant agrees that all taxes and accounts pertaining to the premises will be paid prior to issuance of the license.

It is understood that this and any application(s) shall become public record and the applicant(s) hereby waive(s) any rights to privacy with respect thereto. I/We, hereby authorize the release of any criminal history record information to the City Clerk's Office or licensing authority. I/We, hereby waive any rights to privacy with respect thereto.

Signature Thomas R. Morse Title Vice President Date 09/21/2023

Lockable Coolers Space in Purple
26 Seats in Blue
3 restrooms men/female/All gender in green
Exit/Entrance in orange
Beer in Pink
Cafe/pub outline
MISSING ITEM NO. 3 AND 5 - SHOW ON PLANS
FOODSERVICE EQUIPMENT LAYOUT
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"
ISSUED FOR APPROVAL
5-5-2021
KITCHEN EQUIPMENT CONTRACTOR SHALL VERIFY AND COORDINATE ALL DETAILS, DIMENSIONS AND UTILITIES IN THE FIELD WITH THE GENERAL CONTRACTOR.
DOUBRAVA-GIVETTE CONSULTING PARTNERS, INC.
USM CSSC & PORTLAND COMMONS
99 FALMOUTH STREET
PORTLAND, ME 04103
FOODSERVICE EQUIPMENT PLAN
QF100
REVISIONS
TriMark
UNITED EAS

Appetizers

Potato Skins

Pineland Farms Cheddar Cheese Curds, Local Bacon, Scallion

Brussel Sprouts

Lemon Dressing, Fine Herbs, Parmesan

Pulled Pork Spring Roll

BBQ Pulled Pork, Glen Cove Gouda, Cilantro Lime Crema

Salads

Caesar

Black Garlic Dressing, House Croutons, Manchego Cheese

Local Greens

Cucumber, Pickled Red Onion, Tri-Colored Tomatoes, Shallot Vinaigrette

Seasonal

Circle B Farm Beets, Spiced Honey Yogurt Dressing, Arugula, Pecans

Entrées (lunch)

Pineland Farms Burger

Local Bacon, Pineland Farms Cheddar

Weekly Special: Avocado, Bacon, Fried Egg

Beer Mac n' Cheese

Local Beer, Pineland Farms Cheddar, Breadcrumbs

Fried Chicken Sandwich

Brioche Roll, Local Greens & Tomatoes, Sriracha lime mayonnaise

Falafel Gyro

Local Greens and Tomatoes, Feta, Tzatziki.

Home-Style Chicken Tenders

Select Sauces, Fries

8" Pan Pizza

Cheese, Pepperoni, Daily Special

Fish n' Chips

Beer Battered Cod, Fries, Preserved Lemon Tartar Sauce

Sides

Fries, Chips, Salad

Entrées (Dinner)

Pineland Farms Burger

Local Bacon, Pineland Farms Cheddar

Weekly Special: Avocado, Bacon, Fried Egg

Beer Mac n' Cheese

Local Beer, Pineland Farms Cheddar, Breadcrumbs

Steak Frites

Flank Steak, Frites, Compound Butter

Grilled Half Chicken

Herb Mashed Potatoes, Daily Vegetable

Meatloaf

Smoked Cheddar Mashed Potatoes, Daily Vegetable

8" Pan Pizza

Cheese, Pepperoni, Daily Special

Fish n' Chips

Beer Battered Cod, Fries, Preserved Lemon Tartar Sauce

Sides

Fries, Chips, Salad, Mashed Potatoes

Hot Beverages	12oz	16oz	20oz
Brewed Coffee	$1.79	$2.09	$2.29
Latte	$2.69	$3.09	$3.39
Macchiato	$3.29	$4.09	$4.39
Caramel Macchiato	$3.29	$3.89	$4.19
Cappuccino	$2.89	$3.29	$3.59
Breve	$3.19	$3.69	$3.89
Mocha	$3.09	$3.59	$3.89
White Mocha	$3.19	$3.69	$3.99
Hot Chocolate	$2.29	$2.69	$2.89
Chai	$3.09	$3.59	$3.79
Hot Tea	$1.59		

Espresso	$1.49 – Single	$1.99 Double

Iced Beverages	12oz
Americano	$2.89
White Mocha	$4.29
Mocha	$5.19
Caramelado	$4.09
Latte	$4.69
Chai	$3.69

COFFEE BY DESIGN

PORTLAND, MAINE • EST 1994

Sodexo - Class 3 & 4 - 35 Bedford St

Eric Nevins <ericn@portlandmaine.gov> Sun, Nov 5, 2023 at 1:28 PM
To: Zachary Lenhert <zlenhert@portlandmaine.gov>
Cc: Ron Kelton <rkelton@portlandmaine.gov>, Fire Prevention <fireprevention@portlandmaine.gov>, Laurie Carlson <lac@portlandmaine.gov>, Katlyn Sawyer <ksawyer@portlandmaine.gov>, Zoning <zoning@portlandmaine.gov>, Eric Cobb <ecobb@portlandmaine.gov>, Benjamin Pearson <bnp@portlandmaine.gov>, Tom Williams <tw@portlandmaine.gov>, Jason Grant <jgrant@portlandmaine.gov>, Treasury Division <treasury@portlandmaine.gov>, Christina Stacey <cstacey@portlandmaine.gov>, Business Licensing <bl@portlandmaine.gov>

Approved

On Fri, Nov 3, 2023 at 3:35 PM Zachary Lenhert <zlenhert@portlandmaine.gov> wrote:
[Quoted text hidden]

--
Eric Nevins
Lieutenant
Portland Police Department
(207) 874-8513

Sodexo - Class 3 & 4 - 35 Bedford St

Zoning <zoning@portlandmaine.gov> Tue, Nov 14, 2023 at 3:38 PM
To: Zoning <zoning@portlandmaine.gov>
Cc: Zachary Lenhert <zlenhert@portlandmaine.gov>, Katlyn Sawyer <ksawyer@portlandmaine.gov>, Eric Cobb <ecobb@portlandmaine.gov>, Tom Williams <tw@portlandmaine.gov>, Jason Grant <jgrant@portlandmaine.gov>, Business Licensing <bl@portlandmaine.gov>

Zach -

A restaurant with a Class III and IV license to serve beer and wine is a permitted use in the B-2 Zone per Table 6-C of Chapter 14.

Ann Machado
Zoning Administrator

[Quoted text hidden]

Legal Advertisement

Notice of Public Hearing
City of Portland

A Public Hearing will be held on November 20, 2023 at 5:00 P.M., Sodexo America LLC, dba Sodexo America. Application for Class III & IV at 35 Bedford Street - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager

City of Portland | Permitting and Inspections
Zachary Lenhert, Licensing and Housing Safety Manager

November 13, 2023

Sodexo America LLC
9801 Washington Blvd. Suite 1255-A
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Re: Sodexo America LLC, dba Sodexo America. Application for Class III & IV at 35 Bedford Street

Dear Sodexo America LLC:

This letter shall serve as a reminder of the public hearing before the Portland City Council on Monday November 20, 2023 at 5:00 p.m., for the review of application for Class III & IV at 35 Bedford Street. The meeting will take place in person at Portland City Hall, in City Council Chambers on the 2nd Floor of 389 Congress Street.

You or a representative of the business must be present at this meeting in the event that the city council has questions regarding the license application. If there is no representation and questions arise, the item may be postponed.

Please contact our office directly with questions at (207) 874-8557 or at bl@portlandmaine.gov.

Sincerely,

Zachary J. Lenhert
Licensing and Housing Safety Manager

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES
BUREAU OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND LOTTERY OPERATIONS
DIVISION OF LIQUOR LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT

Division Use Only
License No:
Class: By:
Deposit Date:
Amt. Deposited:
Payment Type:
OK with SOS: Yes ☐ No ☐

Application for an On-Premises License

All Questions Must Be Answered Completely. Please print legibly.

Section I: Licensee/Applicant(s) Information; Type of License and Status

Legal Business Entity Applicant Name (corporation, LLC): Sodexo America, LLC	Business Name (D/B/A):
Individual or Sole Proprietor Applicant Name(s):	Physical Location: 35 Bedford Street, Portland, ME 04103
Individual or Sole Proprietor Applicant Name(s):	Mailing address, if different: 9801 Washingtonian Blvd, Ste 1255A, Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Mailing address, if different from DBA address: 9801 Washingtonian Blvd, Ste 1255-A, Gaithersburg, MD 20878	Email Address: liquorlicense.usa@sodexo.com
Telephone # Fax #: (301) 987-4504	Business Telephone # Fax #: (207) 581-2463
Federal Tax Identification Number: 52-2208632	Maine Seller Certificate # or Sales Tax #: 1180492
Retail Beverage Alcohol Dealers Permit:	Website address:

1. New license or renewal of existing license? ☒ New Expected Start date: 08/29/2023
   ☐ Renewal Expiration Date: _____

2. The dollar amount of gross income for the licensure period that will end on the expiration date above:
   Food: _____ Beer, Wine or Spirits: _____ Guest Rooms: _____

3. Please indicate the type of alcoholic beverage to be sold: (check all that apply)
   ☒ Malt Liquor (beer) ☒ Wine ☐ Spirits

4. Indicate the type of license applying for: (choose only one)

☒	Restaurant (Class I, II, III, IV)	☐	Class A Restaurant/Lounge (Class XI)	☐	Class A Lounge (Class X)
☐	Hotel (Class I, II, III, IV)	☐	Hotel – Food Optional (Class I-A)	☐	Bed & Breakfast (Class V)
☐	Golf Course (included optional licenses, please check if apply) (Class I, II, III, IV)	☐	Auxiliary	☐	Mobile Cart
☐	Tavern (Class IV)	☐	Other: _____		
☐	Qualified Caterer	☐	Self-Sponsored Events (Qualified Caterers Only)		

Refer to Section V for the License Fee Schedule on page 9

5. Business records are located at the following address:

35 Bedford Street, Portland, ME 04103

6. Is the licensee/applicant(s) citizens of the United States? ☐ Yes ☐ No N/A

7. Is the licensee/applicant(s) a resident of the State of Maine? ☐ Yes ☐ No N/A

NOTE: Applicants that are not citizens of the United States are required to file for the license as a business entity.

8. Is licensee/applicant(s) a business entity like a corporation or limited liability company?

☒ Yes ☐ No If **Yes**, complete Section VII at the end of this application

9. For a licensee/applicant who is a business entity as noted in Section I, does any officer, director, member, manager, shareholder or partner have in any way an interest, directly or indirectly, in their capacity in any other business entity which is a holder of a wholesaler license granted by the State of Maine?

☐ Yes ☒ No

☐ Not applicable – licensee/applicant(s) is a sole proprietor

10. Is the licensee or applicant for a license receiving, directly or indirectly, any money, credit, thing of value, endorsement of commercial paper, guarantee of credit or financial assistance of any sort from any person or entity within or without the State, if the person or entity is engaged, directly or indirectly, in the manufacture, distribution, wholesale sale, storage or transportation of liquor.

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please provide details: _____

_____

11. Do you own or have any interest in any another Maine Liquor License? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please list license number, business name, and complete physical location address: (attach additional pages as needed using the same format)

Name of Business	License Number	Complete Physical Address
see attached rider		

12. List name, date of birth, place of birth for all applicants including any manager(s) employed by the licensee/applicant. Provide maiden name, if married. (attach additional pages as needed using the same format)

Full Name	DOB	Place of Birth
Olivia Ducette	08/12/1979	Boston, MA

Residence address on all the above for previous 5 years	
Name Olivia Ducette	Address: 45 Deer Hill Ave, Standish, ME 04084
Name	Address:
Name	Address:
Name	Address:

Rider to Q. 11

Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations

Liquor Status Search: Results

Search Results for: sodexo america

LOCATION	LICENSEE NAME	LICENSE NUMBER	TYPE OF LICENSE
FARMINGTON	SODEXO AMERICA, LLC	QCS-2016-1154	QUALIFIED CATERING SERVICE
FORT KENT	SODEXO AMERICA LLC	QCS-2016-1151	QUALIFIED CATERING SERVICE
MACHIAS	SODEXO AMERICA, LLC	CAR-2016-1164	CLASS "A" RESTAURANT
PORTLAND	SODEXO AMERICA, LLC	QCS-2016-1166	QUALIFIED CATERING SERVICE
PRESQUE ISLE	SODEXO AMERICA, LLC	QCS-2016-1162	QUALIFIED CATERING SERVICE

Previous 1 Next

Showing 1 to 5 of 5 entries

Questions about this Service? Contact Liquor Licensing at: (207) 624-7220 or Email: liquor.licensing@maine.gov

13. Will any law enforcement officer directly benefit financially from this license, if issued?

Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, provide name of law enforcement officer and department where employed:

_____

14. Has the licensee/applicant(s) ever been convicted of any violation of the liquor laws in Maine or any State of the United States? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, please provide the following information and attach additional pages as needed using the same format.

Name: _____ Date of Conviction: _____

Offense: _____ Location: _____

Disposition: _____

15. Has the licensee/applicant(s) ever been convicted of any violation of any law, other than minor traffic violations, in Maine or any State of the United States? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, please provide the following information and attach additional pages as needed using the same format.

Name: _____ Date of Conviction: _____

Offense: _____ Location: _____

Disposition: _____

16. Has the licensee/applicant(s) formerly held a Maine liquor license? ☐ Yes ☒ No

17. Does the licensee/applicant(s) own the premises? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If No, please provide the name and address of the owner:

University of Southern Maine

18. If you are applying for a liquor license for a Hotel or Bed & Breakfast, please provide the number of guest rooms available: _____

19. Please describe in detail the area(s) within the premises to be licensed. This description is in addition to the diagram in Section VI. (Use additional pages as needed)

Husky Brew located on the University of Southern Maine campus.

20. What is the distance from the premises to the **nearest** school, school dormitory, church, chapel or parish house, measured from the main entrance of the premises to the main entrance of the school, school dormitory, church, chapel or parish house by the ordinary course of travel?

Name: N/A

Distance: _____

Section II: Signature of Applicant(s)

By signing this application, the licensee/applicant understands that false statements made on this application are punishable by law. Knowingly supplying false information on this application is a Class D Offense under Maine's Criminal Code, punishable by confinement of up to one year, or by monetary fine of up to $2,000 or by both.

Please sign and date in blue ink.

Dated: 09/21/2023

Thomas R. Morse

Signature of Duly Authorized Person

Signature of Duly Authorized Person

Thomas Morse

Printed Name Duly Authorized Person

Printed Name of Duly Authorized Person

Section III: For use by Municipal Officers and County Commissioners only

The undersigned hereby certifies that we have complied with the process outlined in 28-A M.R.S. §653 and approve this on-premises liquor license application.

Dated: _____

Who is approving this application? ☐ Municipal Officers of _____

☐ County Commissioners of _____ County

☐ **Please Note:** The Municipal Officers or County Commissioners must confirm that the records of Local Option Votes have been verified that allows this type of establishment to be licensed by the Bureau for the type of alcohol to be sold for the appropriate days of the week. Please check this box to indicate this verification was completed.

Signature of Officials	Printed Name and Title

This Application will Expire 60 Days from the date of Municipal or County Approval unless submitted to the Bureau

Included below is the section of Maine's liquor laws regarding the approval process by the municipalities or the county commissioners. This is provided as a courtesy only and may not reflect the law in effect at the time of application. Please see http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/28-A/title28-Asec653.html

§653. Hearings; bureau review; appeal

1. Hearings. The municipal officers or, in the case of unincorporated places, the county commissioners of the county in which the unincorporated place is located, may hold a public hearing for the consideration of applications for new on-premises licenses and applications for transfer of location of existing on-premises licenses. The municipal officers or county commissioners may hold a public hearing for the consideration of requests for renewal of licenses, except that when an applicant has held a license for the prior 5 years and a complaint has not been filed against the applicant within that time, the applicant may request a waiver of the hearing.

A. The bureau shall prepare and supply application forms.

B. The municipal officers or the county commissioners, as the case may be, shall provide public notice of any hearing held under this section by causing a notice, at the applicant's prepaid expense, stating the name and place of hearing, to appear on at least 3 consecutive days before the date of hearing in a daily newspaper having general circulation in the municipality where the premises are located or one week before the date of the hearing in a weekly newspaper having general circulation in the municipality where the premises are located.

C. If the municipal officers or the county commissioners, as the case may be, fail to take final action on an application for a new on-premises license or transfer of the location of an existing on-premises license within 60 days of the filing of an application, the application is deemed approved and ready for action by the bureau. For purposes of this paragraph, the date of filing of the application is the date the application is received by the municipal officers or county commissioners. This paragraph applies to all applications pending before municipal officers or county commissioners as of the effective date of this paragraph as well as all applications filed on or after the effective date of this paragraph. This paragraph applies to an existing on-premises license that has been extended pending renewal. The municipal officers or the county commissioners shall take final action on an on-premises license that has been extended pending renewal within 120 days of the filing of the application.

D. If an application is approved by the municipal officers or the county commissioners but the bureau finds, after inspection of the premises and the records of the applicant, that the applicant does not qualify for the class of license applied for, the bureau shall notify the applicant of that fact in writing. The bureau shall give the applicant 30 days to file an amended application for the appropriate class of license, accompanied by any additional license fee, with the municipal officers or county commissioners, as the case may be. If the applicant fails to file an amended application within 30 days, the original application must be denied by the bureau. The bureau shall notify the applicant in writing of its decision to deny the application including the reasons for the denial and the rights of appeal of the applicant.

2. Findings. In granting or denying an application, the municipal officers or the county commissioners shall indicate the reasons for their decision and provide a copy to the applicant. A license may be denied on one or more of the following grounds:

A. Conviction of the applicant of any Class A, Class B or Class C crime;

B. Noncompliance of the licensed premises or its use with any local zoning ordinance or other land use ordinance not directly related to liquor control;

C. Conditions of record such as waste disposal violations, health or safety violations or repeated parking or traffic violations on or in the vicinity of the licensed premises and caused by persons patronizing or employed by the licensed premises or other such conditions caused by persons patronizing or employed by the licensed premises that unreasonably disturb, interfere with or affect the ability of persons or businesses residing or located in the vicinity of the licensed premises to use their property in a reasonable manner;

D. Repeated incidents of record of breaches of the peace, disorderly conduct, vandalism or other violations of law on or in the vicinity of the licensed premises and caused by persons patronizing or employed by the licensed premises;

D-1. Failure to obtain, or comply with the provisions of, a permit for music, dancing or entertainment required by a municipality or, in the case of an unincorporated place, the county commissioners;

E. A violation of any provision of this Title;

F. A determination by the municipal officers or county commissioners that the purpose of the application is to circumvent the provisions of section 601; and

G. After September 1, 2010, server training, in a program certified by the bureau and required by local ordinance, has not been completed by individuals who serve alcoholic beverages.

3. Appeal to bureau. Any applicant aggrieved by the decision of the municipal officers or county commissioners under this section may appeal to the bureau within 15 days of the receipt of the written decision of the municipal officers or county commissioners. The bureau shall hold a public hearing in the city, town or unincorporated place where the premises are situated. In acting on such an appeal, the bureau may consider all licensure requirements and findings referred to in subsection 2.

A. Repealed

B. If the decision appealed from is an application denial, the bureau may issue the license only if it finds by clear and convincing evidence that the decision was without justifiable cause.

4. Repealed

5. Appeal to District Court. Any person or governmental entity aggrieved by a bureau decision under this section may appeal the decision to the District Court within 30 days of receipt of the written decision of the bureau.

An applicant who files an appeal or who has an appeal pending shall pay the annual license fee the applicant would otherwise pay. Upon resolution of the appeal, if an applicant's license renewal is denied, the bureau shall refund the applicant the prorated amount of the unused license fee.

Section IV: Terms and Conditions of Licensure as an Establishment that sells liquor for on-premises consumption in Maine

- The licensee/applicant(s) agrees to be bound by and comply with the laws, rules and instructions promulgated by the Bureau.
- The licensee/applicant(s) agrees to maintain accurate records related to an on-premise license as required by the law, rules and instructions promulgated or issued by the Bureau if a license is issued as a result of this application.
    - The licensee/applicant(s) authorizes the Bureau to obtain and examine all books, records and tax returns pertaining to the business, for which this liquor license is requested, and also any books, records and returns during the year in which any liquor license is in effect.
- Any change in the licensee's/applicant's licensed premises as defined in this application must be approved by the Bureau in advance.
- All new applicants must apply to the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) for its Retail Beverage Alcohol Dealers permit. See the TTB's website at https://www.ttb.gov/nrc/retail-beverage-alcohol-dealers for more information.

Section V: Fee Schedule

Filing fee required. In addition to the license fees listed below, a filing fee of $10.00 must be included with all applications.

Please note: For Licensees/Applicants in unorganized territories in Maine, the $10.00 filing fee must be paid directly to County Treasurer. All applications received by the Bureau from licensees/applicants in unorganized territories must submit proof of payment was made to the County Treasurer together with the application.

Class of License	Type of liquor/Establishments included	Fee
Class I	**For the sale of liquor (malt liquor, wine and spirits)**	$ 900.00
	This class includes: Airlines; Civic Auditoriums; Class A Restaurants: Clubs with catering privileges; Dining Cars; Golf Courses; Hotels; Indoor Ice-Skating Clubs; Indoor Tennis Clubs; Vessels; Qualified Caterers	
Class I-A	**For the sale of liquor (malt liquor, wine and spirits)**	$1,100.00
	This class includes only hotels that do not serve three meals a day.	
Class II	**For the Sale of Spirits Only**	$ 550.00
	This class includes: Airlines; Civic Auditoriums; Class A Restaurants; Clubs with catering privileges; Dining Cars; Golf Courses; Hotels; Indoor Ice-Skating Clubs; Indoor Tennis Clubs; and Vessels.	
Class III	**For the Sale of Wine Only**	$ 220.00
	This class includes: Airlines; Civic Auditoriums; Class A Restaurants; Clubs with catering privileges; Dining Cars; Golf Courses; Hotels; Indoor Ice-Skating Clubs; Indoor Tennis Clubs; Restaurants; Vessels; Pool Halls; and Bed and Breakfasts.	
Class IV	**For the Sale of Malt Liquor Only**	$ 220.00
	This class includes: Airlines; Civic Auditoriums; Class A Restaurants; Clubs with catering privileges; Dining Cars; Golf Courses; Hotels; Indoor Ice-Skating Clubs; Indoor Tennis Clubs; Restaurants; Taverns; Pool Halls; and Bed and Breakfasts.	
Class III and IV	**For the Sale of Malt Liquor and Wine Only**	$ 440.00
	This class includes: Airlines; Civic Auditoriums; Class A Restaurants; Clubs with catering privileges; Dining Cars; Golf Courses; Hotels; Indoor Ice-Skating Clubs; Indoor Tennis Clubs; Restaurants; Vessels; Pool Halls; and Bed and Breakfasts.	
Class V	**For the sale of liquor (malt liquor, wine and spirits)**	$ 495.00
	This class includes only a Club without catering privileges.	
Class X	**For the sale of liquor (malt liquor, wine and spirits)**	$2,200.00
	This class includes only a Class A Lounge	
Class XI	**For the sale of liquor (malt liquor, wine and spirits)**	$1,500.00
	This class includes only a Restaurant Lounge	

Section VI Premises Floor Plan

In an effort to clearly define your license premise and the areas that consumption and storage of liquor authorized by your license type is allowed, the Bureau requires all applications to include a diagram of the premise to be licensed.

Diagrams should be submitted on this form and should be as accurate as possible. Be sure to label the following areas: entrances, office area, coolers, storage areas, display cases, shelves, restroom, point of sale area, area for on-premise consumption, dining rooms, event/function rooms, lounges, outside area/decks or any other areas on the premise that you are requesting approval. Attached an additional page as needed to fully describe the premise.

MISSING ITEM NO. 3 AND 5 - SHOW ON PLANS
Cafe/Pub outline
Entrance
Exit
Entrance
Exit
FOODSERVICE EQUIPMENT LAYOUT
ISSUED FOR APPROVAL
USM CSSC & PORTLAND COMMONS
90 FALMOUTH STREET
PORTLAND, ME 04103
FOODSERVICE EQUIPMENT PLAN
QF100
REVISIONS
UNITED EAS

Section VII: Required Additional Information for a Licensee/Applicant for an On-Premises Liquor License Who are Legal Business Entities

Questions 1 to 4 of this part of the application must match information in Section I of the application above and match the information on file with the Maine Secretary of State's office. If you have questions regarding your legal entity name or DBA, please call the Secretary of State's office at (207) 624-7752.

All Questions Must Be Answered Completely. Please print legibly.

1. Exact legal name: Sodexo America, LLC
2. Doing Business As, if any: N/A
3. Date of filing with Secretary of State: 02/04/2000 State in which you are formed: DE
4. If not a Maine business entity, date on which you were authorized to transact business in the State of Maine: February 4, 2000
5. List the name and addresses for previous 5 years, birth dates, titles of officers, directors, managers, members or partners and the percentage ownership any person listed: (attached additional pages as needed)

Name	Address (5 Years)	Date of Birth	Title	Percentage of Ownership
Sarosh Mistry	3229 Via Seranova Henderson, NV 89044	08/28/1969	President	0.0000
Thomas Morse	152 Treehaven St, Gaithersburg, MD 20878	04/29/1958	Vice President	0.0000
Joan Rector McGlockton	7206 Bells Mill Road Bethesda, MD 20817	06/04/1958	Secretary	0.0000
Sodexo Management, Inc.	9801 Washingtonian Blvd, Gaithersburg, MD 20878	N/A	Member	100.0000

(Ownership in non-publicly traded companies must add up to 100%.)

State of Maine
Division of Alcoholic Beverages and
Lottery Operations
Division of Liquor Licensing and Enforcement

Corporate Information Required for Business Entities Who Are Licensees

Questions 1 to 4 must match information on file with the Maine Secretary of State's office. If you have questions regarding this information, please call the Secretary of State's office at (207) 624-7752. Please clearly complete this form in its entirety.

1. Exact legal name: Sodexo Management, Inc.

2. Doing Business As, if any: N/A

3. Legal Entity's FEIN #: 16-0812661

4. Date of filing with Secretary of State: 6/25/1986 State in which you are formed: NY

5. If not a Maine business entity, date on which you were authorized to transact business in the State of Maine: N/A

6. List the name and addresses for previous 5 years, birth dates, titles of officers, directors and list the percentage ownership: (attached additional sheets as needed)

NAME	ADDRESS (5 YEARS)	Date of Birth	TITLE	Ownership %
Sarosh Mistry	3229 Via Seranova Henderson NV 89044	8/28/1969	President	0
Thomas Morse	152 Treehaven St Gaithersburg, MD 20878	4/29/1958	Vice President	0
Joan Rector McGlockton	7206 Bells Mill Road Bethesda, MD 20817	6/4/1958	Secretary	0
Sodexo Operations, LLC	9801 Washingtonian Blvd Gaithersburg, MD 20878	N/A	Shareholder	100

(Stock ownership in non-publicly traded companies must add up to 100%.)

7. If Co-Op # of members: _____ (list primary officers in the above boxes)

8. Has any principal person involved in the entity ever been convicted of any violation of the law, other than minor traffic violations, in the United States?

Yes ☐ No ☑

9. If Yes to Question 8, please complete the following: (attached additional sheets as needed)

Name: _____

Date of Conviction: _____

Offense: _____

Location of Conviction: _____

Disposition: _____

_____

Signature:

PLEASE SIGN IN BLUE INK

Thomas R. Morse
Signature of Owner or Corporate Officer

09/21/2023
Date

Thomas Morse, Vice President
Print Name of Owner or Corporate Officer

Submit Completed Forms To:

Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages
Division of Liquor Licensing and Enforcement
8 State House Station, Augusta, Me 04333-0008 (Regular address)
19 Union St., Augusta, ME 04330 (Overnight address)
Telephone Inquiries: (207) 624-7220 Fax: (207) 287-3434
Email Inquiries: MaineLiquor@Maine.gov

State of Maine
Division of Alcoholic Beverages and
Lottery Operations
Division of Liquor Licensing and Enforcement

Corporate Information Required for Business Entities Who Are Licensees

Questions 1 to 4 must match information on file with the Maine Secretary of State's office. If you have questions regarding this information, please call the Secretary of State's office at (207) 624-7752. Please clearly complete this form in its entirety.

1. Exact legal name: Sodexo Operations, LLC

2. Doing Business As, if any: N/A

3. Legal Entity's FEIN #: 52-2208088

4. Date of filing with Secretary of State: 11/27/1998 State in which you are formed: DE

5. If not a Maine business entity, date on which you were authorized to transact business in the State of Maine: N/A

6. List the name and addresses for previous 5 years, birth dates, titles of officers, directors and list the percentage ownership: (attached additional sheets as needed)

NAME	ADDRESS (5 YEARS)	Date of Birth	TITLE	Ownership %
Sarosh Mistry	3229 Via Seranova Henderson NV 89044	8/28/1969	President	0
Thomas Morse	152 Treehaven St Gaithersburg, MD 20878	4/29/1958	Vice President	0
Joan Rector McGlockton	7206 Bells Mill Road Bethesda, MD 20817	6/4/1958	Secretary	0
Sodexo, Inc.	9801 Washingtonian Blvd Gaithersburg, MD 20878	N/A	Member	100

(Stock ownership in non-publicly traded companies must add up to 100%.)

7. If Co-Op # of members: _____ (list primary officers in the above boxes)

8. Has any principal person involved in the entity ever been convicted of any violation of the law, other than minor traffic violations, in the United States?

Yes ☐ No ☑

9. If Yes to Question 8, please complete the following: (attached additional sheets as needed)

Name: _____

Date of Conviction: _____

Offense: _____

Location of Conviction: _____

Disposition: _____

_____

Signature:

PLEASE SIGN IN BLUE INK

Thomas R. Morse
Signature of Owner or Corporate Officer

09/21/2023
Date

Thomas R. Morse
Print Name of Owner or Corporate Officer

Submit Completed Forms To:

Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages
Division of Liquor Licensing and Enforcement
8 State House Station, Augusta, Me 04333-0008 (Regular address)
19 Union St., Augusta, ME 04330 (Overnight address)
Telephone Inquiries: (207) 624-7220 Fax: (207) 287-3434
Email Inquiries: MaineLiquor@Maine.gov

State of Maine
Division of Alcoholic Beverages and
Lottery Operations
Division of Liquor Licensing and Enforcement

Corporate Information Required for Business Entities Who Are Licensees

Questions 1 to 4 must match information on file with the Maine Secretary of State's office. If you have questions regarding this information, please call the Secretary of State's office at (207) 624-7752. Please clearly complete this form in its entirety.

1. Exact legal name: Sodexo, Inc.

2. Doing Business As, if any: N/A

3. Legal Entity's FEIN #: 52-0836594

4. Date of filing with Secretary of State: 7/2/1971 State in which you are formed: DE

5. If not a Maine business entity, date on which you were authorized to transact business in the State of Maine. N/A

6. List the name and addresses for previous 5 years, birth dates, titles of officers, directors and list the percentage ownership: (attached additional sheets as needed)

NAME	ADDRESS (5 YEARS)	Date of Birth	TITLE	Ownership %
Sarosh Mistry	3229 Via Seranova Henderson NV 89044	8/28/1969	President	0
Thomas Morse	152 Treehaven St Gaithersburg, MD 20878	4/29/1958	Vice President	0
Joan Rector McGlockton	7206 Bells Mill Road Bethesda, MD 20817	6/4/1958	Secretary	0
Sodexo, S.A.	255 Quai de Stalingrad 92130 Issy-les-Moulineaux, France	N/A	Shareholder	100

(Stock ownership in non-publicly traded companies must add up to 100%.)

7. If Co-Op # of members: _____ (list primary officers in the above boxes)

8. Has any principal person involved in the entity ever been convicted of any violation of the law, other than minor traffic violations, in the United States?

Yes ☐ No ☑

9. If Yes to Question 8, please complete the following: (attached additional sheets as needed)

Name: _____

Date of Conviction: _____

Offense: _____

Location of Conviction: _____

Disposition: _____

_____

Signature:

PLEASE SIGN IN BLUE INK

Thomas R. Morse
Signature of Owner or Corporate Officer

09/21/2023
Date

Thomas R. Morse
Print Name of Owner or Corporate Officer

Submit Completed Forms To:

Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages
Division of Liquor Licensing and Enforcement
8 State House Station, Augusta, Me 04333-0008 (Regular address)
19 Union St., Augusta, ME 04330 (Overnight address)
Telephone Inquiries: (207) 624-7220 Fax: (207) 287-3434
Email Inquiries: MaineLiquor@Maine.gov

MEMORANDUM
City Council Agenda Item

FROM: Kevin Kraft

DATE: August 15, 2023

SUBJECT: Order 10-23/24 Amendment to Zoning Map Amendment Re: R-5a Residential for 900 Ocean Avenue and Adjacent Parcels - Sponsored by the Planning Board, Brandon Mazer, Chair

SPONSOR: Brandon Mazer, Chair, City of Portland Planning Board

(If sponsored by a Council committee, include the date the committee met and the results of the vote.)

COUNCIL MEETING DATE ACTION IS REQUESTED:

1st Reading 7/17/2023 **Final Action 7/3/2023**

Can action be taken at a later date: Yes If action cannot be taken at a later date, please explain why. Do NOT write yes or no; that will be automatically generated by the checkbox.

Does this item involve a new contract with the City: No

PRESENTATION: Brandon Mazer, Chair Planning Board; Christine Grimando, Director Planning & Urban Development; Kevin Kraft, Deputy Director Planning & Urban Development (5 minutes)

I. SUMMARY

The Planning Board recommends a zoning map amendment for 900 Ocean Avenue and two adjacent parcels from R-3 Residential to R-5a Residential to facilitate the development of a planned residential unit development (PRUD).

II. AGENDA DESCRIPTION

On May 9, 2023, the Planning Board voted (5-0; Stanley and Chan absent) to find the proposed zoning map amendment from R-3 Residential to R-5a Residential to be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Portland. The Planning Board recommends to the City Council adoption of the zoning map amendment for the area of land that includes 900 Ocean Avenue and parcels 416A A001001, 416A A002001, and 416A A003000. The proposed zoning map amendment application was submitted by Ocean Avenue Residential, LLC. The change from R-3 to R-5a would permit greater density that would accommodate existing natural site amenities.

This item must be read on two separate days. It received its first reading on July 17, 2023. At that time, Councilor Andrew Zarro requested that this item be postponed to the meeting of November 20, 2023, with a workshop on the matter to be held in advance of that date. A workshop was held on October 30, 2023. Five affirmative votes are required for passage after public comment.

III. BACKGROUND

Ocean Avenue Residential, LLC. sought this R-3 to R-5a zoning map amendment for their approximately 16-acre property located at 900 Ocean Avenue (CBL: 416A A002001) in the North Deering neighborhood. As part of the Planning Board's review, additional parcels including 416A A001001 and 416A A003000 were added to the proposed rezoning area to establish a contiguous R-5a zone along the west side of Ocean Avenue.

As a result of the proposed zoning map amendment, greater residential density through the PRUD dimensional standards, would be permitted. For example, the minimum land area-per-dwelling-unit permitted would be

reduced from 6,500 square feet to 1,600 square feet, while the maximum permitted height would increase from 35 feet to 55 feet for PRUDs. Additionally, minimum permitted recreation space area-per-dwelling-unit would be reduced from 300 square feet to 200 square feet. These changes in dimensional standards would enable Ocean Avenue Residential, LLC. to develop the site while preserving sensitive environmental features such as wetlands, rock outcroppings, an existing groves of trees.

IV. INTENDED RESULT AND/OR COUNCIL GOAL ADDRESSED

The intent of the proposed zoning map amendment is to permit greater residential density to facilitate the development of a PRUD while aiming to protect sensitive environmental features at 900 Ocean Avenue.

The zoning map amendment supports many of the shared goals expressed in *Portland's Plan 2030*, including housing goals such as increasing the overall supply of housing city-wide to meet the needs, preferences and financial capabilities of all Portland residents, as well as encouraging quality, sustainable design in new housing development.

V. FINANCIAL IMPACT

The proposed map amendment will have no financial impact to the City.

VI. STAFF ANALYSIS AND BACKGROUND

A City Council Report is included as part of the City Council packet.

VII. RECOMMENDATION

At the public hearing on May 9, 2023, the Planning Board voted (5-0; Stanley and Chan absent) to find that the proposed zoning map amendment from R-3 Residential to R-5a Residential is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Portland and recommends to the City Council adoption of the Zoning Map amendment for the area of land that includes 900 Ocean Avenue and adjacent parcels including 416A A001001, 416A A002001, and 416A A003000.

VIII. LIST ATTACHMENTS

1. Amendment to Zoning Map R-5a for 900 Ocean Ave 6.26.2023
2. Ocean Ave. - 900 (City Council Report)
3. Attachment A. Proposed Zoning Map Amendment
4. Attachment B. Planning Board Report
5. Public Comment - Order 10 V3

Prepared by:
Kevin Kraft
Date: 08/15/2023

Order 10-23/24
Motion to postpone to November 20, 2023: 8-0 (Snyder Absent) on 8/14/2023

KATE SNYDER (MAYOR)
APRIL D. FOURNIER(A/L)
PIOUS ALI (A/L)
ROBERTO RODRÍGUEZ (A/L)

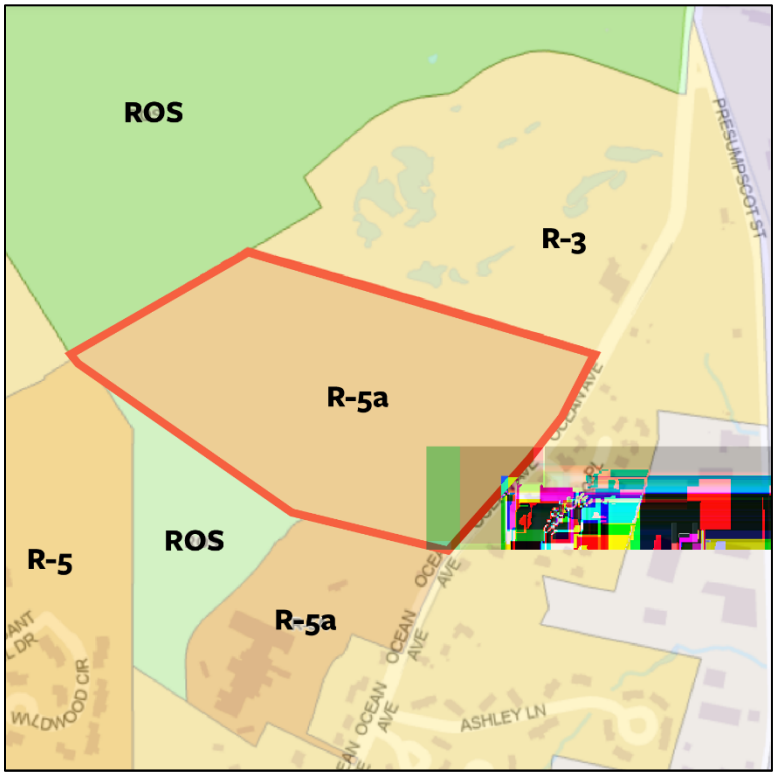
CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL

ANNA TREVORROW (1)
VICTORIA L. PELLETIER (2)
REGINA L. PHILLIPS (3)
ANDREW ZARRO (4)
MARK DION (5)

AMENDMENT TO ZONING MAP
RE: R-5A RESIDENTIAL FOR 900 OCEAN AVENUE AND ADJACENT PARCELS

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE IN CITY COUNCIL ASSEMBLED AS FOLLOWS:

That the Zoning Map of the City of Portland, dated December 2000, as amended and on file in the Department of Planning and Urban Development, and incorporated by reference into Portland City Code Chapter 14, the Zoning Ordinance, by §1.2, be and hereby is amended pursuant to §1.10.1 by adopting the attached map amendment and specifically rezoning property at 900 Ocean Avenue, 852 Ocean Avenue and 840-846 Ocean Avenue from R-3 Residential to R-5a Residential as depicted in the map below.



PLANNING BOARD REPORT
TO CITY COUNCIL
PORTLAND, MAINE

900 Ocean Avenue
ZN-002346-2023
Ocean Avenue Residential, LLC., Applicant

Submitted to:	Mayor Snyder & City Councilors	**Prepared By:**	Austen Torres Davis, Planner
Council 1st Read **Council Public Hearing**	June 26, 2023 July 17, 2023	**Date:**	June 12, 2023

I. INTRODUCTION

Ocean Avenue Residential, LLC. is seeking a zoning map amendment to change an existing R-3 Residential zone to an R-5a Residential zone on an approximately 16-acre site located at 900 Ocean Avenue (CBL: 416A A002001) in the North Deering neighborhood. This action is being sought to facilitate the development of a planned residential unit development (PRUD) at this location. The applicant is seeking this map-amendment as the R-5a zone permits greater residential density for PRUDs than the existing R-3 zone, and would allow for more concentrated density on-site in order to reduce impacts to significant natural features such as wetlands. Other parcels included within the rezoning area are not owned by the applicant and are improved with existing residential buildings, including a single-family home at 852 Ocean Avenue and the Ocean Ridge Condominium Development at 840-846 Ocean Avenue, a 46-unit PRUD.

II. PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDATION

On May 9, 2023 the Planning Board voted (5-0; Stanley and Chan absent) to recommend to the City Council adoption of the zoning map amendment (Attachment A), which includes the property located at 900 Ocean Avenue as well as two adjacent parcels. In its review of the application, the Planning Board found the proposed zoning map amendment to be consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan, *Portland's Plan 2030*. The Planning Board believed that the proposed R-5a zone is an appropriate zone for the subject area, noting that there is an existing R-5a zone approximately 300 feet south of the applicant's parcel and an R-5 zone mapped to the south and east. The proposed map amendment would allow dimensional standards consistent with the surrounding context and would encourage development that is concentrated in a more intensive manner to better accommodate natural site amenities.

Additionally, in response to public comment regarding the potential for blasting impacts, Planning Staff informed the Board that blasting operations are regulated under Article 22 of the Land Use Code and are not specifically linked to zoning and therefore are not considered when evaluating a zoning map amendment application.

III. CONCEPTUAL DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

The intent of the rezoning is to allow greater residential density in the form of more permissive maximum building heights, lengths, and well as other dimensional standards (see Table 1) for a conceptually proposed PRUD on the applicant's property. The applicant has provided a conceptual development plan (Figure 1) showing how greater density on some sections of the site would allow the PRUD layout to avoid wetlands

and other features such as rock outcroppings. The development contemplated is conceptual at this stage and would be subject to the city's Site Plan regulations and require Planning Board review and approval.

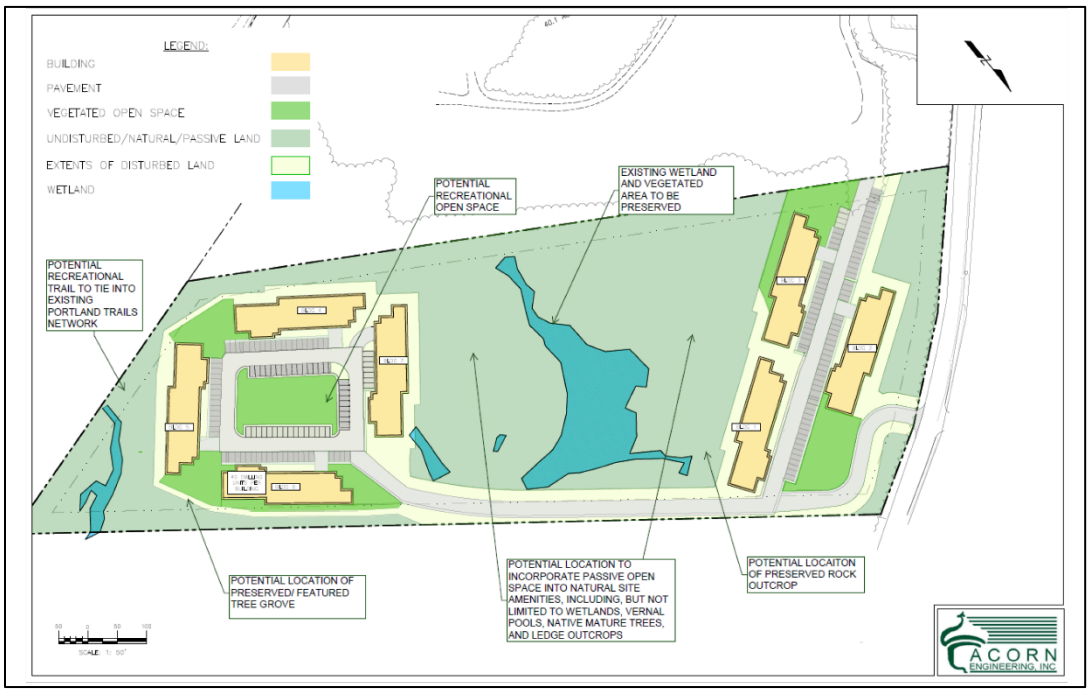


Figure 1: 900 Ocean Conceptual Development Plan

IV. BACKGROUND AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

The subject property is comprised of an undeveloped property at 900 Ocean Avenue, consisting of woodland and wetland areas. Graves Hill, an area of comparatively higher elevation than the surrounding neighborhood, is located near the center of 900 Ocean Avenue. The Site gradually rises in elevation from the edges toward the center of the site, with significant grade changes at the western, northern, and eastern edges of the property. The site is adjacent to a defunct quarry to the northeast and the Old City Landfill to the northwest. Along Ocean Avenue there are a number of other existing PRUD developments and single-family subdivisions that are similar in scale to the conceptual development proposal for this site.

The site is within the R-3 residential zone, and borders the R-OS Recreation and Open Space zone. Other nearby zones include the R-5 and R-5a Residential, which are mapped along portions of Ocean Avenue, as well as the I-M Moderate Impact Industrial zone mapped along Presumpscot Street.

In addition to 900 Ocean Avenue, two additional parcels at 852 and 840-846 Ocean Avenue are recommended to be included in this map amendment. 852 Ocean Avenue (CBL: 416A A001001) is a 0.33 acre parcel occupied by a single family residence, including a driveway and wooded area. 840-846 Ocean Avenue (CBL: 416A A003000) is occupied by an approximately 10 acre 46-unit PRUD, the Ocean Ridge Condominium Development, accessed by Ridge Road and Osprey Terrace. The Ocean Ridge Condominiums are developed at a similar scale to the conceptual site plan proposed for 900 Ocean Avenue, while the single-family residence is non-conforming to zoning setbacks and would not be brought out of conformance by this map amendment. These two parcels are proposed to be added to the map amendment in order to form a contiguous R5-a zone along the western side of Ocean Avenue.

The nearest public transportation bus routes are the GP Metro routes 9A and 9B, approximately 0.7 miles south of the site along Washington Avenue. A sidewalk exists between Summer Place and Washington Avenue along the east side of Ocean Avenue.

Figure 2: 900 Ocean Avenue & Surrounding Context

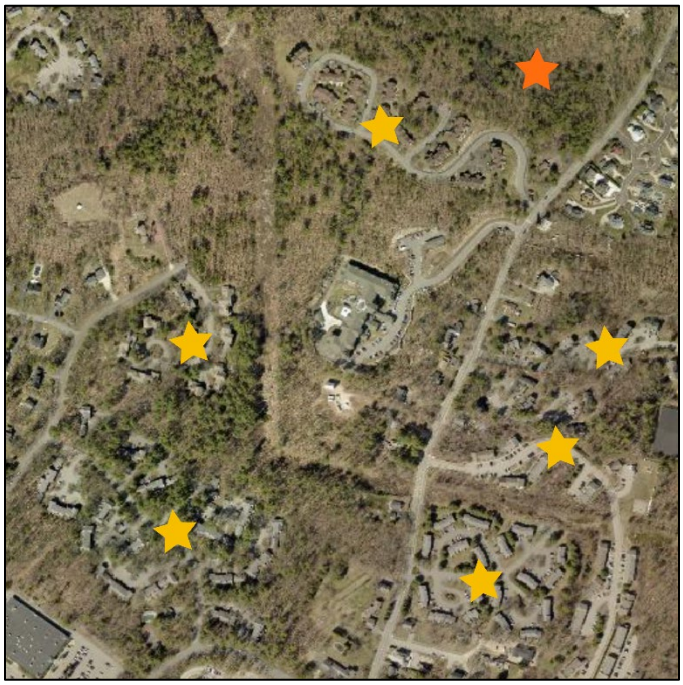


Figure 3: 900 Ocean Ave. (orange) and nearby PRUDs (yellow)

V. PROPOSED MAP AMENDMENT

Ocean Avenue Residential, LLC. proposes a zoning map amendment to change their 900 Ocean Avenue property and adjacent parcels from an R-3 Residential zone to an R-5a Residential zone (Compare Figures 4 and 5).

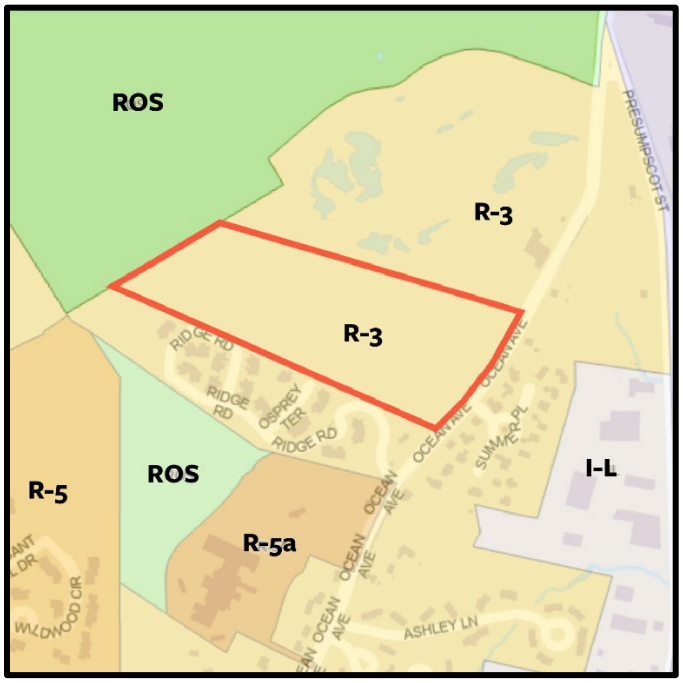


Figure 4: Existing Zoning Map & 900 Ocean Avenue Parcel

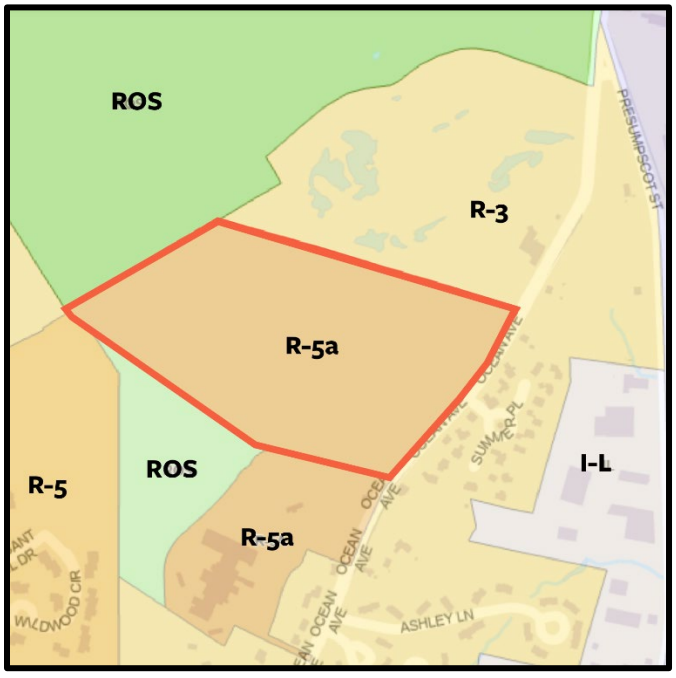


Figure 5: Proposed Zoning Map Amendment to R-5a

Existing Versus Proposed Zoning: R-3 Residential, and R-5a Residential

The R-3 is a low to moderate density residential zone characterized by a mixture of single-family homes, certain institutional uses such as schools, care facilities and places of assembly, and PRUDs. The R-3 zone is mapped in locations throughout the city, primarily off-peninsula.

The R-3 and R-5a zones allow for a similar range of uses, though the R-3 does not allow post-secondary schools, lodging houses, special needs independent dwelling units, congregate care facilities, multiplexes, Two-family dwellings or Multi-family construction. PRUDs are allowed in both the R-3 and R-5a zones, though the R-3 zone has more restrictive dimensional requirements, and permits lower residential density than the R-5a zone.

The purpose of the R-3 Residential zone is to:
"Provide for medium-density residential development characterized by single-family homes on individual lots and also to provide for planned residential unit developments on substantially sized parcels."

Whereas the purpose of the R-5a Residential zone is:
"To provide for moderate-density residential development in off-peninsula locations that can provide a unique residential living experience with a high degree of natural site amenities; and to provide areas of the city in the general proximity of the peninsula that have the capability for adequate municipal services, including traffic corridors with adequate traffic capacity, that can appropriately accommodate a more intensive use of land than other lower-density zoned land and be compatible with surrounding neighborhoods; and to increase affordable housing opportunities in off-peninsula locations by providing a moderate-density zone.."

PRUD Analysis: R-3 Residential, and R-5a Residential

As the PRUD constitutes the most intensive form of development permitted in either zone, the following analysis is limited to the discussion of the PRUD use.

The R-5a PRUD standards limits residential density by requiring a minimum of 1,600 square feet of net land area per dwelling unit and further requires a minimum lot area of two acres. The net land area per dwelling unit can be reduced to 800 square feet for PRUDs that include 50 percent of the units as low-income or workforce units for rent or for sale. There is no limit on the total amount of units per building and no restrictions on building length. Buildings with a length of 100 feet or less are required to be setback a minimum of 25 feet from external subdivision property lines while buildings with a building length greater than 100 feet are required to be setback 35 feet. The maximum height permitted in the R-5a zone for a PRUD is 55 feet. The maximum lot coverage permitted is 30 percent. A minimum of 200 square feet of common recreation space area per dwelling unit is also required.

The R-3 PRUD standards limit residential density by requiring a minimum of 6,500 square feet of net land area per dwelling unit and further requires a minimum lot area of three acres. The net land area per dwelling unit can be reduced to 3,250 square feet for PRUDs that include 50 percent of the units as low-income or workforce units for rent or for sale. The maximum number of units per building on a site less than five acres is two and the maximum number of units per building on a site greater than five acres is six. Building length is limited to a maximum of 100 feet without a garage and 140 feet with garages. Buildings with three or fewer units are required to be setback a minimum of 25 feet from external subdivision property lines, while buildings with four or more units are required to be setback a minimum of 35 feet. The minimum distance between detached PRUD dwelling units is 16 feet. The maximum height in the R-3 zone for a PRUD is 35 feet. A minimum of 300 square feet of common recreation space area per dwelling unit is required.

Any PRUD development that includes 50 percent of the units as low-income or workforce units for rent or sale is eligible for the following dimensional bonuses:

1. Minimum lot area per dwelling unit is reduced by 50%.
2. Maximum number of units and maximum length of buildings do not apply but may be set through site plan review.
3. Minimum building setbacks may be reduced to 10 feet.
4. The PRUD may cross public rights of way provided that the right of way does not count towards minimum lot size nor towards open space requirements.
5. Minimum recreation open space area is reduced to 200 square feet per dwelling unit of common area designed for recreational purposes by residents. Minimum contiguous size and setbacks do not apply and shall be set through site plan review.

For both the R-3 and R-5a zones one off-street parking space per single-, two, or multi-family unit is required and sites that are within a ¼ mile of fixed route transit may be exempt from providing parking as specified in Table 19-B of the Land Use Code.

The table below shows a side-by-side comparison of the dimensional requirements of each zone. The highlighted rows indicate where the two zones have different dimensional requirements.

TABLE 1: PRUD Zoning Requirements by Use	R-3	R-5a
Lot area (min.)	3 acres	2 acres
Net land area per dwelling unit (min.)	6,500 sq. ft.	1,600 sq. ft.
Units per building (max.)	PRUD <5 ac.: 2 PRUD > 5 ac.: 6	
Average number of units per building (max.)	PRUD >5 ac.: 5	
Structure height (max.)	35 ft.	55 ft.
Building length (max.)	100 ft. without garages; 140 ft. with internal garages	N/A
Length of accessory garage structure (max.)	N/A	N/A
Building setback from external subdivision property lines (min.)	3 or fewer D.U. in building: 25 ft.; 4 or more D.U. in building: 35 ft.	Bldg. Length 100 ft. or less: 25 ft.; Bldg. Length >100 ft.: 35 ft.
Distance between detached PRUD dwelling units (min.)	16 ft.	N/A
Common recreation open space area (min.)	300 SF/D.U	200 SF/D.U.
Habitable space elevation	No habitable space in a PRUD shall be below grade, except basements that are a part of and below above-ground units	

VI. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CONSISTENCY

Portland's Plan 2030

Comprehensive Plan goals and policies (state and local) relevant to the proposed zoning map amendment are included below. In the provided analysis the applicant lays out various portions of Portland's Plan 2030 that their proposal adheres to.

Several aspects of the proposed map amendment to R-5a Residential are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan highlights the importance of diversifying housing types and increasing the supply of housing city-wide. The proposed map amendment would facilitate a residential development that would provide housing and provide opportunities for people who work Portland to have the opportunity to live in Portland in area currently zoned for residential uses. Relevant Comprehensive Plan goals have been excerpted below:

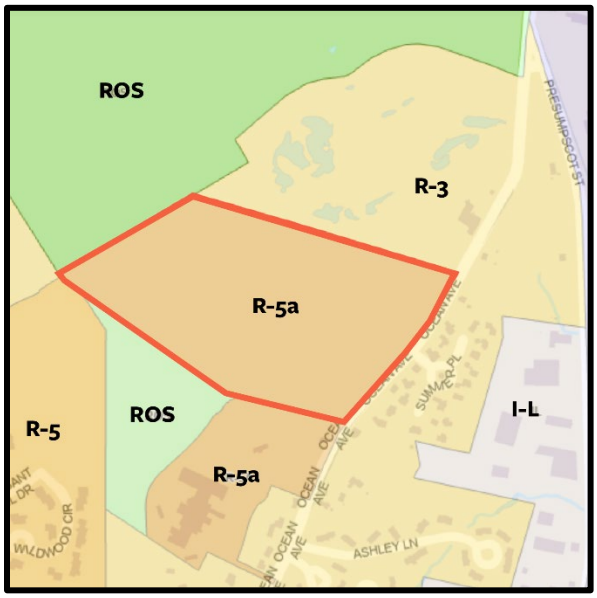
Housing:

- Increase, preserve, and modify the overall supply of housing city-wide to meet the needs, preferences and financial capabilities of all Portland residents.
- Pursue policies to enable people who work in Portland to have the option to live in Portland.
- Encourage quality, sustainable design in new housing development.
- State Goal: To encourage and promote affordable decent, housing opportunities for all Maine citizens.
- Evaluate whether current zoning allows for new development consistent with historic patterns of form, density, and/or use, as whether it allows for priority in growth areas.

VII. PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDATION

Following a workshop held on April 11, 2023, the Planning Board considered the proposed Zoning Map Amendment at a public hearing on May 9, 2023. After deliberation, and on the basis of staff reports, public testimony, and review of applicable policies, the Planning Board voted (5-0; Stanley and Chan absent) to find that the proposed Zoning Map Amendment from R-3 to R-5a is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and recommended adoption to the City Council:

1. Zoning Map Amendment from R-3 to R-5a for the area of land as shown below:

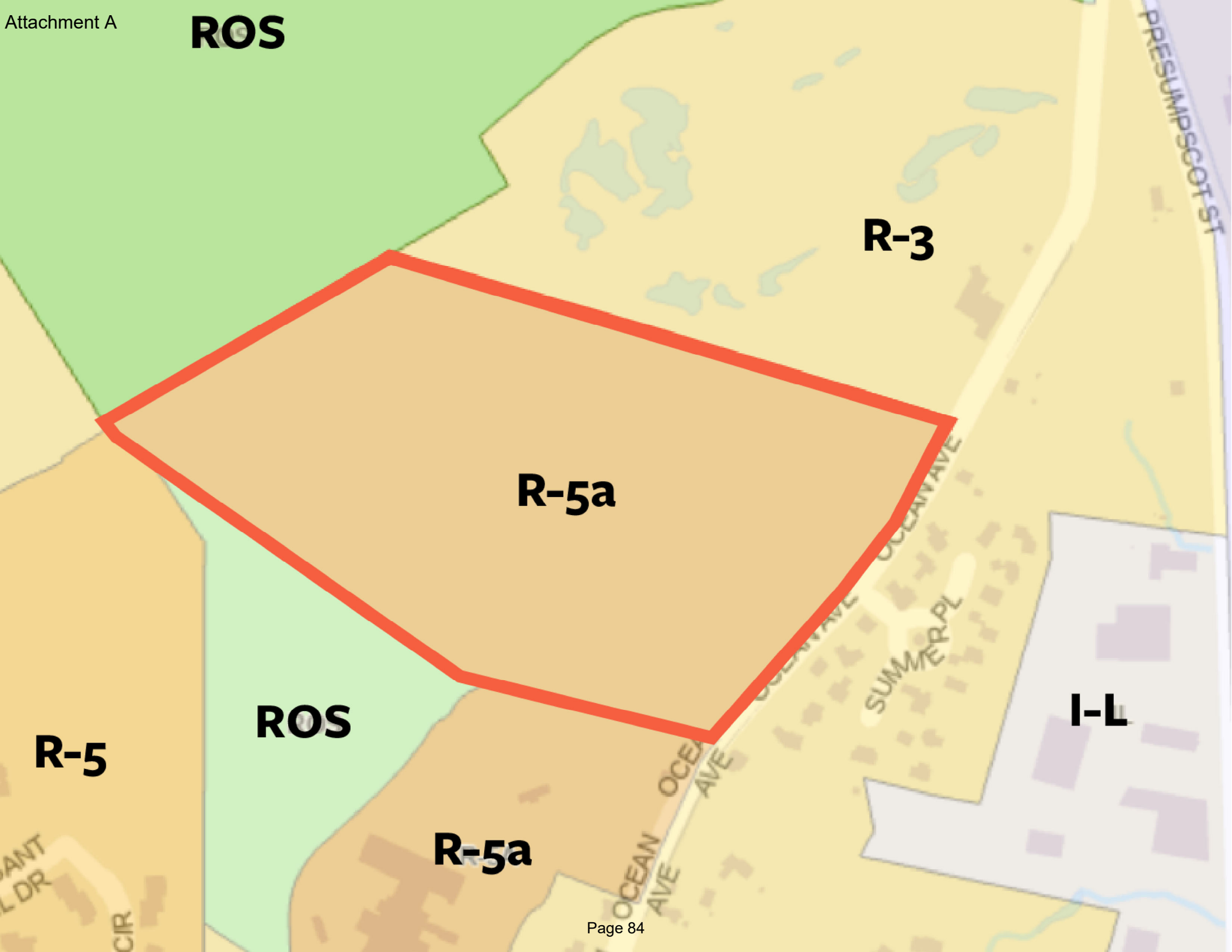


VIII. ATTACHMENTS

Staff Attachments

A. Proposed Zoning Map Amendment

B. Planning Board Report


ROS
R-3
R-5a
ROS
R-5
R-5a
I-L
PRESUMPSCOT ST
OCEAN AVE
SUMMER PL

Planning Board Report
Planning & Urban Development Department

900 Ocean Avenue Rezoning from R-3 to R-5a
900 Ocean Avenue
Zoning Map Amendment
ZN-002346-2023
Ocean Avenue Residential, LLC., Applicant

Submitted to:	Portland Planning Board	**Prepared By:**	Austen Torres Davis
Public Hearing Date:	May 9, 2023	**Date:**	May 5, 2023

Figure 1: Aerial Image of 900 Ocean Avenue Showing Property Line.

I. INTRODUCTION

Ocean Avenue Residential, LLC. is seeking a zoning map amendment to change an existing R-3 Residential zone to an R-5a Residential zone on an approximately 16-acre site located at 900 Ocean Avenue (CBL: 416A A002001) in the North Deering neighborhood. This action is being sought to facilitate the development of a planned residential unit development (PRUD) at this location. The applicant is seeking this map-amendment as the R-5a zone permits greater residential density for PRUDs than the R-3 zone, and would allow for more concentrated density in certain locations on-site in order to reduce impacts on significant natural features such as wetlands.

The Planning and Urban Development Department mailed 103 notices advertising this meeting to interested parties and property owners within 500 feet of the site. The legal advertisements ran in April 29 and May 2, 2023 editions of the *Portland Press Herald*.

The Planning Board held a workshop for this application on April 11, 2023.

Applicant: Ocean Avenue Residential, LLC.
Applicant Representative: Sam Lebel; Acorn Engineering

II. PROJECT DATA

Existing Zoning	R-3 – Residential
Proposed Zoning	R-5a – Residential
Existing Use	Undeveloped Land
Proposed Use	Planned Residential Unit Development (PRUD)

III. BACKGROUND & EXISTING CONDITIONS

The subject property is comprised of two undeveloped parcels at 900 Ocean Avenue, consisting of woodland and wetland areas. Graves Hill, an area of comparatively higher elevation than the surrounding neighborhood, is located near the center of 900 Ocean Avenue. Overall the site is relatively flat, gradually rising in elevation from the edges toward the center of the site, with significant grade changes at the western, northern, and eastern edges of the property. The site is adjacent to a defunct quarry to the northeast and the Old City Landfill to the northwest. Along Ocean Avenue there are a number of other PRUD developments that are similar in scale to the conceptual development proposal for this site.

The site is within and bordered on all sides by the R-3 residential zone. Other nearby zones include the R-5 and R-5a Residential along portions of Ocean Avenue, as well as the I-M Moderate Impact Industrial zone along Presumpscot Street.

In addition to the two applicant-owned parcels at 900 Ocean Avenue, Planning and Urban Development staff recommend including two additional parcels at 852 and 840-846 Ocean Avenue. 852 Ocean Avenue (CBL: 416A A001001) is a 0.33 acre parcel occupied by a single family residence, including a driveway and wooded area. 840-846 Ocean Avenue (CBL: 416A A003000) is occupied by an approximately 10 acre 46-unit PRUD, the Ocean Ridge Condominium Development, accessed by Ridge Road and Osprey Terrace. The Ocean Ridge Condominiums are developed at a similar scale to the conceptual site plan proposed for 900 Ocean Avenue, while the single-family residence is non-conforming to zoning setbacks and would not be brought out of conformance by this map amendment. These two parcels are proposed to be added to the map amendment in order to form a contiguous R5-a zone along the western side of Ocean Avenue.

The nearest public transportation bus routes are the GP Metro routes 9A and 9B, approximately 0.7 miles south of the site along Washington Avenue. A sidewalk exists between Summer Place and Washington Avenue along the east side of Ocean Avenue.

Figure 2: 900 Ocean Avenue in Neighborhood Context

Figure 3: 900 Ocean Avenue Conceptual PRUD Site Plan Showing Interior Wetlands

IV. CONCEPTUAL DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

The proposed rezoning from R-3 to R-5a would facilitate the development of a multi-unit PRUD residential development and associated parking. The intent of this rezoning is to allow higher residential density within each building so that the applicant can concentrate development away from the most environmentally sensitive areas on-site resulting in a more compact form of development. The conceptual development proposal currently calls for a single, two-way access driveway that would connect to two clusters of multi-family structures and surface parking.

The development contemplated in this application is conceptual at this stage and no site plan application has yet been submitted (See attached Plan 3). Should the proposed rezoning be approved by the City Council, a site plan application, addressing all applicable land use standards, including design and layout would be required to be submitted by the applicant to facilitate the development of this project.

V. PROPOSED ZONING MAP AMENDMENT

Ocean Avenue Residential, LLC. proposes a zoning map amendment to change their 900 Ocean Avenue property from an R-3 Residential zone to an R-5a Residential zone (Compare Figures 4 and 5).
In addition to the applicant's request, Planning staff recommends that the Planning Board consider expanding the zoning map amendment to include Parcel 416A A003000, which is currently improved with an existing 46-unit PRUD, the Ocean Ridge Condominium Development, which was approved by the Planning Board on August 14, 2001 and completed in 2006 (see Figure 6).

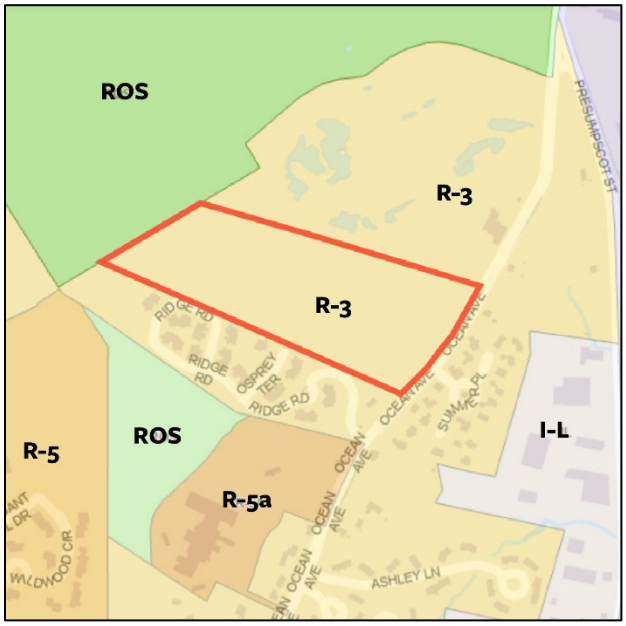


Figure 4: 900 Ocean Avenue Existing Zoning Context

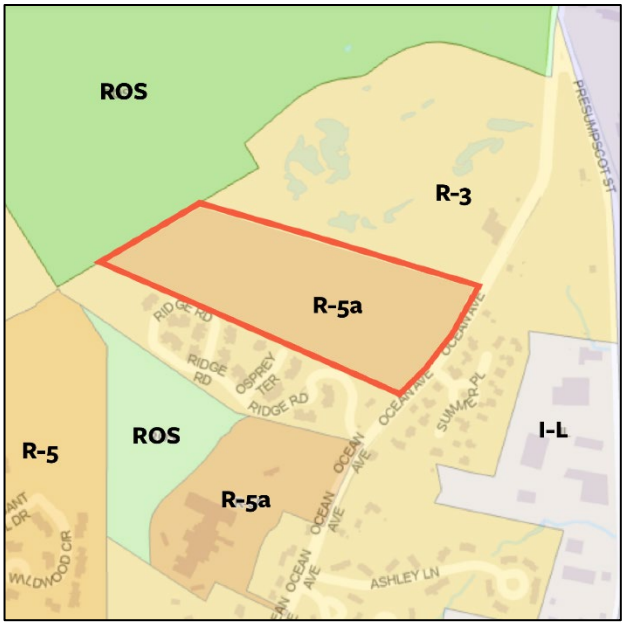


Figure 5: Applicant Proposed Map Amendment

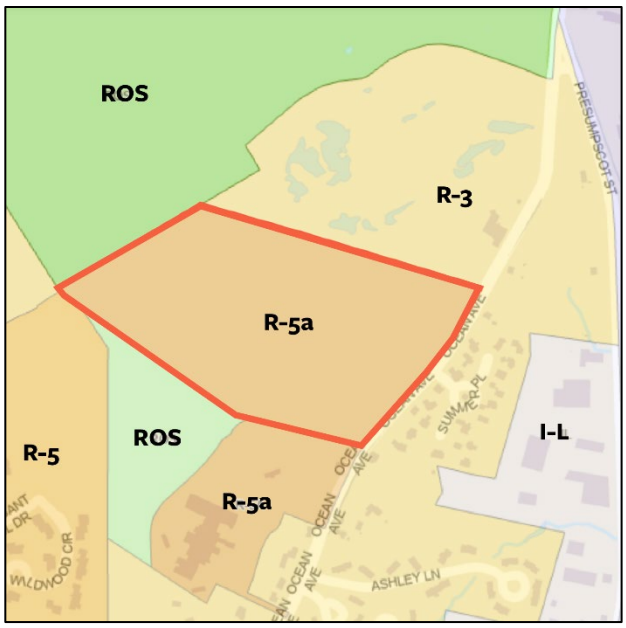


Figure 6: Staff-Proposed Map Amendment

VI. PLANNING BOARD WORKSHOP

The Planning Board held a Workshop for this application on April 11, 2023. The Planning Board, in its deliberations,. As the proposal calls for increased density in order to protect natural features, members of the Planning Board requested more information around the anticipated preservation of significant on-site natural features, and how such features are likely to be incorporated into a future site plan. In response, the applicant has noted that they'd support working with Portland Trails to provide trail access through this property. Additionally, the applicant has suggested integrating boardwalks near the preserved wetlands, as well as benches and trails throughout the site.

Additionally, in response to public comment regarding the potential for blasting impacts, Planning Staff informed the Board that blasting operations are regulated under Article 22 of the Land Use Code and that blasting operations are not specifically linked to zoning and therefore are not considered when evaluating a zoning map amendment application.

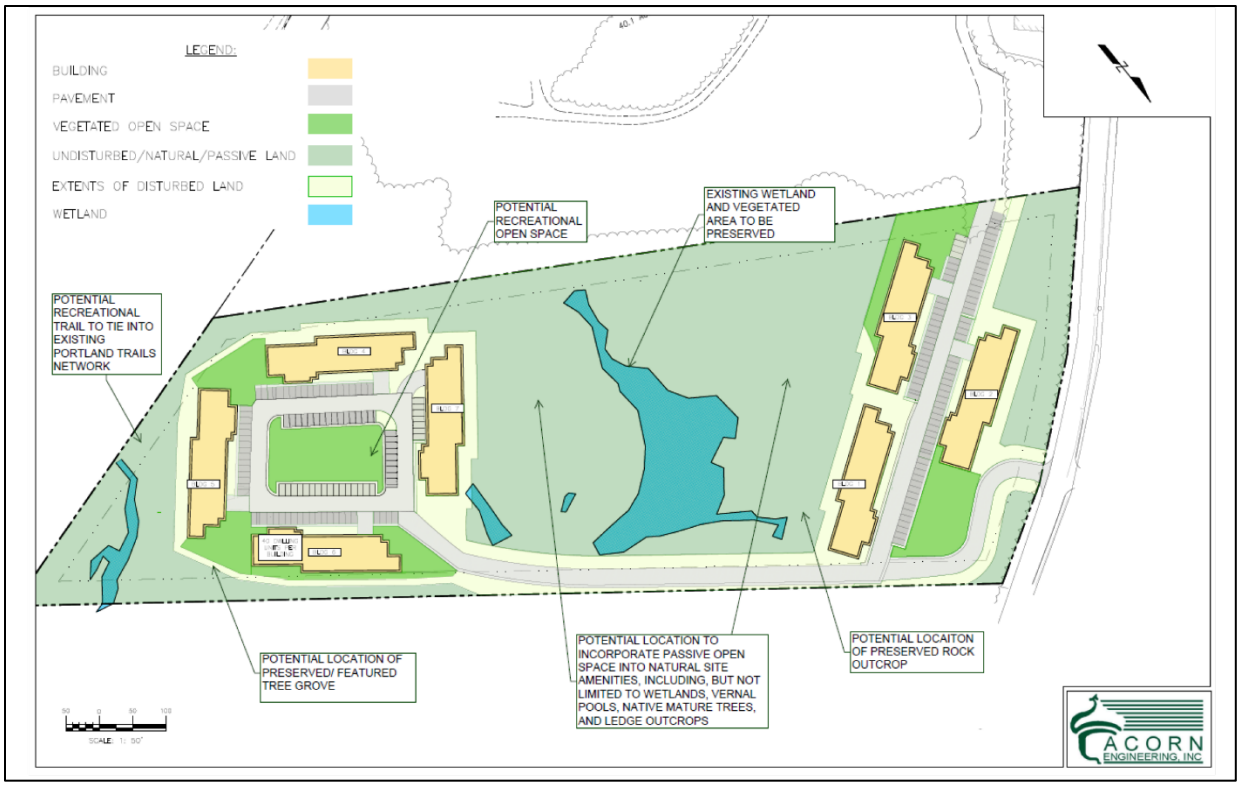


Figure 7: Conceptual Site Plan Showing Active & Passive Open Space

VII. ZONING ANALYSIS

<u>Existing Versus Proposed Zoning: R-3 Residential, and R-5a Residential</u>

The R-3 is a low to moderate density residential zone characterized by a mixture of single-family homes, certain institutional uses such as schools, care facilities and places of assembly, and PRUDs. The R-3 zone is mapped in locations throughout the city, primarily off-peninsula.

The R-3 and R-5a zones allow for a similar range of uses, though the R-3 does not allow post-secondary schools, lodging houses, special needs independent dwelling units, congregate care facilities, multiplexes, Two-family dwellings or Multi-family construction. PRUDs are allowed in both the R-3 and R-5a zones,

though the R-3 zone has more restrictive dimensional requirements, and permits lower residential density than the R-5a zone.

The purpose of the R-3 Residential zone is to:

"Provide for medium-density residential development characterized by single-family homes on individual lots and also to provide for planned residential unit developments on substantially sized parcels."

Whereas the purpose of the R-5a Residential zone is:

"To provide for moderate-density residential development in off-peninsula locations that can provide a unique residential living experience with a high degree of natural site amenities; and to provide areas of the city in the general proximity of the peninsula that have the capability for adequate municipal services, including traffic corridors with adequate traffic capacity, that can appropriately accommodate a more intensive use of land than other lower-density zoned land and be compatible with surrounding neighborhoods; and to increase affordable housing opportunities in off-peninsula locations by providing a moderate-density zone.."

***Table 1** provides a comparison of the permitted uses between existing and proposed zone. Uses marked with a 'P', are permitted uses in the zone. A 'C' indicates a conditional use, otherwise uses are not permitted.*

TABLE 1: PERMITTED AND CONDITIONAL USES IN R-3 and R-5a Residential Zones		R-3	R-5a
Residential	Single-family dwellings	P	P
	Two-family dwellings		P
	Multi-family dwellings	C	P
	Multiplex		P
	Congregate care facilities		P
	Handicapped family units	P	P
	Planned Residential Unit Developments	P	P
	Special needs independent dwelling units		P
	Lodging houses		C
	Sheltered care group homes	C	C
Institutional	Elementary, middle, and secondary schools	C	C
	Governmental uses	P	P
	Hospitals	C	C
	Intermediate care facilities	C	P
	Long-term and extended care facilities	C	P
	Places of assembly (<10,000 SF)	C	C
	Places of assembly (>10,000 SF)	C	C
	Preschool facilities	C	C
	Post-secondary schools	C	C
Commercial	Bed and breakfasts		
	General offices (<5,000 SF)		
	Hostels		
	Agriculture		

	Cemeteries		
	Off-street Parking	C	C
	Parks and open spaces	P	P
	Raising of domesticated animals		
	Solar energy system (minor)	P	P
	Utility Substations	C	C

Dimensional Requirement Summary:
As the PRUD constitutes the most intensive form of development permitted in either zone, this analysis is limited to the discussion of the PRUD use.

The R-5a PRUD standards limits residential density by requiring a minimum of 1,600 square feet of net land area per dwelling unit and further requires a minimum lot area of two acres. There is no limit on the total amount of units per building and no restrictions on building length. Buildings with a length of 100 feet or less are required to be setback a minimum of 25 feet from external subdivision property lines while buildings with a building length greater than 100 feet are required to be setback 35 feet. The maximum height permitted in the R-5a zone for a PRUD is 55 feet. The maximum lot coverage permitted is 30 percent. A minimum of 200 square feet of common recreation space area per dwelling unit is also required.

The R-3 PRUD standards limit residential density by requiring a minimum of 6,500 square feet of net land area per dwelling unit and further requires a minimum lot area of three acres. The maximum number of units per building on a site less than five acres is two and the maximum number of units per building on a site greater than five acres is six. Building length is limited to a maximum of 100 feet without a garage and 140 feet with garages. Buildings with three or fewer units are required to be setback a minimum of 25 feet from external subdivision property lines, while buildings with four or more units are required to be setback a minimum of 35 feet. The minimum distance between detached PRUD dwelling units is 16 feet. The maximum height in the R-3 zone for a PRUD is 35 feet. A minimum of 300 square feet of common recreation space area per dwelling unit is required.

Any PRUD development that includes 50 percent of the units as low-income or workforce units for rent or sale is eligible for the following dimensional bonuses:

1. Minimum lot area per dwelling unit is reduced by 50%.
2. Maximum number of units and maximum length of buildings do not apply but may be set through site plan review.
3. Minimum building setbacks may be reduced to 10 feet.
4. The PRUD may cross public rights of way provided that the right of way does not count towards minimum lot size nor towards open space requirements.
5. Minimum recreation open space area is reduced to 200 square feet per dwelling unit of common area designed for recreational purposes by residents. Minimum contiguous size and setbacks do not apply and shall be set through site plan review.

For both the R-3 and R-5a zones one off-street parking space per single-, two, or multi-family unit is required and sites that are within a ¼ mile of fixed route transit may be exempt from providing parking as specified in Table 19-B of the Land Use Code.

Table 2 provides a comparison of the dimensional requirements between existing and proposed zone.

TABLE 2: PRUD Zoning Requirements by Use	R-3	R-5a
Lot area (min.)	3 acres	2 acres
Net land area per dwelling unit (min.)	6,500 sq. ft.	1,600 sq. ft.
Units per building (max.)	PRUD <5 ac.: 2 PRUD > 5 ac.: 6	
Average number of units per building (max.)	PRUD >5 ac.: 5	
Structure height (max.)	35 ft.	55 ft.
Building length (max.)	100 ft. without garages; 140 ft. with internal garages	N/A
Length of accessory garage structure (max.)	N/A	N/A
Building setback from external subdivision property lines (min.)	3 or fewer D.U. in building: 25 ft.; 4 or more D.U. in building: 35 ft.	Bldg. Length 100 ft. or less: 25 ft.; Bldg. Length >100 ft.: 35 ft.
Distance between detached PRUD dwelling units (min.)	16 ft.	N/A
Common recreation open space area (min.)	300 SF/D.U	200 SF/D.U.
Habitable space elevation	No habitable space in a PRUD shall be below grade, except basements that are a part of and below above-ground units	

VIII. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ANALYSIS

Portland's Plan 2030

Comprehensive Plan goals and policies (state and local) relevant to the proposed zoning map amendment are included below. In the provided analysis the applicant lays out various portions of Portland's Plan 2030 that their proposal adheres to.

Several aspects of the proposed map amendment to R-5a Residential are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan highlights the importance of diversifying housing types and increasing the supply of housing city-wide. The proposed map amendment would facilitate a residential development that would provide housing and provide opportunities for people who work Portland to have the opportunity to live in Portland.

Figure 8: Visions of Portland's Plan 2030

Relevant Comprehensive Plan goals have been excerpted below:

Housing:

- Increase, preserve, and modify the overall supply of housing city-wide to meet the needs, preferences and financial capabilities of all Portland residents.
- Pursue policies to enable people who work in Portland to have the option to live in Portland.
- Encourage quality, sustainable design in new housing development.
- State Goal: To encourage and promote affordable decent, housing opportunities for all Maine citizens.
- Evaluate whether current zoning allows for new development consistent with historic patterns of form, density, and/or use, as whether it allows for priority in growth areas.

IX. NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING & PUBLIC COMMENT

As of the writing of this report eight public comments have been received, all from nearby residents in opposition to this map amendment. Public comments in opposition were largely centered on potential environmental impacts, including to wetlands and to rocky outcroppings requiring blasting.

A neighborhood meeting was held by the applicant on March 15th, 2023.

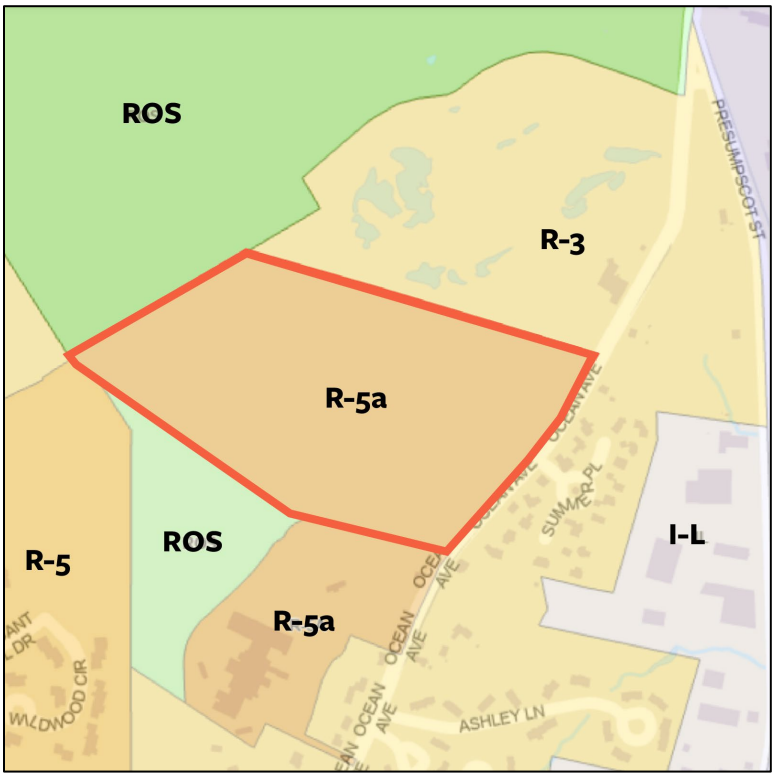
X. REQUISITE COUNCIL ACTION

Any proposed rezoning, regardless of whether it is recommended by the Planning Board, must be approved by City Council vote in order to take effect.

XI. PROPOSED MOTIONS

1. On the basis of materials submitted by the applicant, the City of Portland Land Use Code, Portland's Comprehensive Plan, public comment, and the information provided in the public hearing on May 9, 2023 for the application ZN-002346-2023 (900 Ocean Avenue), and/or other findings, the Planning Board finds that the proposed zoning map amendment [is/is not] consistent with the Comprehensive Plan for the city of Portland; and therefore, the Planning Board [recommends/does not recommend] to the City Council adoption of the Zoning Map Amendment for the area of land that includes 900 Ocean Avenue and the following parcels as listed and shown below:

   Parcels to be included are 416A A001001, 416A A002001, and 416A A003000.



Area zoning map to be amended outlined in red.

XI. ATTACHMENTS

PLANNING BOARD REPORT ATTACHMENTS

1. Staff Review Comments
2. Planning Board Workshop Memo

APPLICANT'S SUBMITTAL

A. Cover Letter
B. Map Amendment Checklist
C. Right, Title, and Interest
D. Neighborhood Meeting Invite
E. Comment Response Letter
F. Comment Response Supplemental Document

PLANS

Plan 1. 900 Ocean Avenue Vicinity Map
Plan 2. Proposed Map Amendment
Plan 3. Conceptual Site Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pc1. Chuck Grossman
Pc2. Leslie Fuller
Pc3. Ron Morris
Pc4. Jean Mattimore

Pc5. Kimberly MacDonald
Pc6. Mary Jo Cross
Pc7. Dennis Fuller
Pc8. Ron Hills

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

submission regarding development plan for 900 Ocean Ave

1 message

Genanne Walsh <genanne@gmail.com> Fri, Jul 14, 2023 at 2:43 PM
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

Dear City Councilmembers,

We are residents in the Ocean Ridge Condominium Association development and we're very concerned about the recent zoning change and proposed development at 900 Ocean Avenue.

This zoning change from R-3 to R-5a for the proposed new development was rushed, short-sighted, and approved without a site walk through. For reasons we do not understand, the Ocean Ridge Condominium property zoning was also suddenly changed to R-5a without a request by the property owners, or any consideration given to the input of the property owners.

We are not opposed to new housing and welcome the addition of affordable housing in our neighborhood. However, the zoning change, and the concept presented, do not reflect the character of the Ocean Avenue corridor, which includes single family homes, condo developments, and several congregate care facilities – but no multi-building apartment complexes with limited parking. This zoning change will severely impact North Deering's infrastructure, roads, traffic, sensitive ecological areas, greenbelt buffers, and crucial climate impact mitigating tree cover.

The proponents of 900 Ocean Avenue touted the ability of the hundreds of future residents to walk to Washington Avenue, but the walk score for Ocean Ridge is 16/100 on Zillow, with a transit score of 26/100. The reality is that you need a car in North Deering and most households have at least two vehicles. The proposed target parking ratio of 1.1 spaces per unit will leave many residents with nowhere to park. Adding sufficient parking for 280 units will increase the proposed footprint of the concept, further reducing the remaining open space.

We respectfully ask you to slow the process, allowing for more discussion and further exploration into the proposed development and its impact.

Thank you for your time and attention. A copy of this letter is attached as a pdf.

Sincerely,

Lauren Whittemore & Genanne Walsh
50 Ridge Road
Portland, ME 04103

Letter to Portland City Council - July 2023.pdf
43K

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Proposed development by 900 Ocean Ave LLC

1 message

Sheri Olstein <slolstein@gmail.com> Fri, Jul 14, 2023 at 11:55 AM
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

I am a Portland resident with property adjacent to the proposed 900 Ocean Ave LLC development. I am very concerned that the planning board approved the change of zoning from R3 to R5a without so much as a survey or other due diligence to understand the impact of this change on the environment and surrounding residents. Graves Hill, a 171 foot peak off Ocean Ave is home to rich wildlife diversity, an assortment of flora, vernal pools and wetland areas with trails used for biking, hiking, and snowshoeing. The zone change will reduce the current 35 foot setback requirement to a minimum of 10 foot setback requirement in this currently densely wooded area, eliminating effective buffers to protect the environment and will drastically change the character of my neighborhood.

It is essential that additional workshop discussion, further exploration and opportunity for community input precede any changes to zoning and final approval of this proposed development. This additional exploration is needed to fully understand the impacts of zone change and increased residential density on our neighborhood including the environmental impact, traffic, blasting and watershed concerns.

Thank you in advance for your careful attention to this very concerning situation.

Sheri Olstein
44 Ridge Road
Portland, ME 04103
(207) 576-3390

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Comments for the consideration by the City Council re: rezoning of 900 Ocean Avenue

1 message

Jean Mattimore <jeanmattimore@gmail.com> Thu, Aug 10, 2023 at 9:33 AM
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

To Members of the Portland City Council,

Thank you for the chance to provide some input to you as you consider the question of 900 Ocean Avenue being rezoned from R-3 to R-5a. I'm one of the owners at the Ocean Ridge condominium community and have lived here since 2010. The desire to make Portland more accessible to its citizens and to meet their needs is important, and hopefully that involves the owners of property in this area that will be affected by development being considered with this potential zoning change. I communicated most of the items below to the Planning Board as input to their considerations of this rezoning request, and I assume you have already seen what was submitted to them. If so, please forgive the redundancy.

1. The stone ridge on which Ocean Ridge, Ashton Gardens and any additional construction at 900 Ocean Ave depends is geologically sensitive. As an owner I have concerns about how that would play into any new construction that could have a destabilizing impact on the ridge itself and possibly on our land and buildings since blasting will likely be required as it has been for previous construction. The 900 Ocean Ridge discussion has envisioned a much larger construction effort as an R-5a property.
2. As construction and population has increased in this area of the City so has traffic. Roads are busier during more hours than in previous years. Recent apartment construction between Presumpscot and Veranda Streets and the development of the Roux Institute site could further increase pressure on area roadways, which is a significant concern. (The same may be true for other infrastructure elements.) This is a consideration for any further construction.
3. We are fortunate to enjoy green space within this property and around it, the preservation of which I believe is also a priority for the City since it provides habitat for local creatures and plants, contains protected vernal pools and has many trees assisting with air quality and contributing to the stability of the land. It is not clear how those areas might be affected by the rezoning and the development it could accommodate.
4. Information about what might be built at 900 Ocean Ave has been limited, with the indication that answers to many fundamental questions will not be made available until detailed site plans are drawn. I wonder if some of these answers might be essential to the rezoning decision, considering that the change in zone definition will greatly expand development potential and the concerns outlined above.
5. Since it was not requested by, suggested to or discussed with owners here are Ocean Ridge, I'm unclear about why this property would be rezoned to R-5a from R-3 and what the implications of that might be. I hope that information can be provided during your consideration of rezoning in this area.

Thank you again for including these comments in your review and for taking into account the interest area owners have in participating in these discussions and decisions.

Jean Mattimore
147 Ridge Rd.
Portland, ME 04103
207-590-9575

PretiFlaherty

Portland, ME
Augusta, ME
Concord, NH
Boston, MA
Washington, DC

Kristin M. Collins
kcollins@preti.com
207.791.3292

July 17, 2023

City Council
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101

RE: Proposed Zoning Map Amendment – 900 Ocean Avenue and Surrounding Properties

Dear Council Members:

I represent the Ocean Ridge Condominium Association. Ocean Ridge Condominiums are designated as Parcel # 416A A003000 and are immediately adjacent to the proposed multiunit development for which the developer, Ocean Avenue Residential LLC, has sought a map amendment to go from the R-3 to the R-5a zoning district.

To start, it is curious that the propose map amendment includes the Ocean Ridge parcel, when the Association has not been consulted or involved in discussions about the rezoning. Ocean Ridge is already developed, and so it appears that the only reason for its inclusion in this proposal is to make it appear that the proposed rezoning of 900 Ocean Avenue (416A A002001) is not just spot zoning. It is unfortunate that adjacent parcels have been dragged into this proposal, with what appears to have been little policy reason to do so. The Ocean Ridge parcel should be removed from the proposal.

As outlined in the memorandum from Kevin Kraft, the main "benefit" of the proposal is "to allow Ocean Avenue Residential, LLC, to develop the site." As a general rule of good planning, changing the rules to allow a particular development is not a sound practice. This proposal will drastically change the character of this neighborhood, allowing for four times the density, 1/3 taller building heights, and significantly reduced recreation space. Of course the developer benefits from being able to put more units on the property in fewer buildings. What benefit does this confer on the neighborhood and on the City? Consistency with the Comprehensive Plan is but one consideration, and as the Council may be aware, the bar for consistency is set quite low by the relevant case law. The true question for the Council, of course, is whether this represents good environmental and planning policy, with the public's interest being placed over the developer's.

The parcel at 900 Ocean Avenue contains part of a longstanding network of trails on Graves Hill that are a beloved part of the area. The rezoning might allow for more concentrated, higher-density development as the developer wishes, but this does not mean that these sensitive wetlands and forests will be preserved. In fact, the proposed zone will require *less* preserved recreation space. Planner Austin Torres Davis has suggested that the proposed development is of

a similar scale to existing development in the area, but the area has a distinctly suburban feel, with housing units being more spread out. Considering all of the subject parcels together, this rezoning would significantly urbanize this neighborhood. Moreover, there is no real distinction between the targeted parcels and other neighboring properties along both sides of Ocean Avenue that would stay in the R-3 or R-5 districts. What is the rational basis for targeting only these few properties and not other adjacent properties with similar development patterns? For example, the heavily developed Ledgewood area is being kept as R-5 despite having no practical distinction from the parcels being targeted with this change.

Finally, the Council should pay close attention to the purpose statement for the R-5a zone, which states that the zone should "have the capability for adequate municipal services, including traffic corridors with adequate traffic capacity, that can appropriately accommodate a more intensive use of land than other lower-density zoned land and be compatible with surrounding neighborhoods." Traffic and services are therefore key to the Council's analysis. The Council should commission a traffic study to understand the impact of this rezoning if all affected properties are built to the maximum allowable capacity under R-5a standards. The proposal should not be approved until a study confirms the ability of Ocean Avenue to support this added traffic. Residents of this area already report congestion and unsafe conditions during peak commuting times; the rezoning would significantly exacerbate them.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Ocean Ridge Condominium Association, I ask that the proposal be denied, or at the least that a vote be delayed until (1) Ocean Ridge Condominium owners and others in the vicinity have been notified of the proposal and are given the opportunity to comment on it, and (2) a traffic study and any other necessary reviews are commissioned to understand the impacts of the rezoning on traffic and municipal services. Planning staff should also be asked to explain why only these few properties are being targeted.

Sincerely

Kristin M. Collins

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Zone change for 900 Ocean Avenue

1 message

emdinmaine via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov> Mon, Nov 13, 2023 at 6:53 AM
Reply-To: emdinmaine@yahoo.com
To: Public Comment Portland <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>

Dear Sirs and Madams,

My name is Ellen DeVito, I own the property at 474 Presumpscot Street.
This is in regards to a zone change request on your agenda for November 20, 2023.
I have been following the zone change request for 900 Ocean Avenue from an R3 to an R5a that you will be voting on this evening.
This request also includes the abutting R3 property of Ocean Ridge, this property is to be bundled with 900 Ocean Avenue. I don't understand why the Ocean Ridge property is included in this request.
I am against this zone change and ask that you deny it.
I believe that this zone change request is spot zoning in an R3 area. An R5a zone allows for more density building that is not in keeping with the existing character of the neighborhood.
If this rush to change this R3 zoned property to an R5a zone is part of the new city recoding policy, where is the affordable housing that this was to produce?
This zone change at 900 Ocean Avenue appears to only profit the builders.
I was notified October 25th of a planning board meeting public hearing held on October 24th of a similar request to change the zone of the property at 426 Presumpscot Street and 921 Ocesn Avenue, land abutting my property, from an R3 to an R5 zone. I also consider this to be spot zoning. The planning board approved this request without any public comment. How could I comment when I wasn't notified in time?
This whole process of zone changes first at 900 Ocean Avenue and then the land on Presumpscot Street and Ocean Avenue appears to be pushed through without consideration of the existing neighborhood and the R3 zoned area we expected to live in.
I again beseech you to deny the requested zone change for 900 Ocean Avenue.
Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Ellen DeVito
Sent from my iPhone

November 19, 2023

Public Comment regarding Order 10-23/24, Portland Maine City Council

Dear Council Members,

I urge you to vote against the proposed zoning change from R3 to R-5a at 900 Ocean Avenue and at the Ocean Ridge Condominiums.

Lower density housing is more appropriate for this area. Heading north on Ocean Avenue from Washington Avenue, the area takes on a different character than near Washington Avenue and south. There is less traffic, and homes and other developments are more spaced out. As stated in Portland's 2030 Plan on Page 80, "Beyond the inner ring, the city transitions to relatively lower density residential patterns…." This is reflected in the current zoning for lower density housing along the northern boundary of Portland from this area to the Falmouth Spur. The zoning should be kept at R3 to be consistent with this strategy.

Another problem with the R-5a designation is the allowance for building heights of 55 feet. This is very much out of character with most of the surrounding developments. R3 allows for a more compatible building height of 35 feet.

In summary, please don't approve the zoning change from R3 to R-5a. Maintaining the status quo will help protect the character of the area.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Deidre S. St. Louis
46 Ridge Rd
Portland, ME 04103

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Public Comment - Order 10-23/24: Please Stop Blocking New Housing

1 message

George Rheault <george.rheault@gmail.com> Sun, Nov 19, 2023 at 9:36 AM
To: Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>, Kate Snyder <ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov>, Pious Ali <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, April Fournier <afournier@portlandmaine.gov>, Roberto Rodríguez <rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov>, Anna Trevorrow <atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov>, Victoria Pelletier <vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov>, Regina Phillips <rphillips@portlandmaine.gov>, Andrew Zarro <Azarro@portlandmaine.gov>, Mark Dion <mdion@portlandmaine.gov>, Danielle West-Chuhta <dwest@portlandmaine.gov>, Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

It is pretty gross that the neighbors at the Ocean Ridge Condos are trying to block a project next door to them that looks very much like the project they live in.

Please see attached a news story that ran in 2004 when the Ocean Ridge Condos were first being sold to new buyers. Even back then these condos were being marketed towards the higher end of the housing market.

It is also very odd that there is the objection that the new proposed project would be unlikely to be "affordable housing" to many Portlanders. People living in private market-rate housing complaining about someone building private, market-rate housing is a very odd position.

I should remind the City Council that EIGHT out of NINE members of the City Council ALSO live in private, market-rate housing. The vast majority of Portland lives in private, market-rate housing. IF the City Council blocks private, market-rate housing opportunities, then it makes our housing (and homelessness) crisis WORSE.

Our growing city NEEDS new housing and every area that a developer proposes opportunities for new housing, they should get the chance to make it work and the City Council should encourage it and not give in to the NIMBYs.

FYI: Here are some recent sales at Ocean Ridge - please read the descriptions of life here used in the listing ads:
181 Ridge Rd #33, Portland, ME 04103 | MLS# 1570365 | Redfin
46 Ridge Rd #2, Portland, ME 04103 | MLS# 1559937 | Redfin

2 attachments

CONDOS

Some neighbors have already expressed opposition to the plan, and more public input is expected as the project is reviewed.

But Doyle noted that current zoning would allow her to put 70 units across the 18-acre site.

Doyle noted that current zoning would allow her to put 70 units across the 18-acre site.

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3168K

RISING *to the* VIEW

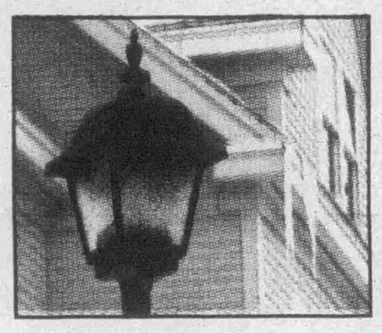
A hill in Portland near the Falmouth line has drawn developers who recognize a good location when they see one.

By TUX TURKEL
Staff Writer

Matthew Chamberlain was standing recently at the third-floor window of a newly finished unit at Ocean Ridge, a 46-unit condominium project under construction atop a wooded hill off Ocean Avenue near the Portland-Falmouth line. The day was clear and he could see Casco Bay framed beyond the Presumpscot River estuary and Mackworth Island.

"There's money in water," he said, admiring the view.

Chamberlain, owner of Regency Real Estate in South Portland and the listing broker for Ocean Ridge, knows that water views are worth money. He has presold 14 of the 16 water-facing units for prices that average between $300,000 and $400,000.



"We sold those units before we had anything to see on the market," he said. "It's a great location. It's almost an irreplacable location."

Real estate is all about location, and a combination of location and elevation are transforming an undervalued corner of Maine's largest city. Despite the name of the project and the street, Chamberlain would face a half-mile traverse down a cliff and across Interstate 295 to get his feet wet.

But at 170 feet above sea level, Ocean Ridge is among the highest spots in Portland, affording the sort of water vistas that are rare away from the peninsula. The hill tops Munjoy Hill, which measures 168 feet in elevation, according to the city's planning office.

Developers have come to appreciate this geography and are capitalizing on it, despite the fact that the area abuts the Dragon Products Co. concrete plant and stone quarry.

Ocean Ridge is rising across the street from a high-profile subdivision, Summer Place. In 1996, Ric Weinschenk came up with the bold notion of clustering 20 homes that mimic grand summer cottages on the cliff's edge. The striking architecture – marked by red, blue and green metal roofs, spacious porches and picket fences – masks the history of chimney problems and faulty construction that led to a state lawsuit against Weinschenk in 2000.

The project complements Ocean Ridge, and adds to the sense that an upscale enclave is taking shape in an area now characterized by a mix of modest homes and a handful of existing condominium developments.

That sense of exclusivity will increase soon, if a proposed high-rise luxury condominium on a wooded hillside next to Ocean Ridge is developed. The city's planning board is set to meet and discuss details of the 98-unit project on March 9.

These three projects are only a mile or so from busy Washington Avenue, but the area has a rural feel. The road has no sidewalks. Renovated farmhouses stand between newer homes. The landscape remains partially wooded and collapsed stone walls running through the trees hint at the area's bucolic past, when it was known as Graves Hill.

The area's history also is represented by the chain-link fence and metal wall shielding the 70-year-old quarry from Ocean Avenue, just north of Summer Place. In a nod to changing times, blasting is no longer allowed at the quarry.

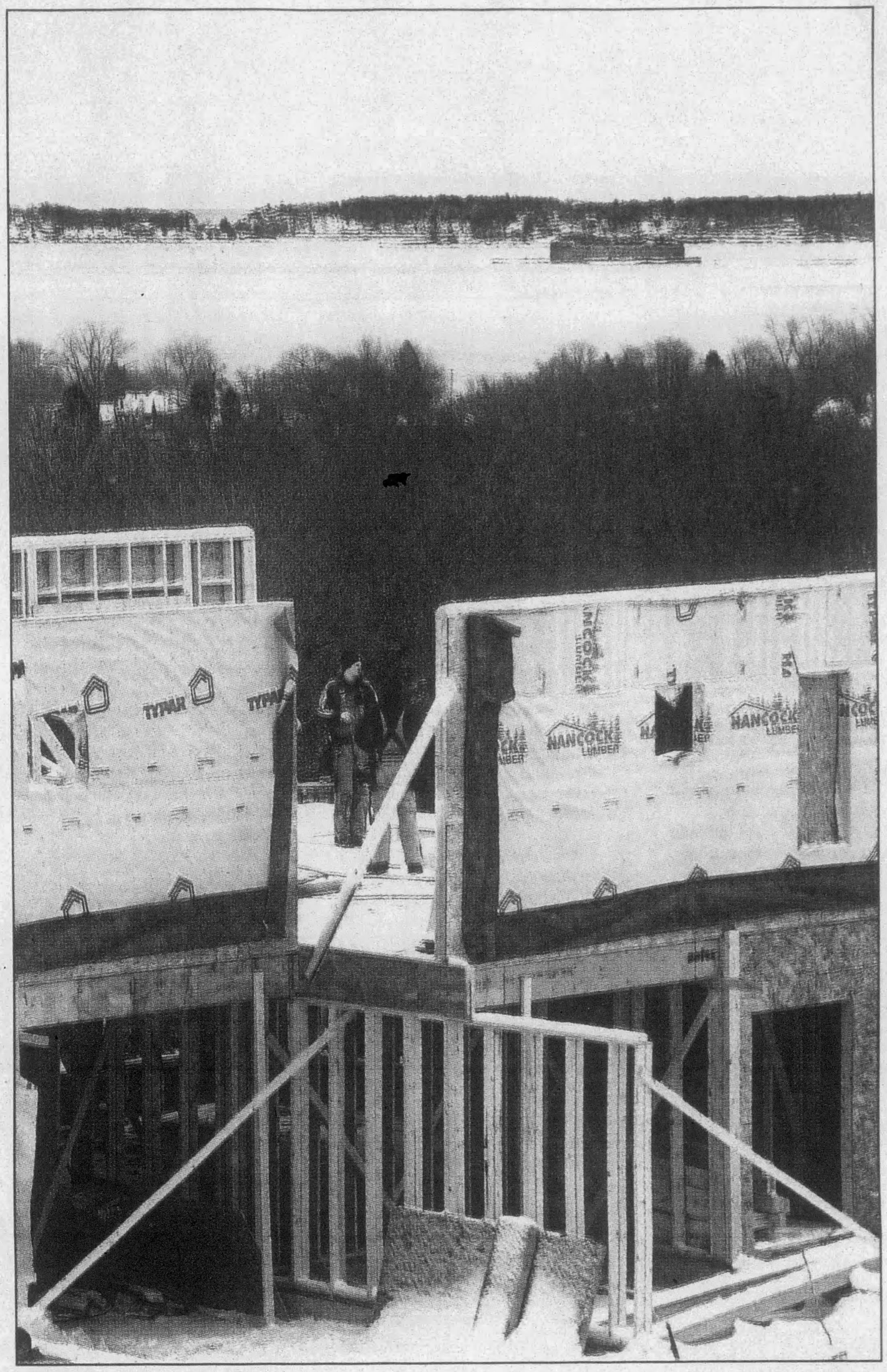
The solid rock that drew quarrymen to this spot has been an obstacle for modern developers. It cost roughly $300,000 to blast open a road and level the site at Ocean Ridge, according to Chamberlain. The developer of the $15 million project, Patrick Tinsman of Cape Elizabeth, then maximized the potential of the narrow parcel's vantage point by facing four clusters of homes toward the water. The remaining 30 units will be scattered to the rear, where some will have woodland views.

The units now under construction are of a townhouse style and rise four floors. The base price includes the first and second floor finished. For another $50,000 or so, the daylight basement and third-floor bedroom suite can be completed. The living area ranges from 1,500 square feet built on slab to 2,700 square feet for the larger townhouses. Inside, standard features include granite kitchen counters, gas fireplaces and central air conditioning.

Ocean Ridge isn't a retirement community, but it's not aimed at families, either. It's attracting Greater Portland residents from their late- 20s to late-50s, according to Chamberlain. Most are professionals who have downsized from larger homes or are snowbirds who spend winters where it's warmer.

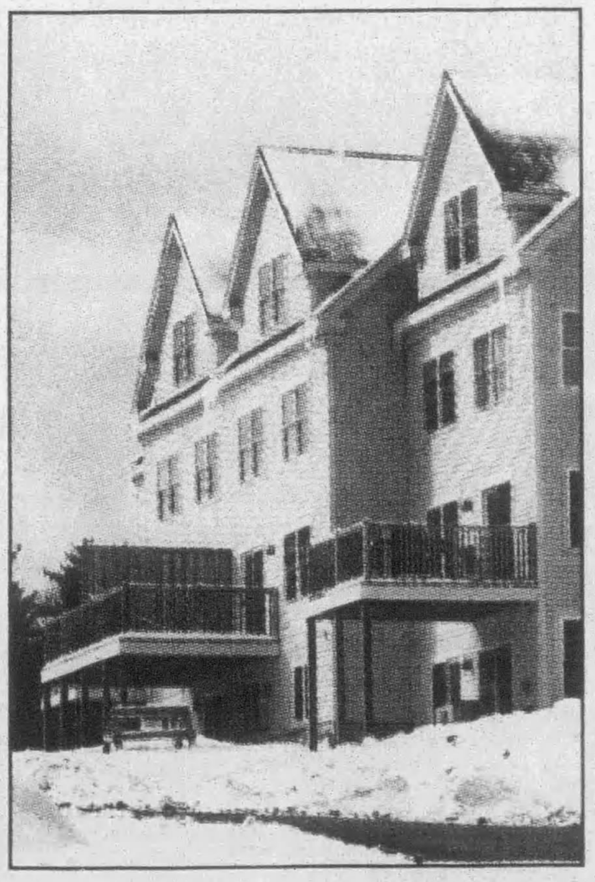
The prospect of owning a new unit that's centrally located and has a view of the water was a winning combination for Stacey Hong, an accounting manager who

Please see **CONDOS**
Back page this section



Staff photos by Doug Jones

Fort Gorges and the islands of Casco Bay form the backdrop as construction workers frame what will be a condo with a view at the Ocean Ridge project, at one of the highest spots in Portland.



The prices of Ocean Ridge condominium units average between $300,000 and $400,000. The living area ranges from 1,500 square feet built on slab to 2,700 square feet for the larger townhouses. At far left, stylized street lamps line the winding approach to Ocean Ridge.

CONDOS

Continued from Page 1C

closed on one of the first units earlier this month. Hong paid $330,000 for his new home – $259,000 for the basic unit and another $71,000 to finish the basement and third floor.

"I don't sit and look out the windows all the time," he said, "but it's nice to have the water in the background."

Residents of the proposed high-rise condominium will certainly have water views, if the developer is able to accomplish what she has in mind.

Diane Doyle, president of Doyle Enterprises in Saco, wants to build two towers that will stand 13 and 14 stories high. All the units will have water views and sweeping vistas of Casco Bay, downtown Portland and the White Mountains. The project, called Graves Hill, is aimed at residents 55 years and older. Doyle declined to estimate the prices for the units.

To build the high-rise, however, Doyle will need a zone change from the city to allow for the extra height. Some neighbors have already expressed opposition to the plan, and more public input is expected as the project is reviewed.

But Doyle noted that current zoning would allow her to put 70 units across the 18-acre site. By building up, she said, she can keep roughly 14 of those acres undeveloped. She said she's working with Portland Trails on an easement for a walking path through the rear of the property.

"I'm expecting some opposition," she said. "But the fact is, that property is available and it will be developed. I don't want to chop down all the trees."

The rising of Ocean Ridge and the potential plans next door are being watched with interest by Laura Byther, owner of ReMax Absolute Realty in Westbrook. She currently has a home listed across the street at Summer Place, a three-bedroom cottage for $359,000.

"The people who live there love it," she said of Summer Place. "You can smell the salt air, you can see Portland Head Light at night. You feel like you're in an oceanside community."

Of course, when the leaves are off the trees, Summer Place residents also can spot an industrial park below them on Presumpscot Street, at the bottom of the cliff. But that doesn't diminish the appeal.

Doyle noted that current zoning would allow her to put 70 units across the 18-acre site.

"Everybody's drawn to the water," she said.

Aside from the view, the proximity to downtown Portland is driving the area's transformation, Byther said. Many people want to be close to restaurants and shopping, she said, and although they enjoy rural surroundings, they feel isolated in the suburbs. This location offers the best of both worlds. And the limited amount of developable high ground suggests that whatever is built in the area will remain desirable as the city grows.

"They're not making any more land over there," Byther said.

Staff Writer Tux Turkel can be contacted at 791-6462 or at:

tturkel@pressherald.com

11/18/23

Residents oppose the 900 Ocean Avenue LLC, Proposal to change zoning from R3 to R5A

The entire City Council unanimously approved the Planning Board to proceed with an entire "recoding" or "rezoning" of the City of Portland.

The existing residents may presume that the council did so unanimously due to the tremendous shortage of housing.

However, the Planning Board repeatedly refuses to answer the very question in both writing and public meetings as specified in the Agenda of the November 20, 2023, City Council Agenda:

On May 9, 2023, the Planning Board voted (5-0; Stanley and Chan absent) to find the proposed zoning map amendment from R-3 Residential to R-5a Residential to be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Portland. The Planning Board recommends to the City Council adoption of the zoning map amendment for the area of land that includes 900 Ocean Avenue and parcels 416A A001001, 416A A002001, and 416A A003000. The proposed zoning map amendment application was submitted by Ocean Avenue Residential, LLC. The change from R-3 to R-5a would permit greater density that would accommodate existing natural site amenities.

The residents surrounding 900 Ocean Ave disagree per our interpretation of the of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan for the City of Portland. This land is fragile, requires explosives to prepare the land for building, and homes have already been damaged due to other building surrounding this area, including the construction of Ashton Gardens.

The public has written emails to the planning board and publicly asked Christine Grimando at the District 4 meeting at Ocean Avenue Elementary School this past Thursday, 11/16/23. No answer has been provided.

In the absence of responses from the planning board, the residents can only presume the city is not working for its residents, rather it is tied to real estate investors and developers. This represents an ethical dilemma.

Per the Land Use Code, Procedure 1.10.2 (C.) the private applicant shall conduct neighborhood outreach. Please provide evidence this occurred. If so, why were the residents of Ocean Ridge not allowed to speak or have their questions answered?

Per the Land Use Code, Procedure 1.10.2 (E.) did the planning board have a public hearing? If so, how and when were the public notified?

What authority is given to the Planning board to change the zoning of an established neighborhood without the consent of the residents that live there? Ocean Ridge was packaged into the rezoning request by the Planning Board without their consent. How is this possible?

At the District 4 meeting at Ocean Elementary School on November 16, 2023, a great variety of concerns were brought forth. Let's start with the repair and maintenance of our existing infrastructure including but not limited to sidewalks, streets, and street lighting. Before we ask for addition infrastructure to be built, can we maintain the existing infrastructure first? (e.g., There are no sidewalks near 900 Ocean Ave.)

At the District 4 meeting another important topic was the shrinking state and federal funds that contribute to our school budget. Due to the rising valuations of properties in Portland Maine the formula that allocates government funds towards our school budgets is diminishing. The formula expects the local municipality to make up the difference with increased property taxes. Bare in fact that the residents did not hyper inflate their home values, rather the speed and volume of approved development of luxury homes and hotels attracting more people from away to purchase these homes. Portlanders cannot afford the volume of $600k to $1M luxury dwellings being built. 900 Ocean Ave LLC proposal Phase 1 is to build more luxury dwellings. The city contributed to the hyperinflation of property values diminishing the government funds to our schools.

At the District 4 meeting the most critical topic was the homeless. The grave safety hazards they are directly harming the taxpayers in most neighborhoods. While we may recognize the city did not create this problem, the homeless crisis has been on the rise for well over 10 years and there is no solution in site. The city likely needs to work with the state to get

solutions. However, the politicians both local and state that think it's a good idea to decriminalize indecent exposure, drinking in public, doing drugs in public, loitering, etc. rendering our law enforcement useless, further aggravating the businesses and residents of Portland should accept the next sweep of the in-place encampments be moved to their properties. It is utterly unacceptable that our children should be endangered by the homeless and put the taxpayer at constant risk.

With Mark Dion winning the mayoral race, he stated that he hopes to really get something done. May I suggest that it is impossible for any public or private sector organization to get anything done when it has too many priorities at once. **If everything is important, nothing is important**. The City Managers regularly comments that "our resources are stretched thin". I will offer that every public, non-profit and private organization is "stretched thin" and no one operates with excess resources. The very residents that are contributing to the discussion are "stretched thin". The city must pick the most important priorities and solve them. Based on the constant flow of concerns from residents it appears getting the homeless off our streets, funding our schools, maintaining the existing infrastructure, and having all emergency services properly staffed are the priorities.

Recoding and rezoning the city is simply too much to handle and is upsetting residents beyond the ongoing challenges we face as a community. Shut down the recoding process, allocate money and resources to the most basic needs of our city and slow down the irresponsible high density, luxury building conversion of downtown to luxury hotels. If newcomers want to live in a densely populated city, they should go to Boston or any other major city of their choice. The recoding is disrespectful to the generations of existing residents and is a distraction from solving the real dangers of safety, educating our children, and maintaining our infrastructure.

Respectfully,

Vinnie Caliendo

47 Ice Pond Drive

Portland

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

11/20/2023 Council Meeting: 900 Ocean Avenue Rezoning

1 message

zenzuata via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov> Sat, Nov 18, 2023 at 2:21 PM
Reply-To: zenzuata@mac.com
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov, ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov, rphillips@portlandmaine.gov, mdion@portlandmaine.gov, atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov, azarro@portlandmaine.gov, pali@portlandmaine.gov, vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov, afournier@portlandmaine.gov, rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov

I am the President of the Alden's Walk Owners Association, representing the 24 unit condominium on the other side of Graves Hill from the proposed rezoning. The parcel of land that Alden's Walk Condominiums is on, along with two other home owners associations, Ledgewood Condominiums and the two dozen private single family residences of Pheasant Hill Owners Association, is zoned Zone 5. Director Grimaldo's presentation at the October 30th Council Workshop included Alden's Walk Condominiums in her discussion of Planned Residential Unit Developments on Graves Hill. While we are concerned about a number of issues, including traffic and environmental issues, a major concern for us is the potential for damage to our buildings in association with blasting. When Ashton Gardens was built, we believe the blasting that was needed, that would likely be dwarfed by the blasting needed to build a 270 unit complex at 900 Ocean Avenue, resulted in basements flooding in 3 of our 9 buildings secondary to geologic ledge ground water disruptions, that were not a problem before their blasting, costing our association $50,000 in remediation costs.

I was only made aware of the proposal to rezone 900 Ocean Avenue and the adjoining Ocean Ridge community this last week. After watching the October 30, 2023 Council Workshop on the topic I came away feeling that the several of the councilors appreciate a dilemma of being asked to approve a rezoning recommendation from the Planning Board without the benefit of being able to review the impact of any yet to be submitted site proposal from Ocean Avenue Residential, LLC. While I understand that the process is such that the Council could approve the rezoning but not be obligated to approve a subsequently submitted development proposal, after reading the Land Use Code for Portland, I believe that the Planning Board may have acted prematurely in issuing a report and recommendation to the Council.

The Land Use Code stipulates that "A private applicant (Ocean Avenue Residential, LLC.) for a map amendment that would permit a development subject to major site plan review shall conduct neighborhood meetings under Article 14 (of the Land Use Code)." Article 14, in 14.1 Purpose, states "Pursuant to Portland's Comprehensive Plan, this article advances the vision for a sustainable city with shared goals for environment, community, and economy. This article complements the zoning and subdivision regulations of this Land Use Code." (Underlining mine.) Article 14 stipulates the timing, location, notice and meeting procedures required for a neighborhood meeting. I believe the owners of Ocean Avenue Residential, LLC., and the Planning Board have misinterpreted the Land Use Code to only require a neighborhood meeting in relationship to site plan review, not private application for a map amendment that would permit a development subject to subsequent major site plan review.

Given that Ocean Avenue Residential, LLC., has not convened a neighborhood meeting in compliance with Article 14 and that more than the "within 30 calendar days" of their application for a map amendment required for a neighborhood meeting has elapsed, I believe the Council should direct the Planning Boad to require a reapplication and compliance with the neighborhood meeting requirements stipulated in Article 14 before it can review the reapplication and submit recommendations to the Council. Given the loose expectation the Director Grimaldo provided at the workshop that the city wide rezoning plan is expected to be finalized by mid-2024, it may be the ReZone Portland process will closely coincide in time with a Council directed reapplication process for 900 Ocean Avenue compliant with Article 14.

Thank you for considering my comments and recommendation.

Stephen Z. Hull
President, Alden's Walk Owners Association

MEMORANDUM
City Council Agenda Item

FROM:

DATE: November 13, 2023

SUBJECT: Order 67-23/24 Order Accepting and Appropriating Asset Forfeiture Funds to the Portland Police Department - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager

SPONSOR: The Mayor, City Manager, City Clerk, Corporation Counsel, the Planning Board, or up to three (3) members of the Council shall sponsor any orders or other items. If sponsored by a Council Committee, please include the date the committee met and the results of the vote.

(If sponsored by a Council committee, include the date the committee met and the results of the vote.)

COUNCIL MEETING DATE ACTION IS REQUESTED:

1st Reading **Final Action**

Can action be taken at a later date: No If action cannot be taken at a later date, please explain why. Do NOT write yes or no; that will be automatically generated by the checkbox.

Does this item involve a new contract with the City: n/a

PRESENTATION: Please list the presenter(s), type, and length of presentation

I. SUMMARY

II. AGENDA DESCRIPTION

The Portland Police Department assisted with a multi-year Federal investigation which resulted in a 2017 arrest and significant asset forfeitures under the Department of Justice and the Department of the Treasury Asset Forfeiture Programs. These programs are, first and foremost, law enforcement programs and funding must only be used by the local law enforcement agency within specific permissible uses. This action accepts and appropriates $875,000 in asset forfeiture funding and appropriates it towards $875,000 of permissible uses.

This item must be read on two separate days. It received its first reading on November 13, 2023. Five affirmative votes are required for passage after public comment.

III. BACKGROUND

Background information that will not appear in the Agenda Description

IV. INTENDED RESULT AND/OR COUNCIL GOAL ADDRESSED

V. FINANCIAL IMPACT

Please indicate whether or not there is a financial impact. Please note that per Council Rule 12, this form must have "a separate fiscal impact statement memo attached if the impact of the item is $50,000 or more in a given fiscal year. This memo shall include details and information describing the fiscal impact including, but not limited to, projected costs, revenues or savings over a three (3) year period and/or any potential impacts on the City tax levy."

VI. STAFF ANALYSIS AND BACKGROUND

Staff Analysis that will not appear in the Agenda Description.

VII. RECOMMENDATION

VIII. LIST ATTACHMENTS

1. Appropriation of Asset Forfeiture Funds at PD 11.13.2023

Prepared by:
Date: 11/13/2023

KATE SNYDER (MAYOR)
APRIL D. FOURNIER(A/L)
PIOUS ALI (A/L)
ROBERTO RODRÍGUEZ (A/L)

CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL

ANNA TREVORROW (1)
VICTORIA L. PELLETIER (2)
REGINA L. PHILLIPS (3)
ANDREW ZARRO (4)
MARK DION (5)

ORDER ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING ASSET FORFEITURE FUNDS TO THE PORTLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

ORDERED, that funds ~~related~~ in the amount of $825,000 from the United States Department of Justice and the Department of the Treasury Asset Forfeiture / Equitable Sharing Programs are hereby accepted and that amount appropriated towards permissible law enforcement programs and projects noted below; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that $350,000 is appropriated towards recruitment and retention efforts for the Department; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that $225,000 is appropriated towards repairs and improvements required at the 109 Middle Street Department headquarters; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that $175,000 is appropriated towards minor capital and personal protective equipment; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that $50,000 is appropriated ~~-~~ towards law enforcement training and education;~~towards minor capital and personal protective equipment~~; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that $25,000 is appropriated towards support of community based organizations; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that if the actual cost of any category of appropriation differs from the estimated costs listed above, whether due to completion, delay or abandonment of the project or for any other reason, the ~~Director of Finance~~ City Manager is authorized, in ~~his~~ her discretion in consultation with the Director of Finance, to reallocate the other funds appropriated therefore to any other category listed or any other project City Council has approved or may in the future approve~~d~~ with asset forfeiture funds.

MEMORANDUM
City Council Agenda Item

FROM:

DATE: November 13, 2023

SUBJECT: Order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property - Sponsored by Roberto Rodriguez, Councilor, and Anna Trevorrow, Councilor

SPONSOR: Councilor Roberto Rodriguez and Councilor Anna Trevorrow

(If sponsored by a Council committee, include the date the committee met and the results of the vote.)

COUNCIL MEETING DATE ACTION IS REQUESTED:

1st Reading **Final Action**

Can action be taken at a later date: Yes If action cannot be taken at a later date, please explain why. Do NOT write yes or no; that will be automatically generated by the checkbox.

Does this item involve a new contract with the City: N/A

PRESENTATION: Please list the presenter(s), type, and length of presentation

I. SUMMARY

II. AGENDA DESCRIPTION

This order includes amendments proposed by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez to Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code that would create a temporary exception to the City's prohibition on camping and loitering on City property and would allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property from the effective date of the amendments to April 30, 2024. The amendments do not allow camping in certain specified locations, including downtown streets or sidewalks, playgrounds, City Hall Plaza, Monument Square, and within 250 feet of schools.

This item must be read on two separate days. It received its first reading on November 13, 2023. Five affirmative votes are required for passage after public comment.

III. BACKGROUND

Background information that will not appear in the Agenda Description

IV. INTENDED RESULT AND/OR COUNCIL GOAL ADDRESSED

V. FINANCIAL IMPACT

Please see fiscal impact memo included in backup materials.

VI. STAFF ANALYSIS AND BACKGROUND

Staff Analysis will be presented in backup materials, including memos.

VII. RECOMMENDATION

VIII. LIST ATTACHMENTS

1. Camping and Loitering on Public Property 11.13.2023
2. Fiscal Impact Note - 68-23_24
3. Staff Feedback re Order 68 V3
4. Order 68 Public Comment (V4)

5. Amendment 1 to Order 68-FY24 Camping and Loitering on Public Property 11.20.2023
6. Amendment 2 to Order 68-FY24 Camping and Loitering on Public Property 11.20.2023
7. Amendment 3 to Order 68-FY24 Camping and Loitering on Public Property 11.20.2023

Prepared by:
Date: 11/13/2023

KATE SNYDER (MAYOR)
APRIL D. FOURNIER(A/L)
PIOUS ALI (A/L)
ROBERTO RODRÍGUEZ (A/L)

CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL

ANNA TREVORROW (1)
VICTORIA L. PELLETIER (2)
REGINA L. PHILLIPS (3)
ANDREW ZARRO (4)
MARK DION (5)

AMENDMENT TO PORTLAND CITY CODE CHAPTERS 17, 18, AND 25
RE: CAMPING AND LOITERING ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE IN CITY COUNCIL ASSEMBLED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That Section 17-1 is hereby amended, which said section reads as follows:

Sec. 17-1. Loitering.

(a) The following definitions shall apply in this section:

...

(d) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this section 17-1, until April 30, 2024, unless otherwise prohibited by law, it shall not be unlawful for an unhoused person living in the city to camp, sleep, sit, and otherwise loiter in any public place, except that camping shall remain unlawful in the following public places: (1) on or within 250 feet of any school building; (2) within a playground, provided that this exception is limited to the perimeter of the playground and does not include any surrounding or adjacent public place; (3) Monument Square and City Hall plaza; and (4) all public streets, public highways, and public sidewalks in the Portland Downtown District. It shall also remain unlawful to camp or otherwise loiter in such a manner as to: (1) obstruct any public street or public highway by preventing the passage of vehicles or traffic or that may impede the city's repair, maintenance, or snow removal;(2) obstruct any public sidewalk or trail such that less than five feet of open space on the sidewalk or trail remains for passage by pedestrians; or (3) prevent ingress and egress to or from any public building, or business facing or fronting on any public street, public highway, public sidewalk, or any other public place. For purposes of this subsection, the terms camp and camping refer to activity by unhoused people who use tents,

tarps, wooden pallets, sleeping bags, blankets, boxes, carts, and other non-structural equipment to create shelter for sleeping and other life-sustaining conduct in public places. The provisions of this subsection (d) shall automatically expire at 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2024, and the clerk shall delete this subsection from this section at that time.

2. That Sections 18-18 is hereby amended, which said section read as follows:

Sec. 18-18. Loitering in parks.

Except as provided below for Tommy's Park and Post Office Park, no person shall stop, loiter, be or remain in any of the parks of the city or in any of the paths, drives, streets, boulevards or roadways of the parks between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:30 a.m. of the day immediately following, except for the purpose of traveling across or through such parks; nor shall any person park an automobile and remain therein between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:30 a.m. of the day immediately following on any of the drives, streets, boulevards, promenades or roadways within the parks of the city, unless said person or persons has the prior written authorization of the city manager to be in said park or parks or their drives, streets, boulevards, promenades or roadways during the aforementioned hours.

No person shall stop, loiter, be or remain in Tommy's Park or Post Office Park or in any of the paths of these two parks between the hours of 1 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. on any given day, except for the purpose of traveling across or through such parks.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this section 18-18, until April 30, 2024, unless otherwise prohibited by law, unhoused people living in the city shall be permitted to camp, sleep, stop, loiter, and otherwise remain in any parks of the city, through all hours of the day, except (1) in any city playground, including, without limitation, Adams School Playground, Breakwater Playground and Fields, Clark Street Playground, Deering Oaks Playground, Dougherty Field Playground, Fox Field Playground, Great Diamond Island Playground, Heseltine Playground, Kiwanis Pool Playground, Marada Adams Playground, Munjoy South Playground, Nathan Clifford Playground, Payson Playground, Penny's Park, Peppermint Playground, Pleasant Street Playground, Stone Street (Bayside) Playground, Stroudwater Playground, South Street Playground, Tate/Tyng Playground, Taylor Street Playground, and Wills Playground, provided that

this exception is limited to the perimeter of the playground and does not include any surrounding or adjacent public place, as defined in Section 17(a)(2). It shall also remain unlawful to camp in any school playground and fields, including, without limitation, Cliff Island Playground, East End School Playground and Fields, Rowe School Playground and Fields, Longfellow Playground and Fields, Lyseth/Lyman Moore Playground and Fields, Ocean Avenue Playground and Fields, Peaks Island Playground and Fields, Presumpscot Playground and Fields, Reiche Playground and Fields, and Talbot School Playground and Fields. Unhoused people living in the city shall also be permitted to stay in a parked vehicle on any drives, streets, boulevards, promenades, or roadways in any parks of the city, except for Clark Street Playground, Marada Adams Playground, Monument Square, Munjoy South Playground, Pleasant Street Playground, South Street Playground, and Tate-Tyng Playground, between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:30 a.m. of the day immediately following so long as the vehicle does not obstruct the passage of vehicles, traffic, or pedestrians over such drives, streets, boulevards, promenades, or roadways and does not impede the city's repair, maintenance, or snow removal, in such places. It shall remain prohibited for unhoused people living in the city to camp, sleep, stop, loiter, stay in a parked car, or otherwise remain in any city playground, including, without limitation Clark Street Playground, Marada Adams Playground, Munjoy South Playground, Pleasant Street Playground, South Street Playground, and Tate-Tyng Playground. For purposes of this paragraph, the terms camp and camping refer to activity by unhoused people who use tents, tarps, wooden pallets, sleeping bags, blankets, boxes, carts, and other non-structural equipment to create shelter for sleeping and other life-sustaining conduct in public places. The provisions of this paragraph shall automatically expire at 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2024, and the clerk shall delete this paragraph from this section at that time.

3. That Sections 25-26 is hereby amended, which said section read as follows:

Sec. 25-26. Required.

(a) No person shall place or cause to be placed in or on, or shall suspend over any street, way or public place in the city any article or thing whatsoever, including but not limited to portable sidewalk signs, except under a duly authorized permit therefor issued pursuant to the provisions of this division.

Except during declared festivals or other approved events

that require a sidewalk occupancy permit under this section, this section shall not apply to a table or other structures used by (1) street artists to create or sell works of art, or (2) individuals who set up a table and/or chairs in compliance with chapter 19, article II, sec. 19-24 subparagraph (a)(1),(2),(5) and (6), to engage in an activity other than commercial speech, protected by the first amendment to the United States and Maine Constitution including but not limited to the distribution of political or religious literature, or the gatherings of signatures on petitions.

Furthermore, until April 30, 2024, the requirement for a permit under this subsection (a) shall not apply to unhoused individuals living in a public place in the city in accordance with the provisions of chapter 17, sec. 17-1(d) and chapter 18, section 18-18, who use tents, tarps, wooden pallets, sleeping bags, blankets, boxes, carts, and other non-structural equipment to create shelter for sleeping and other life-sustaining conduct in public places. The provisions of this paragraph shall automatically expire at 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2024, and the clerk shall delete this paragraph from this subsection at that time.

...

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Snyder and Members of the Portland City Council

From Brendan T. O'Connell, CPA, Finance Director

CC: Danielle P. West, City Manager

Date: November 15, 2023

Subject: Fiscal Impact Note - Order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property

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This memo serves as the fiscal note outlining estimated costs of *Order 68-23/24*. Costing this proposal has been difficult due to the many required assumptions in the analysis and the limited time available staff for review. Each assumption made in the fiscal note is discussed in detail within the accompanying analysis. This fiscal analysis represents staff's best estimate of costs arising from potential passage of the ordinance as it is currently written. It is important to note that a future City Council two read agenda item for additional spending authorization and funding appropriation may be necessary if these changes were to be adopted by the Council on 11/20 since the FY24 budget has already been adopted. The estimated fiscal impact is below and additional explanatory information on assumptions and Department by Department expenses is included in the body of this document.

1) FY24 Valuation:	14,879,000,000	**$14,879,000**
2) FY24 Tax Rate (Total City & School): Levy / (Valuation/1000)		**$14.41**
(a) FY24 Tax Rate (City):		**$6.34**
(b) FY24 Tax Rate (County):		$0.62
(c) FY24 Tax Rate (School):		$7.45
3) FY24 Value of $0.01 of Tax Rate (Total City & School):		**$148,790**

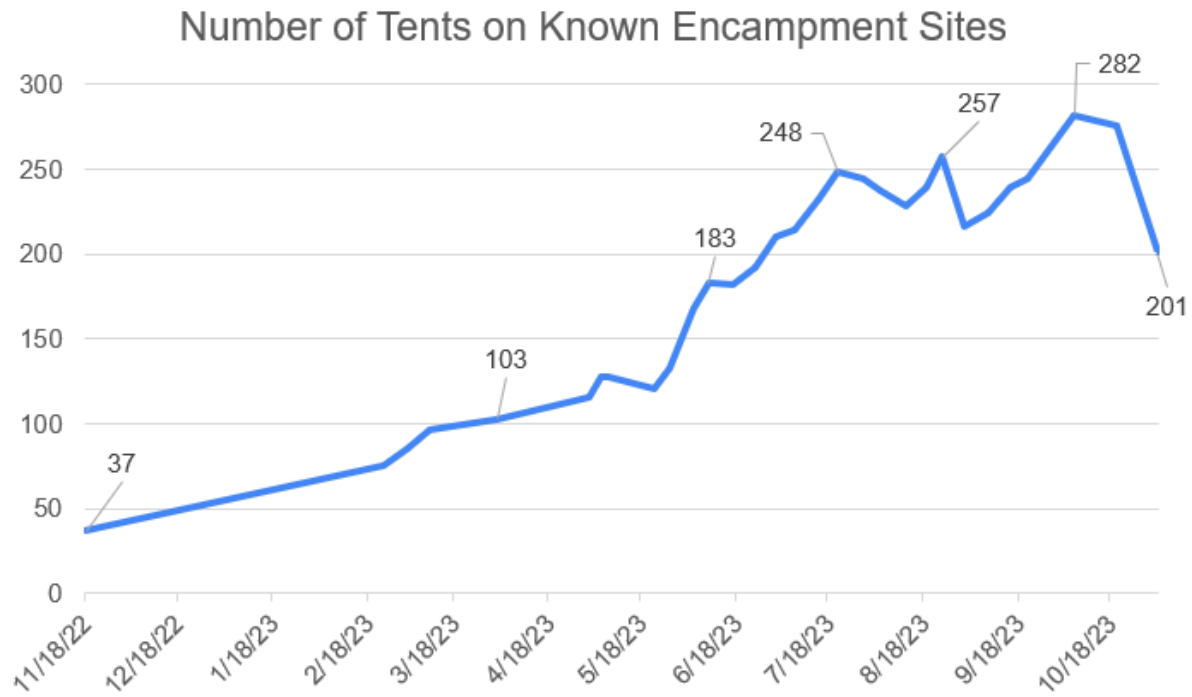
FISCAL IMPACT NOTE	**FY24**		**FY25**		**FY26**	
New Program Cost Data:	**City Rate**	**City / Sch Combined Rate**	**City Rate**	**City / Sch Combined Rate**	**City Rate**	**City / Sch Combined Rate**
Example:						
ADD: NEW ITEM ANNUAL EXPENDUTURES		**$1,226,518**		**$0**		**$0**
LESS: TOTAL NEW ITEM ANNUAL REVENUES		**$0**		**$0**		**$0**
=NEW ITEM NET TAX RATE IMPACT PROJECTION	**$1,226,518**	**$1,226,518**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
New Program Impact to the Tax Rate	**$0.0824**	**$0.0824**	**$0.0000**	**$0.0000**	**$0.0000**	**$0.0000**
New Program % Impact on Tax Rate	**1.3002%**	**0.5721%**	**0.0000%**	**0.0000%**	**0.0000%**	**0.0000%**
Tax Rate Inlcuding New Program	***$14.49***	***$14.49***	***$14.41***	***$14.41***	***$14.41***	***$14.41***

Fiscal impact note of Order 68-23/24. See details on critical assumptions made in costing, including sun set 4/30/24. It is too late to increase FY24 property taxes to raise these funds so further discussion/Council action to appropriate funds will be required.

Assumptions and Department by Department Discussion

The most critical assumption in this costing is this fiscal note is that it only includes costs related to the approximately five month period ending April 30, 2024, the end date in the proposal. This costing assumes that all large encampments would be cleared after that date. If the changes do not sun-set as intended and are extended into the warmer months, the costs would most likely be significantly higher in future fiscal years due to Portland becoming an even more attractive destination for the unhoused. As a result, the resulting impact to the FY25 budgets would be significantly higher than amounts estimated in this memo for the FY24 five month period. This would also add significant pressure on the City and School property tax levy for FY25 in a year when there are already a mounting number of material budget challenges which will make passage of an affordable budget incredibly difficult.

Next, this fiscal note required making an assumption about potential trends in the number of tents and number of encampment locations which could occur as a result of the proposed policies. With temperatures dropping and winter rapidly approaching, the assumption used in this memo is that the number of tents City wide will not increase any further over the winter and will remain in the 200-250 range by April 2024. We make this assumption based on data from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities, collected at various points in time over the last year. According to that data, the number of tents at known encampment sites increased significantly over the last 12 months, but, due to a variety of circumstances, the number of observed tents has decreased to just over 200 in early November 2023.



However, if the proposed ordinance passes, it also removes emphasis areas. Therefore, staff has included an assumption that although the number of tents will not increase, the number of high concentration encampment locations most likely will increase.City staff would, therefore,

have to incur higher costs and have to spend more hours servicing multiple encampment locations if the proposed ordinance were to pass unchanged.

Department by Department Estimated Cost Review

Fire Department - The City has already received nearly 1,000 calls for service in 2023 to current or former encampments and the surrounding areas of Marginal Way, Fore River Parkway and Commercial Street. A critical part of our response to encampments is the overworked mobile medical outreach program. We have two providers a day for a five hour shift currently. The cost of the staff hours is approximately $5000 per week. We only have one vehicle dedicated to the program and the majority of their calls are to the large encampments. Adding hours to provide additional outreach hours to multiple encampment locations would require setting up another team (estimated at $5000/week * 21.6 weeks) and vehicle ($45,000) to the program.

Approximate total staff cost	$108,333 for the five month period
Approximate total equipment cost	$ 45,000 for the five month period

Public Works - The City has not traditionally had large encampments during the winter months due to the extreme cold of Maine winters. Therefore, despite there being some existing staff costs and operational costs being incurred within Public Works, these costs were not expected to continue beyond December 1. Our already stretched thin staff and our fleet vehicles become dedicated to the City's critical winter operations during the winter months. As such, if the proposed changes in Order 68-23/24 pass, the City will have to rely even more on external contractors for winter operations rather than using existing staff. Our City staff will be transitioned from only part time on encampment cleanup (currently one crew of five services the largest encampment 2x per week for a full day using a loader, 2 dump trucks for trash and other discarded items, and a police detail) to more full time team. Staffing expenses for 1 Supervisor and 4 Maintenance Worker III's at 37.5 hours per week are included in this analysis, with a $5/hour stipend for working in hazardous conditions. Because the City's existing fleet vehicles will be dedicated to winter operations it is assumed that major equipment needs would be met via rentals for this approximately five month period. A two axle dump truck rents for approximately $115/hour and a loader rents for approximately $225/hour. It is important to note that these rentals would NOT be available during prime construction season.

Approximate total staff cost	$182,617 for the five month period
Approximate total equipment / rentals cost	$336,250 for the five month period

Parks, Recreation and Facilities (PRF)
The City has not traditionally had large encampments during the winter months due to the

extreme cold of Maine winters. As with Public Works, the PRF team of staff would typically transition to winter operations if this ordinance did not pass and the City had no large encampments during winter months. However, if this ordinance does pass the City would potentially need to incur the existing costs of a Supervisor and four crew including 3 Labor and Traders Grade 18's and a Custodial Worker for restroom cleaning and cleaning encampments within parks, open spaces and cemeteries. Unfortunately, all external vendors have refused to work with the City due to continued needles being disposed of within portable restrooms and other cleaning vendors have also refused to work with the City due to dangerous conditions in the encampments and harassment of their staff. Therefore, PRF has indicated that there would be equipment needs required by this proposal. They would include an additional pickup with tank and pressure washer, a dump trailer, plus minor additional PPE and other equipment.

Approximate total staff cost	$168,188 for the five month period
Approximate total equipment cost	$103,000 for the five month period

Health & Human Services

Health and Human Services provided a list of all staff who have been pulled away from their existing duties to work on encampment related projects. So, although there is some opportunity cost associated with these staff (i.e. they should be working on other priorities such as the opening of the City's new 179 bed shelter at 166 Riverside Street) the majority of this staff would be paid regardless of whether or not encampments exist. Because we have included an assumption that the total number of tents within the City would not increase over the five month period if these proposed changes pass, it is unlikely we would need significant new staff. However, as noted several times previously in this document, if the number of high concentration encampment locations increased significantly the City would consider adding additional Community Health Promotion Specialists ($985 each, per week) and two Human Services Councilors ($1,176 each, per week). The City would also continue to incur a more significant volume of hazardous waste/used needle disposal costs resulting from the large encampments, estimated at an additional $15,000 based on current expenditure trends.

Approximate total staff cost	$126,448 for the five month period
Approximate total other cost	$ 15,000 for the five month period

Police Department

Currently the Police Department is serving the encampments using existing staff taken off their regular beats. For example, through October 2023 there were 117 calls for the Police to respond to the encampment at Harborview Park on Commercial Street compared to just 27 for the same time period in 2022. This does not account for calls for service for surrounding areas and business (for example at the Circle K where calls for Police service have also increased significantly). Rather than having a new officer or team of officers near the encampment, the officers, including community police, assigned to work in that general area have handled the bulk of the Police Department response to encampments. The only incremental costs related to encampments for the Police Department are related to when a police escort is assigned to a

cleanup detail. For purposes of this cost analysis we assume that the police detail will be used by either Public Works and PRF and more than one detail will not be required at a time. Details typically occur at overtime rates and include one officer and one supervisor (either a sergeant or a lieutenant). Costing is based on the 3-5 year rate for an officer of $31, a 3-5 year rate for a sergeant of $42.33, and a 3-5 year rate for a lieutenant of $49.49.

Approximate total staff cost	$141,682 for the five month period
Approximate total equipment cost	$ None - will use existing vehicles/equipment

City of Portland | Executive Department
Danielle P. West, *City Manager*

To: Mayor Kate Snyder and Members of the City Council
From: Danielle P. West, City Manager
Date: November 8, 2023
Re: Staff Feedback on Order 68

As you know, City staff usually provide feedback and recommendations regarding policies under consideration by the City Council. This is especially true when a proposed policy may significantly impact City operations, carry a significant and unanticipated cost, or is related to a subject matter in which staff have expertise.

Order 68, which proposes to allow camping in public spaces, with few exceptions, until April 30, 2024, is likely to have far-reaching impacts on City operations and staff, as well as the general public. Enclosed are memos identifying issues and providing staff feedback on the proposal as written, respectfully submitted for the Council's consideration. A summary of each departments' concerns are as follows:

Department of Health & Human Services

- Increased risk of transmission of infectious diseases for unhoused individuals and City staff;
- Public health consequences related to exposure to the elements and extreme weather conditions;
- Lack of easy access to healthcare and other essential services for unhoused population;
- Exposure to violence and discrimination; and
- Other unsafe conditions (as a result of unsafe heating solutions and fire hazards).

Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities

- Degradation of and long-term damage to public spaces;
- Significantly limits the general public's access to public spaces, including parks and plazas, as a result of increased public health and safety hazards related to encampments; and
- Creates hazardous working conditions for staff.

Department of Public Works

- As written, the order would allow camping on the roadway and sidewalk during the winter, so long as vehicles and pedestrians were not obstructed. Maintaining navigable roads for the safe passage of vehicles, however, may be challenged as a result of any camping activity, thereby putting drivers and the general public at risk. In addition, snow removal

operations may put unhoused individuals (located at a campsite/encampment on a roadway or sidewalk) at significant risk.

Police Department

- Safety hazards related to camping on sidewalks and other locations;
- Safety hazards for unhoused individuals, City staff, and pedestrians related to winter operations required for street and sidewalk maintenance;
- Increase in calls for service related to camping in close proximity to places of business/residences/parks/etc.; and
- Increase in exposure to hazards by emergency responders, due to an increase in calls for service and exposure to public health hazards observed at encampments.

Department of Housing & Economic Development

- Staff cite specific hazards related to unhoused individuals on the waterfront, resulting from flooding risks, extreme weather, and drowning.
- The negative impact of encampments on the waterfront economy includes health hazards, impacts on the seafood industry workforce, an increase in thefts and other issues related to business security, and impacts on businesses dependent on the tourism economy.
- In general, staff also express concerns about impacts to business safety and security, as well as the health of the business economy if encampments in close proximity to businesses deter customers.

Lastly, we recommend that the Council consider the fiscal impact of these proposals (see attached fiscal note, which will be added to the Council agenda packet on Monday 11/13), as well as the impact of this proposal on the continued efficacy of the City's Encampment Crisis Response Team (ECRT).

With regard to the ECRT, it is important to remember that it was established and based on the mindset that everyone deserves the right to shelter and housing. In fact, it was specifically formed to support the enforcement of existing City ordinances, and is activated when an encampment has been identified as hazardous and requires removal. Prior to a hazardous encampment's resolution, the ECRT works transition unhoused individuals at the encampment to shelter or housing. City leadership responsible for ECRT operations, have repeatedly advised that the scheduled resolution of an encampment is vital to its effectiveness, helping to motivate some individuals experiencing homelessness to consider and explore alternatives such as emergency shelter and housing. In the absence of scheduled encampment resolution dates, the goal of the ECRT would not be achievable.

Consequently, if this proposed ordinance were to pass (and in recognition of the many other responsibilities of City staff), it would be important to consider whether continuation of the ECRT model is the best use of limited City resources.

City of Portland | Health and Human Services
Kristen Dow, *Director*

To: Danielle P. West, City Manager
CC: Mayor Kate Snyder and Members of the Portland City Council
From: Alfredo Vergara, HHS Public Health Director
Date: November 8, 2023
Re: Public Health Feedback on Order 68-23/24 (allowing camping in public spaces)

If passed, Order 68 would allow camping in public areas through April 30, 2024, with some remaining restrictions to include passability on sidewalks and public ways, as well as maintaining some restricted areas, such as school zones, playgrounds, City Hall Plaza and Monument Square.

The health risks of homeless encampments affect primarily the **residents** of the camps but there can also be increased public health and public safety risks. Those risks include:

- Increased transmission of **infectious diseases**, e.g., HIV/HepC, HepA, TB, COVID, typhus, flu, and others - a bigger hazard to unsheltered folk with poor or complicated health conditions.
    - Hazards from dirty needles are particularly important for these populations, as transmission of Hepatitis C and HIV are a big issue for people who use injection drugs.
    - TB transmission, in addition to cold and flu, is also a hazard due to spending a lot of time in close quarters where someone who is infected can spread TB to others.
    - Lack of basic conditions to be healthy, such as water, sanitation and food can increase risks to those living in the encampment.
    - Potential transmission of vector borne diseases from rodents, birds, lice, ticks and other insects.
    - Lack of water and human waste disposal can result in outbreaks of certain infections for example, Hepatitis A. There are other less common infectious diseases that are also spread by contamination (fecal - oral) of food and personal utensils.
    - Lack of waste removal and disposal attracts rodents, lice, and other infestations, and these carry infectious diseases that can be transmitted to humans, e.g., Dengue fever, West Nile Virus, Lyme disease, Typhus, and others.
- Exposure to the elements and **extreme weather conditions**.
- Lack of easy **access to healthcare** and other services including mental health services.
- Exposure to **violence and discrimination**.

- General unsafe conditions, e.g., heating solutions for the winter months and **fire hazards**.

Since the aforementioned infectious diseases require close physical proximity or even sexual contact to get transmitted from person to person, the public health risk to the general population is substantially lower than the risk to individuals experiencing homelessness. However, there could be greater infectious disease risk associated with encampments located in high traffic locations. In addition, first responders and service providers that interact with unhoused individuals on a regular basis may be at greater risk for exposure to infectious disease.

As the largest public health risks in encampments revolve around infectious disease and other hazards resulting from poor hygiene, and due to the inability to provide sufficient services and resources to mitigate these issues, it is the public health recommendation to not move forward with the current proposed ordinance changes.

City of Portland | Police Department
Mark Dubois, *Police Chief*

To: Mayor Snyder and Members of the Portland City Council
CC: Danielle P. West, City Manager
From: Mark Dubois, Police Chief
Date: November 8, 2023
Re: Feedback on Order 68-23/24 (allowing camping in public spaces)

On behalf of the Portland Police Department, I am writing to provide feedback on the proposed changes to Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the Portland City Code, which would allow camping in public places, with few limitations, until April 30, 2024.

From a public safety perspective, the proposed changes are likely to have a number of negative consequences. The proposed amendment to Chapter 17, which would permit camping/loitering on sidewalks (among other locations), creates a significant risk of hazard to both campers and pedestrians trying to navigate the city's sidewalks. Despite the provision for a clearance, it is likely that pedestrians would step into the roadways to avoid tripping over or stepping on a person or personal belongings on the sidewalk. This then would create a hazard for the camper, for the pedestrian, and for drivers, who may take evasive action to avoid striking someone on foot. Additionally, it would require officers to identify violators on a daily basis throughout the city and have them relocate. Experience tells us these violators are likely to relocate in a similar manner, causing a hazardous condition in another location.

Moreover, with the advent of winter and the certainty of snow falling on our roadways, allowing camping/sleeping on sidewalks would create additional hazards: for campers themselves when snow is plowed from the roadways onto sidewalks, for City staff tasked with removing snow and salting and/or sanding sidewalks to provide safe passage for pedestrians, and for pedestrians, who will face additional slip-and-fall hazards from having to navigate snowy, icy sidewalks while avoiding unhoused individuals and their personal property

Furthermore, the proposed Chapter 17 amendment, as written, would allow camping/sleeping/loitering in "the front or immediate area of any store, shop, restaurant, tavern or other place of business…" (City Code Sec. 17-1(a)(2)). Allowing these activities in such close proximity to businesses would invite negative interactions between campers, business owners, and patrons, and a drastic increase in calls for service related to activities frequently associated with encampments. Under current conditions, the Police Department responds to multiple such calls daily; those calls are certain to increase if the proposed amendments were enacted and camping is allowed in such close proximity to local businesses. Additionally, the businesses' ability to remain open, to provide products and services, and to pay their staff are likely to be negatively impacted.

Enactment of the proposed amendments would also create an inherent conflict for law enforcement officers in Portland, who swear an oath to uphold not only the City's ordinances, but the laws of the State of Maine and of the United States. The proposed amendment to Chapter 17 that would allow camping/sleeping/loitering on sidewalks would arguably be at odds with the state's prohibition on Obstructing a Public Way (17-A M.R.S. § 505), which is a Class E crime. There are also Maine statutes and Portland city ordinances requiring vehicles to be registered, which could be implicated when allowing people to reside in their vehicles on Portland streets for extended periods. [29-A M.R.S. § 351; Portland City Schedule of Violations and Waiver Fees: 19]

The public health hazards observed at large encampments are likely to increase as a result of the passage of these proposed amendments. Not only do they pose risks for unhoused individuals, but they put emergency responders at additional risk during their engagement with unhoused individuals at these encampments. Officers must take universal precautions when interacting with unhoused individuals at various encampments due to communicable diseases such as Hepatitis A, which had a significant spread within the Marginal Way and Commercial Street encampments. Also a consideration for officers responding to calls for service is the presence of fecal matter. With limited or no restroom facilities around these encampments, these conditions create significant health hazards for unhoused individuals and first responders daily.

City of Portland | Public Works
Michael Murray, *Director*

To: Danielle P. West, City Manager
CC: Kate Snyder, Mayor, and Members of the Portland City Council
From: Michael Murray, Director of Department of Public Works
Date: November 7, 2023
Re: Staff Feedback on Order 68-23/24 (allowing camping in public spaces)

The Department of Public Works (DPW) has reviewed the proposed amendments to Chapters 17 & 25. After review, staff has strong concerns regarding the likelihood of public safety hazards as a result of allowing camping on streets and sidewalks.

As written, proposed amendments to Sec. 17-1 would allow camping on the public right of way as long as vehicle passage is not obstructed. The public right of way consists of both the improved travel way for vehicles of transport (automobiles, commercial vehicles, buses, bicycles, etc.), as well as separate pedestrian facilities such as sidewalks. The proposed ordinance change, as written, would allow camping in both the vehicle corridor and the pedestrian corridor so long as camping does not obstruct passage of vehicles in the established vehicle corridor, and as long as the sidewalk allows a 4' passage for pedestrians.

Portland, ME averages 62.5 inches of snowfall each year. In order to make travel possible for the public, DPW is charged with clearing the streets of snow, as well as the sidewalks of the Downtown District. The entire right of way, outside of the travel lane, is needed to store plowed snow from streets and sidewalks. The additional obstacle of campsites along the right of way would limit DPW operators' ability to remove snow and maintain navigable roads for drivers and pedestrians; travel lanes would be narrowed, creating a significant threat of injury or death to persons in the campsites/encampments over the course of plowing events.

Additionally, as a part of the contract between the City of Portland and Portland Downtown, DPW is responsible for the plowing and removal of snow on Portland Downtown sidewalks and streets. The minimum width of a DPW sidewalk tractor blade/blower is 54", and when combined with snow banks created by street plows, does not allow room for obstacles/obstructions along the sidewalk corridor. The same types of hazards, described above, apply equally to campsites on sidewalks as do hazards in the traveled roadways.

In summary, for the reasons stated above, DPW does not recommend that the proposed amendments be passed, due to the unintended consequences and potential public safety hazards presented to occupants of the campsites/encampments, as well as the traveling public, especially during the winter months.

City of Portland | Housing & Economic Development Department
Mary Davis, *Interim Director*

To: Mayor Kate Snyder and Members of the City Council
CC: Danielle P. West, City Manager
From: Mary Davis, Interim Director, Housing and Economic Development Department; Bill Needelman, Waterfront Coordinator
Date: November 8, 2023
Re: Feedback on Order 68-23/24

Introduction

Staff in the Housing & Economic Development Department have reviewed the draft ordinance changes that would allow expansion of sidewalk and public open space tenting for the unhoused throughout the city. This memo will focus on potential and foreseeable impacts of the proposed ordinances in the waterfront portions of the Portland peninsula, as well as to the business community throughout the City.

Background

As a result of an increase in the number of unsheltered individuals in Portland, the impact of encampments on public and private properties along the waterfront and in other business districts has increased significantly over the past year. On the waterfront, the Casco Bay Bridge encampment is the largest and most visible waterfront site, with smaller groups or individuals currently established on the Portland Fish Pier and, occasionally, near the Portland Ocean Terminal.

We believe that the proposed ordinance amendments allowing camping on sidewalks and public open spaces will increase the potential for encampments on the waterfront and on or near other commercial properties.

Regarding Waterfront Encampments: Safety Hazards and Economic Impact

Currently, the issues associated with urban encampments are observable throughout our community. However, camping on Portland's waterfront offers specific challenges that warrant special consideration. For instance,safety hazards to individuals experiencing homelessness may arise as a result of flooding, exposure to extreme coastal weather, and drowning. In addition, the proliferation of encampments in this area may do long term harm to the positive economic impact of the waterfront economy. More information on these risks is presented below.

Safety Hazards

- Flooding: The Commercial Street area is well known for periodic coastal flooding, street flooding due to extreme rain events, and combined events when storms, tides, and icing conditions accumulate to create dangerous flooding conditions. A generalized allowance of camping on the waterfront puts unhoused individuals at risk of direct impacts by flooding – both to their possessions and their personal safety. Cold weather and hypothermia multiply flooding risks during the winter months. The December 23, 2022 storm was an example of flooding events that are becoming ever more frequent due to climate change.

- Extreme Weather: Even when storms do not involve significant flooding, the maritime environment of the waterfront multiplies the risks inherent in urban camping. High winds are much more prevalent along the water, resulting in hypothermia risk and drifting snow. Public and private snow removal would be in direct conflict with unhoused individuals.

- Drowning: Accidental falls into Portland Harbor are not uncommon. Working environments require unfenced edges along piers and bulkheads to allow marine commerce. Unhoused individuals traversing unlit areas in winter conditions run a significant risk of falling. Icing and frigid winter waters combine to make falls into the harbor extremely dangerous and potentially fatal.

Economic Impact

- Seafood: Commercial Street is a seafood production center of regional significance. Portland Waterfront seafood distributors, production facilities, and Portland Fish Pier businesses employ hundreds of workers and contribute millions to the local economy. The conditions seen in urban encampments are incompatible with food production and distribution. *Seafood* production, in particular, is predicated on scrupulous sanitary protocols. Such protocols protect human health as well as the reputation of the industry. Uncontrolled rubbish, human waste, and hypodermic needles are difficult anywhere. In a food production hub, such conditions are ruinous.

- Equitable Employment and a Diverse Workforce: Waterfront and seafood-related businesses employ large numbers of immigrant and minority community members. Additionally, individuals in recovery, coming out of incarceration, or starting over after difficult experiences can look to the seafood economy for opportunity. A proliferation of encampment conditions puts seafood production at risk, as well as the jobs of many vulnerable individuals.

- Business Security: Boats, trucks, pallet piles, barrels, and the basic components of the marine economy frequently attract petty theft and encroachment. The security of businesses is already challenged due to few fences and the open nature of the waterfront; an increase in the number and distribution of unhoused individuals may result in increased instances of pallet theft, camping under trucks, and other conflicts with existing business. We frequently field complaints from waterfront businesses worried for the safety of their employees due to the current extent of camping, and direct conflicts between waterfront

employees and unhoused individuals appear to be on the rise.

- Tourism: While waterfront tourism is greatly reduced in winter months, the increase in restaurants, hotels, and attractions have made the waterfront a year-round destination. The winter is difficult for restaurants and hotels under normal conditions; sidewalk encampments would significantly deter both locals and visitors from patronizing Commercial Street businesses, threatening small businesses and the jobs they have created.

Regarding the Impact of Encampments on the Broader Business Community

Several of the concerns listed above also apply to the impacts of encampments on Portland's business community. In areas where encampments have existed in close proximity to businesses, employers have voiced concern for the safety of their employees and ability to continue to attract customers, who are deterred by public health and safety risks common in encampments. More information on these and other potential issues can be found below.

- Winter Weather: Sidewalk encampments during the winter months will impede snow removal, particularly throughout the peninsula. Improperly cleared sidewalks will result in safety concerns for residents, as well as customers and employees of businesses located throughout the Old Port, Downtown and Waterfront areas.

- Business Economy: Winter is already a difficult time for Portland's business community, particularly those in the food, lodging and retail industries. Sidewalk encampments may further deter residents and visitors from patronizing Portland businesses during an already slow period.

- Business Safety and Security: Staff have fielded numerous concerns from business owners in areas adjacent to encampments (Bayside Trail and Marginal Way are examples) regarding concerns they have for both customer and employee safety.

City of Portland | Permitting and Inspections
Jessica Hanscombe, *Director*

To: Mayor Snyder and Members of the Portland City Council
CC: Danielle P. West, City Manager
From: Jessica B. Hanscombe, Director
Date: November 14, 2023
RE: Order 68-23/24 (Allowing camping in public spaces)

The Permitting and Inspections Department (PID) has reviewed the proposed amendments outlined in Order 68, and have several comments and concerns regarding the safety of unpermitted and uninspected structures that may be allowed to be permitted as part of the proposed amendments (as has been recently observed at encampments in the city).

Chapter 6 of the City Code requires that a permit must be obtained prior to the commencement of work on a building or structure (*6-92 (a) 1.)* The permit is reviewed for Building Codes, Life Safety Codes and ADA compliance. Staff from PID is responsible for review and the inspection of the structure prior to a permit/Certificate of Occupancy being issued. This is to ensure that the structure is built to code and is safe to occupy.

To date, PID staff have received numerous complaints regarding structures that have been created in various encampments throughout the city. (One example of an unpermitted structure recently observed in Harborview Park is included, at right.) We have not been able to verify that structures that have been built are of sound construction, can handle the weight of what is being placed on it, and is safe for individuals to walk on. We are also concerned about snow load and how these structures will handle that additional weight. Proper footings are also required to ensure stability for the deck. The collapse of one of these structures has the ability to cause injury to any individual on, in, or near it.

Additionally, we are concerned about the storage of propane tanks on or abutting these structures. If a fire were to occur, egress out of this structure could be greatly impacted, with a greater risk of injury or even death to any individual on, in, or near it.

If camping in public spaces is allowed, it is likely that the number of unsafe structures and related hazards in encampments will increase. For this reason, PID does not recommend passage of the proposed ordinance.

City of Portland | Parks, Recreation and Facilities
Ethan Hipple, *Director*

To: Danielle P. West, City Manager
CC: Mayor Kate Snyder and Members of the Portland City Council
From: Ethan Hipple, Director, Parks, Recreation and Facilities
Date: November 19, 2023
Re: Staff Feedback on Order 68-23/24 (allowing camping in public spaces)

I am writing to provide perspective and recommendations from the Parks, Recreation, and Facilities (PRF) Department on the proposed ordinance changes to Chapters 17, 18, and 25, which would permit camping in all public spaces, with very few exceptions.

From the PRF Department's perspective the proposed ordinance changes, if passed, would result in the degradation and long term damage of public spaces, decrease ADA accessibility and safe pedestrian transportation, and lower the overall quality of life in Portland. The proposed changes will also prolong inhumane and dangerous living conditions for the unhoused, and hazardous working conditions for City staff.

Allowing encampments is strongly discouraged by local and national thought leaders. While it may take multiple years to solve the homelessness crisis we find ourselves in, in the meantime, the public deserves access to safe, clean, and welcoming parks. City of Portland playgrounds, cemeteries, community gardens, and athletic facilities should be available and welcoming to *everyone*. Portlanders of all backgrounds use these spaces for mental health, play, sports and exercise, culture and events, alternative transportation, food security, and most importantly, to connect as a community. As we have seen in Portland and elsewhere around the country, entrenched encampments are incompatible with the safe and healthy use of a park by all populations.

Restricting the enforcement of City ordinances and allowing camping on public property as a means of addressing homelessness has proven disastrous in many other cities. The leaders of municipalities that had at first taken this approach (including Portland, OR, San Francisco, Denver, and others) are now reversing course and working to increase enforcement efforts so that these cities remain livable and sustainable for all, as well as to better motivate individuals experiencing homelessness to accept services.

I urge the Council to maintain clear boundaries regarding the use of public space so that it is protected for everyone's use and enjoyment, and prevents the creation of a dangerous alternative to shelter during the coldest months of the year.

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Lower Shelter Barriers and Stop the Sweeps

1 message

'Carol Mccracken' via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov> Wed, Nov 8, 2023 at 7:52 PM
Reply-To: Carol Mccracken <ca10cken@aol.com>
To: "publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov" <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>

City Councilors,
Hope you will demonstrate to Portland voters on November 13, that you do in fact understand the plight of the homeless population and are tryimg to find solutions to their plight rather than continuing to "criminalize" them as has been your policy to date.

The city will be watching
Carol McCracken
munjoyhillnews.com
ca10cken@aol.com

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Lower Shelter Barriers and Stop the Sweeps

1 message

Katzie Nogel <katzielouise@gmail.com> Wed, Nov 8, 2023 at 5:09 PM
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

Dear counselors, stop the sweeps and work on effective solutions that will move people to shelter and housing. Katzie Nogel

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Lower Shelter Barriers and Stop the Sweeps

1 message

PETER BEAUCHEMIN <peterbeauchemin@comcast.net> Wed, Nov 8, 2023 at 4:37 PM
To: "publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov" <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>

You do need to stop the sweeps. They may be occupying town or state land but those tents, and what's in them is personal property. That's someone's personal property and you don't have the right to toss it in a dumpster.

My suggestion is that the media take pictures of you guys sitting in those meetings. What's very obvious is you folks don't want to do anything. You just go to meetings fully aware all your gonna is tear the tents down and shove people out.

Get big tents, set them up somewhere. You could get porta potties and set them up. Put in cots in the tents. You can solve the problem very quickly. That being said the problem isn't the homelessness the problem is you don't care enough to do anything about it. Let's let the people get a view of the problem by posting everyone's pictures of the people who have the authority to do something but don't care enough. Time to make people accountable.

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Lower Shelter Barriers and Stop the Sweeps

1 message

Nancy Nickerson <nannickers@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

Wed, Nov 8, 2023 at 4:19 PM

Please support the ordinance amendment drafted by City Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez that will effectively place a moratorium on encampment sweeps and lift the "emphasis" area designations through April 30, 2024. Not only are the sweeps ineffective (generally result in the dislocated taking up at another encampment), consider the data that show those involuntarily dislocated are at greater risk for hospitalization, overdose and death (see link).

https://nhchc.org/media/press-releases/study-shows-involuntary-displacement-of-people-experiencing-homelessness-may-cause-significant-spikes-in-mortality-

Please suspend the encampment sweeps. Thank you for considering my comments.
Nancy Nickerson

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Lower Shelter Barriers and Stop the Sweeps

1 message

'Creature KPW' via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov> Wed, Nov 8, 2023 at 2:32 PM
Reply-To: Creature KPW <axe2ice@icloud.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

In addition to supporting the moratorium on sweeps until April (and beyond), I am asking the City of Portland to:

- **Support the health and safety needs of the entire community** by providing essential services for unsheltered individuals such as water, toilets, food, medical care, mental health, and substance use treatment.
- **Create an Intentional Plan to shelter and house unsheltered individuals.** More than 100 beds will soon be available at the City of Portland's Homeless Services Center and we cannot afford to squander this opportunity. For this plan to be successful, it must be created in partnership with unsheltered individuals.
- **Continue efforts to make City shelters more low-barrier and accessible** to people who are living outside.

Thank you,
Creature KPW

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Lower Shelter Barriers and Stop the Sweeps

1 message

ellen decotiis <ehdecotiis1@hotmail.com> Wed, Nov 8, 2023 at 2:20 PM
To: "publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov" <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>

11-8-2023
To whom it may concern,
I urge you to stop the “sweeps” , as you call them, of people who are homeless in Portland. There are human beings at these locations who need basic care such as food and clothing . They may also require housing, jobs and mental health services. Please go and speak to them and ask what they want and need. Preble Street has skilled employees who can assist you in understanding the complex issues facing these people. We need to help others , not police them and “sweep” them from place to place outside. I have volunteered at Preble Street for 30 years …Thank you ,
Ellen H. DeCotiis

Sent from my iPad

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Re: Lower Shelter Barriers and Stop the Sweeps

1 message

Colleen Coyne <colleenncoyne7@gmail.com> Wed, Nov 8, 2023 at 1:52 PM
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

sorry. I meant discontinue this sweeps. clearly discontinue

On Wed, Nov 8, 2023, 1:49 PM Colleen Coyne <colleenncoyne7@gmail.com> wrote:

> Please just continue the sweeps of homeless from their current areas unless you can find someplace suitable for them to move to and actually help them move there. I don't care whether the Tourists see our homeless population because it's a reality that we need to take care of not sweep under the rug. Maybe when people move here from out of state, rather than displace people due to our lack of housing, they ought to pay a premium so that we can continue to build housing for those who can't afford it. Getting rid of homeless encampments by sweeping them away is totally inhumane and doesn't say much for Portland or any community that participates in this practice. put out garbage cans and encourage them to use them and porta potties. see how it works and maybe you'll be surprised. maybe you won't but it's worth a shot.

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Lower Shelter Barriers and Stop the Sweeps

1 message

Jennifer Heald <jenniferheald8154@gmail.com> Wed, Nov 8, 2023 at 12:40 PM
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

Please **stop** the sweeps until at least April 2024. People MUST be able to keep the area that they create to live in and stay sheltered from the elements. We have families who are homeless due to the lack of affordable rent. Please do NOT do any more sweeps. (regardless of what the new Mayor wants to do) :(

Thank you,

Jen Heald
880 Forest Avenue
Apt 7-8
Portland Maine 04103

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Encampment proposal

2 messages

'Andrew Tenenbaum' via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov> Mon, Nov 6, 2023 at 10:05 PM
Reply-To: Andrew Tenenbaum <atenenbaum@me.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

I have lived in Portland for over twenty years. I love our city. I am a big supporter of Portland Public Schools and have two children who learned so much growing up in a multicultural and diverse school system.

Part of what drew me and others to Maine and Portland in particular is the ease of enjoying the outdoors. Our parks, Portland Trails, and other open places are a huge part of this. Running, biking, transportation, birding, paddling, skiing, picnicking, enjoying playgrounds, and really finding peace are some ways I enjoy these. These are always ways to encourage a healthy lifestyle, a lot of which not enough people do.

That said, homelessness is a tragic, complex situation. To truly help this situation - as many other big cities are going through - will take new housing, increasing mental health resources (significantly), helping those with substance use better, and most importantly money.

Current and past encampments fundamentally alter these parks. They're trashed, they're dangerous, they're not fit for young kids and teenagers to be witnessing people injecting drugs and drinking publicly. Opening all (or most) of our parks to camping will likely bring this to all of our open spaces. A major part of what makes Portland beautiful and healthy will deteriorate. Fewer people will take walks on trails, fewer grandparents will bring grandkids to playgrounds, fewer students will walk home through Deering Oaks and other parks. More people and tents will arrive, as has happened with every encampment that has persisted for any substantial period. And the fundamental underlying problems at the root of homelessness will not be fixed by April. So this proposal I believe will only make homelessness in Portland worse while not bringing us closer to a bigger solution.

If we can sanction an area for camping that is not in a public park, such as near the new homeless shelter or another city owned or leased area that is not being used by the general public, that is a starting point. But I envision this new proposal as making a bad situation much worse. This will only serve to move more families (and taxes) with children to schools outside of Portland city limits if proposals like this pass.

-Dr. Andrew Tenenbaum

Sent from my iPhone

'Andrew Tenenbaum' via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov> Mon, Nov 6, 2023 at 10:07 PM
Reply-To: Andrew Tenenbaum <atenenbaum@me.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

Andrew Tenenbaum
18 Rabbit Run
Portland, ME 04102

Sent from my iPhone

> On Nov 6, 2023, at 10:05 PM, Andrew Tenenbaum <atenenbaum@me.com> wrote:
>
> I have lived in Portland for over twenty years. I love our city. I am a big supporter of Portland Public Schools and have two children who learned so much growing up in a multicultural and diverse school system.
[Quoted text hidden]

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Please do not allow encampments to take over parks

1 message

Debra Tenenbaum <debraltenenbaum@gmail.com> Mon, Nov 6, 2023 at 9:03 PM
To: council@portlandmaine.gov, publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

I'm writing in response to the proposal to allow camping at nearly all our city parks. Please, before you do that, consider all of your constituency including families of Portland whose kids walk to and from school and use the parks. We know the new shelter for asylum seekers will be opening soon which will open up a lot of space at the HSC. Maybe hold off the next sweep until then, but please let us not make Portland the city where tents and people doing drugs are everywhere. Please don't destroy our parks. Our lack of enforcing drug laws - or even doing sweeps to just take away drugs and alcohol - has created this situation. My children and their friends as well as my friends' children have been harassed by people in the encampments who are on drugs. They have had to deal with needles on playing fields, have had to sit and watch people deal drugs and vomit in bus stops going home from school, and have been followed. I don't know if you all have kids in middle or high school in downtown, but it causes a great deal of anxiety and stress for adolescents to have to constantly deal with that as well as it is dangerous (as we saw with the man in the King Bathroom). It makes some not even want to bother going to school because of the walk there and home. It feels like it is inevitable that something bad is going to happen to our children if we just keep this going.

We do so much for homeless people, but we can't help everyone - especially those who are not ready to be helped. Please, before we bend over backwards for one group of people by making Portland a camping and drug free-for-all, consider the other people who live here. Get rid of the drugs. Limit the encampments. Encourage people to take advantage of the shelter. Discourage drug use. The children who live in Portland deserve to be considered and supported too.
Thank you,
Debra Tenenbaum
18 Rabbit Run
Portland, ME

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Proposed Pubic Camping Ordinance

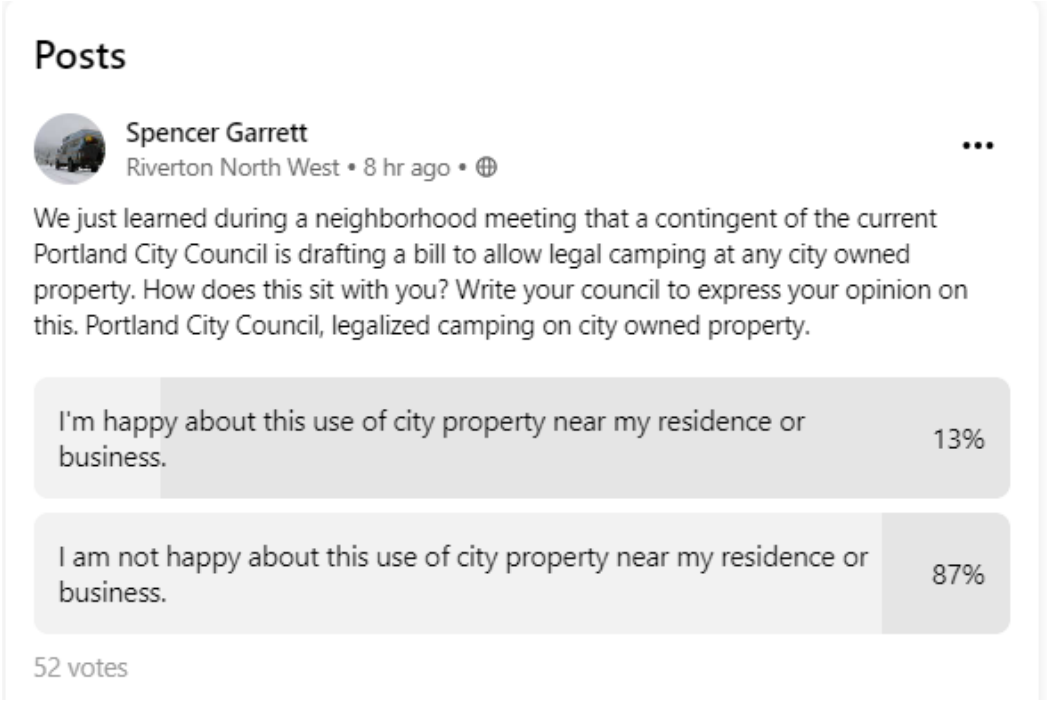
1 message

Spencer Garrett <spencer.p.garrett@gmail.com> Mon, Nov 6, 2023 at 8:01 PM
Reply-To: Spencer Garrett <spencer.p.garrett@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Cc: pcrs@portlandmaine.gov, kng@portlandmaine.gov, chiefofpolice@portlandmaine.gov, parks@portlandmaine.gov, council@portlandmaine.gov, afournier@portlandmaine.gov, pali@portlandmaine.gov, rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov, atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov, vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov, rphillips@portlandmaine.gov, azarro@portlandmaine.gov, mdion@portlandmaine.gov

Good evening Portland City Council,
I have only just heard through a neighborhood meeting group that the city is attempting to change local ordinances to allow camping on nearly all city owned property. I find this to be absolutely horrifying and am writing to express my extreme concern for such a measure. Though I acknowledge the homeless situation in this country is dire, it is not Portland Maine's place to open our gates to every single person who would prefer the freedom and flexibility of outdoor living. These folks have been given more than enough opportunity to enter our shelter system and most have clearly stated a lack of desire for the confines of rules and regulations that go along with a bed, shower and hot meal. They are here only because it is easy to be here, and most of them aren't even fellow Mainers. To open our public spaces to open drug use, human trafficking and domestic violence which has been demonstrated time and again within the encampments, would truly represent a precipitous decline in the quality of life for Portland citizens. Parks and public spaces exist for safe use by citizens. Our tax dollars fund their upkeep, and we have a basic right as taxpayers to expect these parts to be clean and free to safely use. These public lands are not tools to be used for the whims of the few. As I ponder the weight of such a decision and its effects to the health and wellbeing of Portland citizens and visitors alike, there are questions about the practicality of such a proposal which must be given proper consideration from all Portland Police, Fire, Parks and Public Works departments. I would also hope it goes without saying that public comment must be allowed for and deeply considered.

1. How will the police manage such a dispersed population?
2. How will ambulances get to those overdosing in the woods?
3. How will citizens know they and their families are safe, not only in these public spaces, but in their homes within close proximity to such illicit and dangerous behaviors?
4. How will Portland Parks address the safety of sharps disposal, human waste and the inevitable and overwhelming litter that this population generates?
5. How will Public Works address snow removal on sidewalks where encampments have been erected? How will those very snowbanks generated from plowing these areas be decontaminated with the waste that encampments have been proven to generate?

The crime in this city has been on an exponential rise this year, up 45% since 2022. 72% of overdoses occurred within the homeless community, and 60% of stabbings happened within the encampments over the past year. These are not safe places already, and you're proposing a measure that would both dramatically increase the amount of people who would be entering these areas, and would make addressing these problems from a public health and safety standpoint nearly impossible. If you thought it was hard dealing with the size of encampments on the Fore River Trail or out behind Trader Joe's, those issues will pale in comparison to the dispersed problem you're proposing. According to recent headlines, Boston Mass and New York City have fully banned camping within their cities. Portland has a fraction of the resources of those two metropolises, yet these large cities have acknowledged that they do not have the infrastructure necessary to support encampments. I thought it might be interesting to poll my fellow Portlanders to better understand whether my feelings around this issue were isolated .



I understand this is not up to Quinnipiac Poll standards, but I think it speaks to the distaste that the citizens of Portland have for this idea. Portland cannot support use of public spaces for camping in any form. I implore to each and every one of you city counselors to firmly and decisively reject any proposal which promotes the failed encampment model.

Respectfully,

Spencer Garrett
Portland Resident

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

#68-23/24

1 message

'Rosa Scarcelli' via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov> Thu, Nov 9, 2023 at 11:44 AM
Reply-To: Rosa Scarcelli <rscarcelli@stanfordmanagement.com>
To: "publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov" <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>

I have been a long time resident of Portland and live across from a public park. The proposed order is a distortion of good public policy. Allowing our parks to become campgrounds is a complete violation of the intent of public parks. They were built to offer a respite and access to nature for city dwellers. They were never intended to be a campground where people take up residence and impede the enjoyable use for the average citizen of our city.

The crisis we face in Portland is not served by allowing people to camp all winter long in any public park they choose. This isn't a bandaid. It's a major impediment to getting unhoused people the resources they need especially with cold and inclement weather approaching. This is irresponsible and is not what the experts on the unhoused recommend. We need a housing first policy. Tents in parks cannot be considering as housing. It's a disgrace that we would allow our most vulnerable to live in this way. We need to do better to provide real shelter. By allowing people to tent, we are undermining the effort to provide a real long term solution. Camping will become entrenched. Portland will become another example where encampments become too large, dangerous, and intractable. We can do better. We must to better. And we cannot allow camping in our public parks be mistaken for a solution. It's a disaster.

> Rosa Scarcelli
> President
> Stanford Management
> 207-772-3399 x206
> 207-838-3399
>

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

encampments are a public health risk to all of us

1 message

Susan Anspacher <susanmtns@gmail.com> Thu, Nov 9, 2023 at 2:46 PM
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

Good morning ~

By allowing these encampments to continue demonstrates that the children, men and women, disabled and elderly of Portland don't matter. That public health doesn't matter. We've already seen the rats, trash, excrement and never ending violence because of what has been allowed in the past.

What you are doing is creating a double standard. This proposal initiated by Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez reinforces that the folks who are doing 'illegal' drugs, stealing bikes, shopping carts and way too many other illegal behaviors get another pass. That our precious green spaces, woods, etc. don't matter. That the environment doesn't matter. That laws vary dependent upon who you are.

We've seen this public health nightmare allowed for way too long. The syringes I've stepped over getting to the Farmer's Market and the woods we hike and recreate in. We've already seen campfires in our woods at night. A forest fire may erupt at any time.

This proposal would not only risk this population, many of whom are heavily addicted, it is both a public health and environmental hazard. These folks are simply not able to care for themselves or our environment. We've already had:

689 calls for service at city encampments
Marginal Way Business area, the city had a 45% increase in 2023 compared to 2022
72% of total overdoses involved an unhoused individual
16% of the fatal overdoses happened in encampments in 2023.
60% of stabbings in 2023 took place in encampments leading to a 77% increase in Portland stabbings compared to 2021.

Have you also forgotten that this population is at risk because of the trashing of our city? We've seen enough violence in Lewiston. We don't want it here.

Good mental health begins at home. It isn't just these unhoused folks, most of whom are not capable of caring for themselves due to years of substance abuse. Good mental health assumes councilors have the insight to see where their policies are going. Councilors who won't create a double standard. Who care about the voters. We matter.

This proposal says this is a temporary policy to allow the unhoused to live in our parks and woods. The secrecy created by drafting this proposal before a public notice fails to allow due process. This has set a distrustful precedence in Portland. You've taught us that some councilors simply do not have our best interest at heart. We've learned we can't trust you.

Let's restore the faith in our government. Table this until the new slate of councilors are sworn in. Re-establish good faith with the citizens who voted you in. A **public notice** must be first

issued. **Due process** must be enforced.

In kindness ~

Susan Anspacher
88 Skylark Road

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Homeless camping

1 message

'Cindi Bartlett' via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov> Thu, Nov 9, 2023 at 6:57 PM
Reply-To: Cindi Bartlett <cindbartlett@me.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

Please do not allow camping on
Portlands public spaces .
No one will feel safe again.
Make the homeless stop camping and go inside to shelters, please.
This has got to stop.
Enabling will not help. At all.
Portland residents deserve better
Than this.
Stop ruining our City.

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Lower Shelter Barriers and Stop the Sweeps

1 message

philip ptacin <philipptacin@gmail.com> Wed, Nov 8, 2023 at 8:52 PM
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

Dear Leaders,

We certainly need wise leadership now in Portland, Maine in order to do our best to deal with our homeless crisis.

We simply do not have enough access at this moment for all of the homeless to enter our shelters. And once the newer shelter is available we still won't have enough access and the access we will have is not going to be used by some of the homeless for reasons that you are aware of.

Sweeps of encampments is not solving any problem.
The homeless among us, instead of being swept away like trash, need to be cared for. These homeless need toilets, food, water, warming shelters, places to bathe and help with addictions and mental illness.
Please rise to the occasion and show the world what we can do here in Portland for our brothers and sisters.

Thank you!

Philip Ptacin
15 Middle Street
Portland, Maine 04101

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Lower Shelter Barriers and Stop the Sweeps

1 message

Mira Ptacin <mira.ptacin@gmail.com> Thu, Nov 9, 2023 at 3:37 PM
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

Dear public servants of Portland, Maine,

I'm writing in support of a moratorium on the sweeps of the camps of the unhoused peoples of our shared city. It is cruel, and makes no sense. Where are they supposed to go? Our city doesn't have enough shelters for them, and the weather is getting colder and colder; today it snowed. Sweeps don't work, they're unsophisticated and brutal, and are not a solution to our crisis but rather a superficial act of hiding a larger problem of the haves and the have-nots, and the city prioritizing development and appearance rather than doing to deeper, mindful, compassionate work of taking care of our fellow brothers and sisters.

In addition, I ask that you:

- **Support the health and safety needs of the entire community** by providing essential services for unsheltered individuals such as water, toilets, food, medical care, mental health, and substance use treatment.
- **Create an Intentional Plan to shelter and house unsheltered individuals.**More than 100 beds will soon be available at the City of Portland's Homeless Services Center and we cannot afford to squander this opportunity. For this plan to be successful, it must be created in partnership with unsheltered individuals.
- **Continue efforts to make City shelters more low-barrier and accessible**to people who are living outside.

Thank you in advance for your time and care.

Best,
Mira Ptacin
65 Sterling Street
Peaks Island, Maine 04108

--

Mira Maria Ptacin Hear my name

Author & Educator
www.miraMptacin.com
author of ***Poor Your Soul***
and ***The In-Betweens: The Spiritualists, Mediums, and Legends of Camp Etna***

Peace.

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Order #68-23/24

1 message

Talcott Franklin <tal@tfpc.me> Thu, Nov 9, 2023 at 12:31 PM
To: "publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov" <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>

As a long term advocate for unhoused people (I've won several awards for my pro bono representation of unhoused people, including being one of two lawyers recognized for the work that won the ABA national pro bono award), this proposal is cruel to the unhoused and very well might make a currently solvable problem unsolvable.

The Staff Feedback on Order #68 memos from the city's experts on homelessness are chilling descriptions of what will happen should this pass. I will add to that memo, based on my over 30 years of experience working on these issues, that, if this passes, "compassion fatigue" will take root among our populace by April, as I have seen happen in many other cities who have attempted similar policies. And that will fundamentally change Portland's character in an unfortunate way.

Finally, as a former equity partner at DC's top public policy law firm, the terrible optics concerning how this came to light right after a FOIA request, and the vote timed just before the new Mayor is sworn in should be reason enough to vote it down.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Talcott J. Franklin

181 Western Promenade

Portland, ME 04102

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Order #68-23/24

1 message

Susan Kayar <susankayarme@gmail.com> Thu, Nov 9, 2023 at 5:34 PM
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

As a citizen of Portland, I would like to add my voice to that of the City Manager, Director of Parks and Recreation, Chief of Police, Director of Public Works, and Director of HUD, all of whom agree that this order allowing winter camping by homeless people in Portland public spaces is a huge mistake. The safety and sanitation of all of us is at stake. Making camping where these homeless people can most conveniently beg working people for their drug and alcohol money is no act of charity or compassion for the "unfortunate", but only an enabler. If you allow Portland to be a haven for such people, the news will propagate and we will be even more overwhelmed than we already are with these people.

I find used hypodermic needles and syringes littering the ground everywhere I walk. I have been cursed and shouted at for not giving money to countless of these people as I walk down public sidewalks. I have had to sidestep vomit near the doorways of businesses on Congress Street. My neighbor recently told me she can no longer hang her laundry out to dry in her yard because it has been stolen from her line. I saw a neighbor reporting a break-in to her home in broad daylight while she was out walking her dog, which suggests she was being watched for her departure.

Matters are already shockingly bad in this regard. You, as our city officials, should have the best interests of all citizens as your only concern. Do not make matters even worse than they already are by enacting this winter camping permission. You are only enabling more problems for the working citizens of our city.

Respectfully, Susan R. Kayar, 22 Carroll St, Apt. 7, Portland 04102

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property

1 message

rgraef@gwi.net <rgraef@gwi.net> Thu, Nov 9, 2023 at 3:17 PM
To: Publiccomment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>

I am writing to express my total shock at the cruel and inhumane proposal put forth by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez that the City of Portland should allow people to live in encampments in the parks, public spaces and on the sidewalks and trails through the winter. It is embarrassing that our councilors are even thinking of condoning leaving people outside in tents - no safe heating, frozen port-a-potties, no running hot or cold water, in the dark and the cold for 14-16 hours a day.

How does this exemplify "racial, social and justice equity'? How is this going to "enable unhoused people to live in smaller and safer encampments"? Do you really think the 100+ tents at Harbor View Park are going to be voluntarily packed up and dispersed throughout the City? Why should that be more likely than everyone camping anywhere in the city moving to a megacamp at Deering Oaks?

Councilor Rodriguez had a good idea months ago when he suggested asking for the National Guard to be brought in to build transitional housing. Do that now: quonset huts, barracks - quick, temporary and safe, sanitary and supervised. Rent a bunch of self-storage units to store people's belongings. Get people inside.

Leaving them outdoors in tents exposes them to all sorts of bodily harms, as well as the possibility of fire through dangerous improper use of candles, propane heaters, etc. We've already had a man die in a tent fire a few years ago, don't set the scene for more tragedies.

Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez, please withdraw your proposal. Councilors Ali, Dion, Fournier, Pelletier, Phillips, Zarro and Mayor Snyder, if this does come to a vote, please reject it. Leaving desperate people in tents in the winter is not doing them any favor.

Respectfully,

Rosanne Graef
30A Salem St.

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17,18,25

1 message

Anthony Filippone <avfilippone@gmail.com> Thu, Nov 9, 2023 at 4:50 PM
To: council@portlandmaine.gov, publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov, citymanager@portlandmaine.goc

Dear Portland City Council and Town Manager,

As residents of the Harborview Park neighborhood, we wished to express our concern, dismay and strong opposition towards an officially sanctioned encampment at Harborview Park.

On what basis does such a proposal pass health and safety regulations?

This is a very sad situation for the homeless members of the Portland community, and we strongly urge you to open up more beds.

We voted for Mark Dion because of his opposition to sanctioned encampments.

Thank you,

Anthony and Michelle Filippone
225 York Street Apt 3 Resident, Apt 4 Landlord

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Please PAUSE Sweeps & Focus on Shelters/ Affordable Housing

1 message

Karen Prieto <kprieto01@gmail.com> Thu, Nov 9, 2023 at 2:09 PM
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

Hello, my name is Karen Prieto (she/her). I live in Brunswick and work at an engineering firm in Portland. Thank you for all that you do - I'm sure you contend with daily challenges.

I want to share that I empathize with homed Portland residents who worry about the safety and aesthetics of encampments. But I can't imagine what it must be like to have no place of my own in which to rest, store essential belongings, and the many other activities that those of us with homes take for granted. For Portland's unsheltered residents, the encampments at least provide some stability and community.

Each sweep is a traumatic event that derails each person's progress toward more stable living arrangements. Caregivers are working with folks in the encampments to find better solutions, but every individual has different challenges and needs, and the process takes time. Please grant that time by pausing the sweeps, and focusing instead on providing essential services and partnering with unsheltered individuals to create an equitable Intentional Plan for providing shelter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kp

Karen Prieto

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Public Comments on Order #68-23/24

1 message

'Judi Mansing' via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov> Thu, Nov 9, 2023 at 12:01 PM
Reply-To: Judi Mansing <j.mansing@mac.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

We are owners and residents of Unit 6 at 22 Carroll Street in Portland. We have lived here for the past 35 years.

We are writing to comment on the proposed changes to the City's Camping Ordinance.

We recognize that the Councilors submitting this proposal may have good intentions, but we believe the proposals are ill-conceived and will lead to numerous problems that will make the problems they are intended to alleviate even worse than they currently are. The temporary encampments are exactly that – temporary. They do not begin to solve the problems of homelessness.

Calling the people "unhoused" or referring to them as "campers" romanticizes the situation. We need to be honest about the fact that many people in this population have drug or other substance abuse problems. Allowing them to congregate in parks or other public places creates an adversarial relationship between them and city residents and visitors that has the potential to erupt into violence that is of no help to anyone. We have already seen increases in crime, drug use, police calls and unsanitary living conditions in areas where encampments have been established.

During the recent sweeps of the tent encampments, people were offered re-settlement in shelters but only a very small percentage chose to accept that. In may be that in the short term, until we have a better solution, that shelters are the best option. Living in outdoor public spaces is not.

During the many years that we have lived in Portland, we have taken advantage of many of the amenities that are possible for enhancing our city-living experience. We have done this without fearing for our safety when we walk down the city streets. That has changed with the advent of the tent sites. We no longer feel we can be out walking in the evening hours – or sometimes even during the daytime hours – without being hassled by people panhandling on the streets.

Portland is a beautiful city which derives a great deal of income from tourists who come here to sightsee, dine and enjoy all the city has to offer. If people begin to fear for their well-being, we will lose that and suffer the municipal degradation that many other cities have experienced. Local business owners have already experienced a noticeable decline in their traffic and sales when their customers have become uneasy about visiting businesses that are located near encampments.

Amending our camping ordinance, will create unnecessary burdens for police, public safety, public health and public works just to name a few. They will result in increased costs – all of which will, of necessity, have to be borne by Portland's taxpayers. We need to take care of people in need. But we also need to listen to the needs and desires of the people who will be impacted by this proposal which is not well-thought out.

We urge the City Council to turn down these changes and to allow for more discussion when the new council and the new mayor take office.

Edward and Judith Mansing

22 Carroll Street

Portland, ME 04102

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

RE: Order #68-23/24

1 message

David LaCasse <loafinit@gmail.com> Thu, Nov 9, 2023 at 1:50 PM
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

David LaCasse
80 High St
Portland, Maine 04101

This idea is bad on so many levels that it is hard to logically know where to start.

Aside from all of the other comments that I have read against this, here are a few more.

1. Winter camping is hard even with the best equipment. Allowing winter camping in any park or public space will result in frozen bodies. Who is going to check the tents regularly to ensure that no one has hypothermia and is in danger of dying.

2. Bathrooms for all these people. There will be yellow snow and poop everywhere!

3. How many will die from carbon monoxide poisoning while trying to heat their tents with propane heaters.

4. Fires from heating with propane heaters.

5. I'm sure this has been mentioned but this will result in total degradation of our parks.

6. I did a lot of work in Congress Square Park this summer and it was the first year out of the last 12 that those of us working there did not feel safe. This lack of safety was mainly because of the complete lack of enforcement of common rules such as no drinking, drugs or camping in public spaces. No one will want to visit or use any of our public parks if this proposal passes.

7. It is important that everyone living in the city of Portland follow the rules of living in a civilized society. What you are proposing is anarchy!

8. We would not allow people to treat animals the way this proposal will result in the treatment of the homeless and needy people who are now calling Portland home.

Regards
David LaCasse

David LaCasse
207 831 1980
loafinit@gmail.com

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Sanctioning public camping

1 message

'Daniel Heakin' via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov> Thu, Nov 9, 2023 at 11:06 AM
Reply-To: Daniel Heakin <dheakin@icloud.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

To the City Council,

Please do not approve public camping in parks. Please initiate more supportive housing measures and provide compassionate care for mental illness and addiction. This should have been figured out long ago. Do not sweep current encampments without alternative solutions. Help the current encampments pick up trash and for god's sake send trash trucks to pick up all the bags daily. Surely you have enough tax revenue from all the luxury development and cruise ship fees.

You have heard from the public already. Take real action but do not expand the problem into our parks.

Thank you,
Daniel Heakin
12 Bryant St
Portland

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Trevorrow/Rodriguez proposal

1 message

Carl King <cking78@maine.rr.com> Thu, Nov 9, 2023 at 1:35 PM
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

Dear Mayor, Councilors, and City staff,

Encampments are not a solution. We have read and heard reports of overdoses, assaults, and hundreds of police and 911 calls since April. We have open drug use in our parks, which cannot be denied, due to the need for industrial sized sharps containers and needle exchange programs delivering tens of thousands of needles to the encampments. The large spike in thefts around the city is alarming and is associated with the growing population of homeless, who have substance abuse issues.

With all of these known factors, how can Portland support more encampments? The understaffed Police force struggled to cover 2 large encampments, yet now they will be spread amongst 10, 15, 30 different camps? How will this make outreach easier? Can we expect to see industrial sized sharps containers being installed like mail boxes in every neighborhood?

This is not a solution nor is it humane. It simply pushes the issue until April. We need to get people inside. A tent is no place to be in the winter in Maine. The encampments are not a safe environment. The long dark, cold nights will isolate people in tents and people will die.

This proposal will create more problems and does not solve any of the problems we are currently struggling with. I urge you to reject it, and get people inside.

Carl King
Veranda St.

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Re: Proposed Trevorrow/Rodriguez Ordinance Amendments to Permit Winter Camping

1 message

Ellen D. Murphy <radochas@gmail.com> Thu, Nov 9, 2023 at 8:06 PM
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

I write to request that the Council read carefully the memoranda provided in the Agenda Packet from City staff that detail the impact of the Trevorrow/Rodriguez ordinance amendments that would allow winter camping in public sites around Portland.

Each of these memoranda is thorough, well drafted, comprehensive and sobering in its description of the problems with these amendments - on people in the encampments, on the City personnel who interact and work with them, and on Portland as a whole. They outline what would be the day-to-day experiences of City employees who would be on the front lines if the amendments were to pass, focusing especially on the challenges presented by winter weather. Public policies are only as good as their implementation - and this is a textbook case of what may - in some misguided way - be a form of good intentions that are almost guaranteed to create harm.

If you vote to adopt these amendments you are voting to undermine the efforts of the people who make Portland run, who have clearly outlined the risks for you.

One more observation. Public parks serve as backyards for people who don't otherwise have access to outdoor space. We've seen how encampments in Deering Oaks and now in Harborview have made it difficult, unpleasant - and risky - for neighborhood people to spend time in and enjoy their public park "backyards." (If you aren't aware of the anger in the neighborhoods about this, you aren't listening.) When reading the proposed amendments, I noticed that the Councillors included City Hall Plaza on the list of public sites where camping would be barred - the "front yard" of the very building where they - and all of you, other City officials and staff - come to work and conduct the public's business.

I wonder: why is camping OK in the public's backyards, but not OK in the City's front yard? If you don't want to cope with an encampment when you come to work, why should people in the neighborhoods be open to them where we live?

Very truly yours,

Ellen D. Murphy
88 Park Street
District 2

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Lower Shelter Barriers and Stop the Sweeps

1 message

Cait Enz <caitlin.enz@gmail.com> Thu, Nov 9, 2023 at 8:23 PM
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

Dear Councilors,

Portland is a community that values safety, healthy living, and solutions to homelessness – we all agree that it is inhumane for people to live outside, especially with the cold of winter upon us.

But, sweeps don't work and are not a solution to this crisis. Each time a sweep has happened in recent months (Bayside, Deering Oaks, Fore River, Marginal Way), the people living in that encampment have moved to a different location within the City and experienced needless physical and emotional harm, including an increased risk of mortality, overdose, and hospitalization. The sweeps, coupled with the growing number of emphasis areas, have led to larger and larger encampments and unhealthy environments for people living in the encampments and surrounding neighborhoods.

Emergency shelters in Portland and across the state have full beds every night. Even for the many people with a job or a housing voucher, there is no affordable housing to be found. For far too many people here there is simply nowhere to go, nowhere to stay.

In addition to supporting this moratorium on sweeps, please:

- **Support the health and safety needs of the entire community** by providing essential services for unsheltered individuals such as water, toilets, food, medical care, mental health, and substance use treatment.
- **Create an Intentional Plan to shelter and house unsheltered individuals.** More than 100 beds will soon be available at the City of Portland's Homeless Services Center and we cannot afford to squander this opportunity. For this plan to be successful, it must be created in partnership with unsheltered individuals.
- **Continue efforts to make City shelters more low-barrier and accessible** to people who are living outside.

Thank you,
Caitlin Enz

Virus-free.www.avast.com

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Lower Shelter Barriers and Stop the Sweeps

1 message

John Newton <jwjnewton@gmail.com> Thu, Nov 9, 2023 at 9:14 PM
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

Creat housing for everyone who needs it.

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Lower Shelter Barriers and Stop the Sweeps

1 message

Esko Heilner <heilner.esko@gmail.com> Thu, Nov 9, 2023 at 9:41 PM
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

I just read your promo email.
100 beds? Really? Ya don't think you might need more than that?

The 'sweeps' your talking about is simply moving their established concentration camp that YOU developed. You created a concentration camp.

If you don't fix it I'll sell my house to someone from mass who will short term rental it and pay their profit taxes in mass.
I have no solution for you,
Good luck.
Esko

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Lower Shelter Barriers and Stop the Sweeps

1 message

Linda Holtslander <linda.holtslander@gmail.com> Fri, Nov 10, 2023 at 2:00 AM
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

Dear public servants of Portland, Maine,

I'm writing in support of a moratorium on the sweeps of the camps of the unhoused peoples of our city. It is cruel, and makes no sense. Where are they supposed to go? Our city doesn't have enough shelters for them, and the weather is getting colder and colder. Sweeps don't work, they're brutal, and are not a solution to our crisis but rather a superficial act of hiding a larger problem of the haves and the have-nots, and the city prioritizing development and appearance rather than taking care of our fellow citizens.

In addition, I ask that you:

- **Support the health and safety needs of the entire community** by providing essential services for unsheltered individuals such as water, toilets, food, medical care, mental health, and substance use treatment.
- **Create an Intentional Plan to shelter and house unsheltered individuals.**More than 100 beds will soon be available at the City of Portland's Homeless Services Center and we cannot afford to squander this opportunity. For this plan to be successful, it must be created in partnership with unsheltered individuals.
- **Continue efforts to make City shelters more low-barrier and accessible**to people who are living outside.

Sincerely, Linda Holtslander

Sent from my iPad

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Lower Shelter Barriers and Stop the Sweeps

1 message

'Rob Somerville' via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov> Fri, Nov 10, 2023 at 4:12 AM
Reply-To: Rob Somerville <email2rob@yahoo.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

Please work to find a more humane solution for the homeless folks in Portland, including an end, ASAP, to “sweeps” of encampments.

I support additional services for mental health and drug treatment, if needed, and to help transition these folks to permanent housing.

Thank you for your service to Portland, and for your focus on helping the homeless survive.

Rob Somerville
Fernald Terrace, Portland

Sent from my iPhone

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Trevorrow/Rodriguez proposal

1 message

'gordon millspaugh' via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov> Fri, Nov 10, 2023 at 8:39 AM
Reply-To: gordon millspaugh <gam9265@yahoo.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

STRONLY OPPOSED

’m a Portland resident living in district 2. This proposal is incredibly reckless and irresponsible.
I’m stupefied that anyone actually considers this a rational way to address the problem.
To cite one JAMA article out of context (did the subjects of the study live outside in 20 degree temps for months?) is a misguided grasp for legitimacy to support a terrible idea.

Gordon A Millspaugh MD
56 Bowdoin St
Portland

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property

1 message

Elizabeth Parsons <ecparsons33@hotmail.com> Fri, Nov 10, 2023 at 8:41 AM
To: "publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov" <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>

Two observations:

First, if you approve this order you will be doing so against the advice of experienced—and overworked—City staff. This could lead to more resignations and subsequent trouble filling those open positions.

Second, since the photo in today's *Press Herald* depicts the situation in Harbor View Park, it's worth noting that the West End Neighborhood Association (WENA) has dedicated considerable attention to this park for over seven years. (I am speaking only for myself and not on behalf of WENA.) Many of the improvements to this long-neglected spot were made possible by a nearly $20,000 grant from Maine Medical Center and included several new benches; removal of invasive species; food and tiny forest plantings; and public events. A small contingent of unhoused people has long used this park and the board member overseeing the project got to know them by name. Some in this group routinely helped pick up trash and we have consistently viewed all enhancements as making the park more inviting for everyone.

The proposal to allow camping throughout the City over wintertime feels rushed and its objectives opaque. Do not go forward with it. Instead, wait until the new Council is sworn in and revisit the entire matter then.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Parsons
44 Winter Street
Past-President and current board member, West End Neighborhood Association

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Public Order #68-23/24 Encampments

1 message

'Cynthia Loebenstein' via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov> Fri, Nov 10, 2023 at 8:59 AM
Reply-To: Cynthia Loebenstein <cloebenstein@yahoo.com>
To: "publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov" <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>

Dear City Councilors:

The parks in the city of Portland are one of its best ideas. They are for the use and enjoyment of all its citizens and visitors. As chair of the Parks Commission from 2019 to 2022 and as a board member appointed by the city council from 2013 until 2022, I was proud and happy to spend time funding, promoting, and helping city administrators manage public policy for its parks.

I strongly disagree with the proposal by Councilors Rodriguez and Trevorrow to allow camping on all public property with only several school-related and playground exceptions. The proposal is expected to get its first hearing at the City Council's regular meeting on November 13.

The city has experienced several large encampments in city parks since an Administrative Policy was ordered on July 1, 2022 'Enforcement and Removal Policies and Procedures Relating to Unauthorized Campsites on City Properties.' That policy stated that city employees shall "take a non-involvement approach to unauthorized campsites" if the shelters are full. The shelters have been consistently full since shortly after that Order was issued.

The encampments at the Edwards Lot (Deering Oaks), Bayside, Fore River Parkway and now Harborview were single-use habitation to the exclusion of the public at large including our city visitors. No special-interest group should be able to dominate our parks. I purposely use the term special-interest because I believe some well-intentioned, non-profit social service organizations have an interest in allowing camping on public property. I don't believe it is in the interest of our parks to allow camping.

I understand the confluence of factors that have led to the pressure on our city leaders to find a resolution for those experiencing homelessness but allowing camping on city property, in particular, our parks, isn't the city's best idea.

Cynthia L. Loebenstein
207-712-6554

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Order #68-23/24

1 message

Erich Parker <erichparker2021@gmail.com> Fri, Nov 10, 2023 at 9:44 AM
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

As a citizen of Portland, I would like to add my voice to those of the City Manager, Director of Parks and Recreation, Chief of Police, Director of Public Works, and Director of HUD. Each of these has made a strong case that this order allowing virtually unrestricted winter camping by homeless people in Portland public spaces is a mistake for Portland and no kindness to the unhoused population.

Changing the law so that widespread camping is encouraged throughout the city will only further incentivize more troubled people to overwhelm the city.

I urge you to avoid further degrading this fine city. Please reject this ill-conceived change of law.

Respectfully,
Erich Parker
22 Carroll St
Portland ME 04102

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Allowing Encampments in Public Parks

1 message

Sanford Fogg <sfogg@fogglighting.com> Fri, Nov 10, 2023 at 9:55 AM
To: "publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov" <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
Cc: Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Dear City Councilors and Fellow Concerned Citizens,

I write with deep concern regarding the proposal by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez to permit homeless encampments in our public parks and emphasis zones. This approach, I fear, may unintentionally lead to increased encampments, heightened drug activity, amplified crime rates, and greater environmental degradation within our city. Moreover, it seems to lack sufficient motivation for homeless individuals to transition to alternative housing solutions.

Reflecting on an excerpt from the Portland Press Herald, Councilor Trevorrow articulated an intention to mitigate the issues in larger encampments by allowing dispersed, smaller groups throughout the city. However, this notion appears flawed. The assumption that smaller encampments would necessarily result in decreased violence or improved sanitation is not supported by evidence. It overlooks the complexities of the challenges faced in these environments and risks replicating the same problems on a potentially wider scale.

Further, Councilor Trevorrow's statement that "The unhoused are part of the general public," and therefore should share public spaces, presents a challenging perspective. While inclusivity is vital, we must also consider the safety and cleanliness of these shared spaces. The presence of hazardous materials and the potential for unpredictable behavior in these environments pose serious concerns for the wellbeing of all citizens, particularly families and children.

In conclusion, I urge the defeat of this proposal. Let us approach this pressing issue with a solution that prioritizes the safety, cleanliness, and overall welfare of all our city's residents.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Sanford Fogg

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Allowing Encampments in Public Parks

1 message

Sanford Fogg <sfogg@fogglighting.com> Fri, Nov 10, 2023 at 9:55 AM
To: "publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov" <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
Cc: Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

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In conclusion, I urge the defeat of this proposal. Let us approach this pressing issue with a solution that prioritizes the safety, cleanliness, and overall welfare of all our city's residents.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Sanford Fogg

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Please vote no on allowing camping in public areas

1 message

uncanny_percent_0a via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov> Fri, Nov 10, 2023 at 11:59 AM
Reply-To: uncanny_percent_0a@icloud.com
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

The actions of two city councilors, devoid of relevant experience in city operations, blatantly disregard the counsel provided by experienced city officials, notably the head of the Encampment Response Team and our City Manager. Why do we hire and pay for experienced city leaders with taxpayer money — oftentimes we spend weeks and months in the recruitment process to ensure we hire the best staff — if we are going to ignore their recommendations? Respectfully, these two city councilors lack the experience to even be proposing this drastic change to our current ordinance.

Instead of advocating for the needs of their constituents, these elected representatives are prioritizing their personal opinions, disregarding the community's wishes just to cater to a minuscule faction. Such leadership does not align with responsible governance. Your constituents DO NOT want this.

This proposal is an embarrassment not only to the city and its residents but also to the dedicated professional staff overseeing Portland's operations and to those experiencing homelessness. I am hoping the rest of the council still has some sense left in them and votes against this proposal.

AJ
Resident

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Permanent encampments

1 message

Tess <tessnappi@gmail.com> Fri, Nov 10, 2023 at 12:26 PM
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

> Encampments in Portland are already out of control…Daily drug use - urinating, defecating, fighting, sexual and physical abuse - pose a serious threat all!

> Allowing permanent encampments will only encourage more homelessness.
> Permanent and temporary encampments are not only a bad idea- they serve NO purpose OR real solution. It's a copout.

> Stop allowing immigrants/asylum seekers into the city until our homeless population is housed. TAKING housing away for the homeless is a total disregard for the homeless and all people in the city of Portland.
> We also need facilities to help the mentally impaired.
> There are many multi unit homes for sale throughout Portland. Instead of using hotel for housing, - purchase the multi unit properties and manage them. It would be a start.
> Listen to our first responders and look at the data:
> Encampments do not make Portland safe for anyone!
> Thank you
> Theresa Nappi
Sent from my iPhone

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Order #68-23/24

1 message

Genevieve Morgan <genny.morgan@gmail.com> Fri, Nov 10, 2023 at 12:29 PM
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

Good afternoon,

My name is Genevieve Morgan. I am a mental health professional (LCPC-c), business owner, and reside at 134 Vaughan Street. I have lived here for 20 years with my husband, Tom Morgan, and our two children who were raised in Portland and went to Portland Public Schools. I am writing to register my dismay and alarm at the proposed option to remove the ban on public camping in our parks this winter and ruin the quality of life of every other park-using member of the public in Portland. As my son asked recently (who is currently studying ethics), "why is it that people who are unhoused have all the rights in Portland? Dog walkers can't even let their dogs off the leash for fear of being a danger or nuisance to the public, but if anybody is harassed by an unhoused person on drugs or in psychosis, they have no recourse." Why indeed? Why is this city so intent on falling into the same ruinous downward spiral that other cities like Portland, Oregon and Seattle are demonstrating? It is almost as if the city counselors proposing this ordinance want Portland to fail. If they want a tent city to preside over, instead of the desirable growing city we have now, this ordinance is a perfect vehicle. But most importantly, from a public health point of view, it is a vicious trojan horse that will make the very people they say they want to protect suffer more. I get it, they want to stop the encampment sweeps, but that is a COMPLETELY different issues than encouraging folks to sleep in tents and unheated cars all winter in and around our public parks. Have you ever spent a night in a tent in sub-zero weather? And these same counselors voted against opening up 50 more shelter beds? It's unbelievable, from a humane perspective and a taxpayer's perspective.

As someone familiar with working with people who have untreated mental illness, co-occuring disorders of mental illness and substance use, and dual diagnosis, I understand and work daily with the necessity of protecting an individual's sense of autonomy and agency. However, what we learn in year one of becoming a mental health clinician is Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. Way before an individual can make decisions that positively impact their journey toward autonomy, agency, self-respect, they must have basic needs met: safety, shelter, food, water, and freedom from fear, addiction, and illness. None of the first level of Maslow's hierarchy is served by lifting the ban on camping. In fact it exacerbates a dangerous, terrifying environment that encourages lawlessness, drug use, instability, fear of rape and beatings, and squalor. There are plenty of buildings in Portland (the empty Denny's on Congress, within walking distance of the food pantry, for instance) that could be converted to emergency shelters for the winter for people who are unhoused; buildings that have flushing toilets, heating systems, and a huge parking lot to provide mental and medical assistance and mobile providers. As the Op-ed by the director of CHOM pointed out in today's paper, 180 more beds will be available in shelters by end of the month. We should emphasize sheltering those who need it this winter in emergency buildings, and not opening up public (and that means paid for by taxpayers and for the use of ALL the people of Portland, not just the unhoused) to unchecked tent encampments that quickly spiral out of control. Is it ideal to be in an emergency shelter overnight? No. But neither is it ideal to be in a tent. True fairness is not empowering one group over others; it is creating a compromise in which all stakeholders are equally disgruntled. It's not ideal to be a tax-payer, business owner, and trying to walk to work via a park (and not use fossil fuels) and being screamed at and threatened by someone driven to the edge of sanity by hunger, cold, and instability. I would far rather help the city take over a building to provide emergency shelter and a hot shower and a meal, even if it means some folks lose a sense of their autonomy for the night, than encourage a policy that allows unfettered camping in our public spaces.

Last winter, on a freezing night, I spent about an hour with a man wrapped in blankets and a sleeping bag outside of the Nickelodeon. I was worried. He was only moderately responsive. I bought him hot teas and food and called the police. It was about 9:30pm. The wind was fierce. When the police got there, they knew him immediately, and he had been kicked out of the shelter for fighting and harassing the people already there, and for drug use. The police spoke with him for awhile and he agreed to go spend the night in an overnight holding cell so he wouldn't freeze. They told me that no one wants anyone to freeze on the streets of Portland. I'm wondering if that's really true of our city councilors Anna Treverrow and Roberto Rodriguez. I suggest that they open their homes this winter to house as many unhoused people as possible, or allow their yards to be open for camping, with free access to their kitchen, laundry, and bathroom. That is one way these counselors could really help someone. Otherwise, Portland's city council needs to do their job and find and fund emergency shelters for the winter in existing buildings, insist on ordinances requiring other towns around Portland to build their own overnight shelters, and stop ruining the health, viability, and vibrancy of our city with ill-thought proposals such as this one.

Sincerely,

Genevieve Morgan, LCPC-c

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

RE: Proposal to Allow "Camping and Loitering" in Public Parks # 68- 23/24

1 message

Jaye Gorham <jaye@portsidereg.com> Fri, Nov 10, 2023 at 4:37 PM
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

TO: Portland City Council

The Friends of Ft.Sumner Park (FOFTSP) opposes the proposal that would allow homeless encampments this winter in public parks.

We understand the good intentions about this complex issue. But the proposal does nothing to get at the root causes of the problem and in fact could make many other problems worse.

Our Friends group was founded to enhance Ft. Sumner Park on North Street, Munjoy Hill, to bring in neighbors, families, and visitors to enjoy the beauty and vistas of this small but special place.

All of Portland's public spaces are special. They are open for use by everyone. The proposal for "Camping And Loitering " would bring up so many side problems, for all parties involved, that go directly against that special spirit .

We respectfully encourage the City Council not to pass this far-reaching proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaye Gorham

Jaye Gorham
Broker

portside REAL ESTATE GROUP
Leading REAL ESTATE COMPANIES OF THE WORLD

C// 207.671.7430 O// 207.619.7571
59 Baxter Blvd., Portland ME 04101
Cape Elizabeth - Portland - Yarmouth - Kennebunk
www.portsiderealestategroup.com
jaye@portsidereg.com
Please leave Jaye a Google Review!

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

(no subject)

1 message

Ron Smalley <rasmalley1@gmail.com> Fri, Nov 10, 2023 at 4:51 PM
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

No to allowing encampments.

No. No. No. No. No

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Order 68-23/24, Proposed Amendments re Camping and Loitering on Public Property

1 message

Margaret <MBUSBY1@maine.rr.com> Fri, Nov 10, 2023 at 10:34 PM
Reply-To: Margaret <MBUSBY1@maine.rr.com>
To: "publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov" <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>, "vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov" <vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov>, "ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov" <ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov>, "mdion@portlandmaine.gov" <mdion@portlandmaine.gov>, "pali@portlandmaine.gov" <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, "afournier@portlandmaine.gov" <afournier@portlandmaine.gov>, "atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov" <atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov>

As a resident of District 2, I'm writing to express my **strong opposition** to the proposed amendments.

While I readily acknowledge that this is an extremely complex issue, the proposed amendments offer no real solution. I'm tired of being afraid to walk in an area near my home, that being Harbor View Park. I am very doubtful that allowing camping in other city parks will cause campers to leave Harbor View and result in small groups spread out around the city. I am also doubtful that the proposed changes would truly be temporary. This approach feels like an abdication of responsibility until (at least) spring. It's clear that much of the City's staff is also opposed to the changes.

I also have to say that the optics of the timing of these proposals are terrible, being proposed by the District 1 Councilor right after sweeps that cleaned up her District.

I ask that you consider this opposition to the proposed amendments when voting. Thank you.

Margaret Busby
16 Stetson Court

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

commenting on Order 68-23/24

1 message

Bryce Avallone <bryce.avallone@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

Sat, Nov 11, 2023 at 7:25 AM

Hello,

Bryce Avallone
147 Pleasant Ave, Portland, ME 04103

I am commenting on Order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property - Sponsored by Roberto Rodriguez,

Stop shirking your responsibilities to the voters and taxpayers of Portland. You are responsible for the health and safety of citizens, and yet you propose to let 200 homeless people degrade the quality of life for the entire city. The encampments have increased crime, drug use, and overdoses. Citizens are scared to be near them, and they have a negative impact on businesses and personal property values. And your proposal is to simply look the other way, as long as there are no tents at city hall. The current horrible situations in cities like San Francisco and Los Angeles are a warning to Portland. Unhoused people are not suddenly going to have more resources or start making better decisions at the end of this camping reprieve. You are simply kicking the can down the road instead of addressing the problem, while the city suffers. Shame on you.

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

City Camping

1 message

gravel <gravel166@gmail.com> Sat, Nov 11, 2023 at 9:26 AM
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

Please do not allow camping in the City of Portland. Mayor Snyder's solution to increase beds ensures both the safety of unhoused folks, as well as all Portland citizens. As an elementary Portland Public Schools teacher, I understand the impact of unstable housing on children and families. I also regularly sweep the area around my school for human feces, cannabis, and needles. All of which I have found. In addition, I've had a student, during the school day, bring me a needle, asking me "What's this Ms. Graves?" Allowing winter camping is not a humane solution, it is an ivory tower side-step that ignores the profoundly negative impact on our city and its citizens.

Sincerely,
Laura Graves

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

(no subject)

1 message

Catharine Scruggs <scruggscatharine@gmail.com> Sat, Nov 11, 2023 at 10:22 AM
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

Please DO NOT allow expansion or disbursement of homeless people to public spaces in Portland.

I am sympathetic to the unhoused people's plight. Additional safe and appropriate housing needs to be made available and offered. However. If they don't take the housing, they should not stay in Portland. It's ridiculous to plan for them to live outside in the winter. But options need to be offered to them year round.

Cities from Seattle to San Diego have become miserable for all inhabitants due to allowing homeless encampments.

Homelessness needs to be dealt with but not by ruining the city for everyone else. Portlanders need to be able to use their parks, paths etc. without fear.

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Encampments

1 message

Dana Earls <drearls@maine.rr.com> Sat, Nov 11, 2023 at 2:51 PM
Reply-To: drearls@maine.rr.com
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

I urge you not to allow more camping on a temporary exception to the City's prohibition on camping and loitering on City property. If you keep enabling this, it will continue to grow. Stop it NOW!

Dana Earls

62 Torrey St

Portland, ME 04103

207-671-8326

Nov. 11, 2023

Dear Mayor Snyder and City Councilors,

We, the 130 members of *Portland Voices*, ask that you reject Order 68 23/24, which would amend our current city code and allow camping and loitering on public property.

Portland Voices is a grassroots volunteer group of Portland residents who have come together to work with community leaders to end encampments on public property and encourage alternatives and related assistance. Our mission is committed to supporting policies that promote the safety of Portland residents, the communities' natural beauty, and its affordability and livability. We have no political affiliation. We represent every district in the city, have experiences from many different occupations, and many of us have family members who struggle with or have passed, due to mental health and substance use disorders.

Since this summer, we have observed the encampments and the City Council meetings and workshops, we have met with city staff, and we have held meetings with every candidate who ran for mayor or the City Council. We have been concerned for the health and safety of the inhabitants of the encampments, the residents of Portland, the businesses of Portland, and our streets, parks, and trails. Since our inception, we have agreed with the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness and the Statewide Homeless Council's statement: "Encampments, and services to formalize, endorse, or prolong encampments themselves, are counter to Maine's strategy of ending homelessness."

The current proposal to allow for camping and loitering in parks, on sidewalks, and in cars through the winter is dangerous for the unhoused, creates public safety issues, and will most likely overwhelm city staff, the police, and support services. With regard to the safety of those in tents, they risk exposure to freezing temperatures, fire hazards (due to dangerous heating methods), exposure to infectious diseases, decreased access to care, increased risk of violence and assault, and maybe the most dangerous, <u>isolation</u>. Public safety risks include exposure to used needles, unsanitary conditions (due to lack of facilities at most parks), tents and belongings obstructing paths and sidewalks (snow and ice will only compound this issue), and exposure to drug use and violent behavior. Lastly, having tents scattered around the city will make outreach, policing, and emergency response more difficult, time consuming, and therefore costly. The ECRT was designed to focus on one area with the benefit of having a resolution date, this proposal eliminates both of those benefits and will limit the effectiveness of the ECRT.

It should also be noted that the following city departments either do not recommend or have strong concerns about this proposal's impact to public safety:

- Parks, Recreation and Facilities
- Health and Human Services
- Police Department
- Public Works
- Housing & Economic Development Department

In closing, we would like to see an effort to help people get inside this winter. It would be great to see the HSC and its wrap around services be utilized as it was intended. Perhaps another location could be targeted to get more people out of the cold? The neighborhoods and businesses that have abutted the encampments have been very clear and vocal about their safety concerns and the ongoing issues of drug use, violence, and trash at the encampments, why would putting more encampments in more neighborhoods be a solution?

This proposal before the Council is not a solution. It only creates more encampments with greater risks and more challenges.

Portland Voices

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Encampments, astroturf, & corporate takeover of public spaces

1 message

Avery Yale Kamila <avery.kamila@gmail.com> Sun, Nov 12, 2023 at 7:00 AM
To: Kate Snyder <ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov>, Anna Trevorrow <atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov>, Roberto Rodríguez <rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov>, Pious Ali <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, April Fournier <afournier@portlandmaine.gov>, Victoria Pelletier <vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov>, rphillips@portlandmaine.gov, Andrew Zarro <Azarro@portlandmaine.gov>, Mark Dion <mdion@portlandmaine.gov>, publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov, Danielle West -Chuhta <dwest@portlandmaine.gov>, Anne McGuire <amcguire@portlandmaine.gov>, Ethan Hipple <ehipple@portlandmaine.gov>

Dear Mayor, Mayor-elect, and Councilors,

Thank you all for your leadership of our city in these difficult times. I appreciate this council's empathy and concern for the community and understand the difficult choices the city faces. I'm writing about two issues before the council, the proposal to legalize camping in city parks and the proposal from Portland United to use Fitzpatrick rent-free. Both are seriously flawed.

Regarding legalizing encampments, I write to you as a resident who knows a number of people living in the encampments, where sex, drugs and stolen goods (such as bicycles) are the main currency. One of the people I know is a close family member struggling with substance use syndrome who left a safe home to join the lawless encampments where there are no rules, requirements or responsibilities. However, all of that comes with a high risk of assault, theft and disease. My close family member has experienced all three while living in the unsafe and unsanitary Portland encampments. My family and I want our family member out of the encampments, but we have no ability to make them leave as long as the city condones camping. Sometimes they stay in one of the shelters or the Florence House, but they prefer the freedom of encampment life. Sadly, this freedom comes with ever-diminishing quality of life and constant risk of serious injury or death. The same downward spiral is true for the life of every other person I know in the encampments. Except for one person I knew. He's no longer with us because he died in the Portland encampments. I support increasing shelter capacity and only allowing camping if it is supervised by city staff and has access to toilets, showers and a warming space.

Regarding allowing Portland United to use Fitzpatrick Stadium rent-free for up to 10 years, I write to ask you to significantly modify this proposal before adopting it, should you choose to do so. The bulk of the proposed improvements to the property are for facilities that will not be accessible to the public nor to Portland Public School students or other users of the field. Forgoing all rent and also handing over all concession income with no commission is fiscally imprudent, and the commissions proposed for advertising, etc., are much too low. This is a public asset owned by the city and mostly used by school children. They need to be our priority, because past decisions at this stadium did NOT prioritize children. If those decisions had, the city would have never installed a toxic astroturf field. Artificial turf fields are increasingly becoming financial liabilities due to the fact they're made with PFAS and other toxic plastic ingredients which have been linked to deadly cancers in players. https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/mar/10/phillies-ball-players-cancer-artifical-turf In addition, these fake turfs lead to microplastic pollution in our waterways and increase the heat island effect at the stadium and on the surrounding properties (which includes a school). The other poison pill in the Portland United proposal is the $200,000 to install another toxic astroturf field elsewhere in the city, so that we can expose more children to its deadly plastic particles, heat up another neighborhood and pollute our waterways more. This proposal as written favors the self-interest of the Portland United investors at the expense of Portland's children and the environment. It's a terrible deal for Portland.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Avery

—
Avery Yale Kamila, AOLCP
Co-founder
Portland Protectors
PO Box 4242
Portland, ME 04101
207-780-0915
www.facebook.com/portlandprotectors

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25

1 message

Amanda Avallone <amanda.avallone@gmail.com> Sun, Nov 12, 2023 at 7:20 AM
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

Amanda Avallone
147 Pleasant Avenue
Portland, ME 04103

I am commenting on Order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property - Sponsored by Roberto Rodriguez

Order 68-23/24 is deeply flawed because it is built on numerous assumptions that are being presented as facts.

Assumption 1: *Tent camping through a Maine winter without services like electricity and sanitation qualifies as humane treatment that respects the value and dignity of human beings.* Whether it's under a bridge or in the park on my street, camping is not a humane solution. If someone came to the council with a proposal to house prison inmates in such conditions, you would be horrified--and rightly so. The existence of these camps—wherever they are--should be seen as a badge of failure and a source of shame for our society.

Assumption 2: *Given the opportunity, the people living in the large encampments would voluntarily disperse throughout the city.* History teaches us that people do have reasons for where they travel and congregate—it's not random, even if we don't always understand those motivations. What makes the framers of this proposal think that smaller, dispersed parks will be preferable? And if folks don't voluntarily move, what then—forced relocation?

Assumption 3: *Legalizing camping throughout the city will reduce crime.* Even if people do create smaller encampments in multiple parks, what makes council members think that there will be less crime? The conditions of mental illness, drug addiction, poverty, and desperation are not conducive to law-abiding behavior. Do council members really expect the campers to self-manage keeping the parks sanitary, maintaining the required right-of-way on sidewalks, and refraining from cutting down trees to keep warm, or even committing violence against one another and their neighbors? Have you talked to the police about their bandwidth to monitor multiple encampments?

Assumption 4: *Anyone who opposes Order 68-23/24 is heartless and inhumane*. Opposing this particular proposal does not signify mindless acceptance of others' suffering. It might just mean recognizing a bad idea when you see one. Simplistic and polarizing rhetoric that depicts the unhoused as victims and demonizes opponents as perpetrators will not help our community to navigate this complex problem.

I urge you to go back to the drawing board and come up with better short-term options, ones that are both humane and moving us toward an actual long-term plan for addressing homelessness in our city. If the purpose of this proposal was to get citizens' attention, it worked. We are listening. Now present us with something less absurd.

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Opposed to Order # 68-23/24- Allowing Camping and Loitering on Public Property

2 messages

'Karen Snyder' via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov> Sun, Nov 12, 2023 at 9:41 AM
Reply-To: Karen Snyder <karsny@yahoo.com>
To: Anna Trevorrow <atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov>, Roberto Rodríguez <rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov>, Kate Snyder <ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov>, Pious Ali <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, Andrew Zarro <azarro@portlandmaine.gov>, April Fournier <afournier@portlandmaine.gov>, Victoria Pelletier <vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov>, "rphillips@portlandmaine.gov" <rphillips@portlandmaine.gov>, "publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov" <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
Cc: Danielle West <dwest@portlandmaine.gov>

Dear Portland, ME City Councilors and Mayor Snyder,

Please oppose or have withdrawn **Order # 68-23/24- Allowing Camping and Loitering on Public Property** for the following reasons:

1. **Legalizing encampments will cause nothing but problems for the city and its residents.** For example, even before this latest surge in encampments, I had a homeless person enter my building through the first-floor tenant kitchen window while the previous tenants were in the apartment. The police were called and removed the intruder very quickly. In addition, the intruder was camping in my backyard for about 2 days and left a shocking amount of plastic and dirty needles that I had to pick up. My previous tenants were a bit freaked out by this episode.
2. **Allowing encampments in parks especially during winter is really not compassionate as shown what happen in** Anchorage, Alaska this winter all ready. Just this year alone, 49 homeless have died in encampments. Record homeless deaths in Anchorage increases as major winter storm drops more than 2 feet of snow - CBS News
3. **Good and effective policy cannot be crafted unless there are actual metrics that is being collected and are transparent to the public since this is public policy**. For example, the city website on Homeless Data and Reporting, about 1/2 of the links are broken, and the rest of the links have outdated data. Homeless Data & Reports | Portland, ME - Official Website (portlandmaine.gov). As such, these ordinance changes are being proposed without having the proper metrics or justifications such as the following.
    - How many people are actually in the encampments besides counting just tents?
    - How did they become homeless?
    - How long have they been homeless?
    - How many have mental or behavioral issues?
    - How many are amenable to going to shelters?
    - How many are NOT amenable to go to shelters?
    - How many have substance abuse issues?
    - How many are from out of state, other Maine towns, etc.
    - Consequently, if there are/were plenty of case workers, then these case workers should have had a standardized check list of questions to collect this data, then these documents should have been gathered, entered into a database for further statistical development to come up with well-crafted short-term and long-term solutions and policies.
4. **Damage to Park System** - Granted not as important as the above 3 reasons but for 15 years I have been picking up debris and dirty needles from all the previous small encampments that popped up on Eastern Prom and this was when it was prohibited to camp, use alcohol, drugs or smoke. I can't even imagine what kind of damage this proposal would do our park system.

Instead of Order # 68-23/24, below are some possible short-term solution considerations:

1. **Have a Re-vote to increase the bed count from 208 to 258 at Riverton Homeless Service Center Center** https://www.portlandmaine.gov/712/Homeless-Services-Center even though it was voted down recently by Portland City Councilors.
2. **Move the 131 Riverton Homeless Service Center beds being occupied by asylum seekers to their new 179-bed asylum seeker facility** which is supposed to be open by November 2023. Portland moving forward with new Riverton shelter for asylum seekers | Maine Public

3. **Pursue housing homeless overflow from Riverton Homeless Center to the new 179-bed Asylum Seeker facility** which seems only fair since the asylum seekers took most of the beds for months in Riverton Homeless Service Center.
4. **Pursue reconfiguring the Long Creek Youth Development Center in South Portland.** I believe this is an under-utilized state facility. This facility originally had 168 bed capacity. If any teens left, can they be transferred to other facilities? State license would also have to be changed. https://www.maine.gov/corrections/longcreek
5. In addition, th**ere need to be effective and comprehensive process regarding how to handle the people that refuse to go into shelter or housing** but leaving them in encampments in the city open spaces and parks is not a realistic option.

I hope the above is taken into consideration. If not, then Portland, ME will not be a livable and sustainable city any longer to the actual residential taxpayers of this once beloved city.

Regards,
Karen Snyder
D1 Resident - Waterville St.

'JEAN MC MANAMY' via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov> Sun, Nov 12, 2023 at 10:30 AM
Reply-To: JEAN MC MANAMY <ninimaine@aol.com>
To: Karen Snyder <karsny@yahoo.com>
Cc: Anna Trevorrow <atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov>, Roberto Rodríguez <rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov>, Kate Snyder <ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov>, Pious Ali <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, Andrew Zarro <azarro@portlandmaine.gov>, April Fournier <afournier@portlandmaine.gov>, Victoria Pelletier <vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov>, rphillips@portlandmaine.gov, publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov, Danielle West <dwest@portlandmaine.gov>

Awesome job Karen. Unfortunately, the MHNO needs to send an equivalent letter. Thank you for doing this.

Nini McManamy
Sent from my iPad

> On Nov 12, 2023, at 9:41 AM, Karen Snyder <karsny@yahoo.com> wrote:
>
> [Quoted text hidden]

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Feedback on Order 68-23/24

1 message

Karen Lambek <karenm982@gmail.com> Sun, Nov 12, 2023 at 10:44 AM
To: ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov, atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov, rodriguez@portlandmaine.gov, pali@portlandmaine.gov, afournier@portlandmaine.gov, pelletier@portlandmaine.gov, rphillips@portlandmaine.gov, azarro@portlandmaine.gov, mdion@portlandmaine.gov, annabportlandme@gmail.com, publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

To the Mayor and Members of City Council,

I have been a resident of D4 since 2010 and have been a Portland resident since 2004, and I have two children aged 7 and 10 that attend OAES. Our owned property shares a boundary with Heseltine Park, about 2 blocks away from OAES, and I am writing to state my opposition to the proposed addendum to allow camping in city parks through the winter. I understand this proposal is to address the homeless crisis that so many cities are facing right now, but as a result will put our residents (including children) at risk.

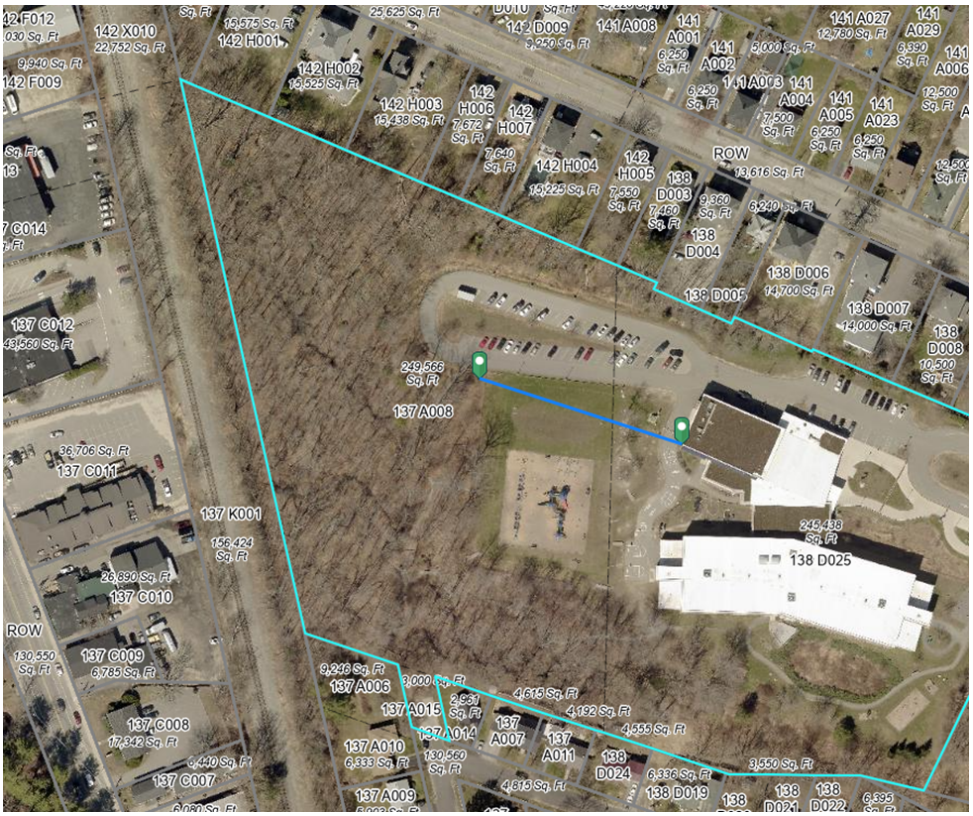
On a daily basis, there are children and families enjoying Heseltine Park, rain or shine, as well as *throughout the winter*. Cold/bad weather does not deter families with children from visiting the park, as I can verify by having lived at this location since 2010. The proposal states that “this exception is limited to the perimeter of the playground and does not include any surrounding or adjacent public place.” I cannot find how this "perimeter" is defined. Can a tent be placed just outside the playground extent? Heseltine is a small park with no facilities except for one small trash can emptied weekly. I cannot see how allowing camping anywhere in Heseltine (or other parks with playgrounds of this size), regardless of proximity to the playground, is a safe option for residents. We all know what the campsites in Portland look like, with trash, needles, stolen bikes, and debris scattered everywhere due to lack of receptacles, as well as people with a history of mental health illness. Due to its small size, if any tents are placed anywhere within the entire boundary of the park, even outside this undefined and hard to regulate "perimeter", I do not think families would feel comfortable accessing Heseltine. My sentiment applies to all "allowed" smaller parks with playgrounds.

The proposed addendum also mentions that camping would be allowed beyond 250 feet of a school building. As shown in the screenshot below and attached (the blue line represents 250'), this would include the entire wooded area behind OAES, which is school property that is used daily by kids walking and biking to school, as well as classes and the Rec program that walk the trails. There are zero facilities in these woods, not even a trash can. Our family walks or bikes to school every day through these woods, regardless of weather or time of year, as do many other students who we see on a daily basis. The screenshot shows that the 250' distance from the school building doesn't even reach the back portion of the staff parking lot.

If camping is the only solution at this point (as opposed to indoor housing), I am curious how spreading out the encampments into city parks/public spaces is seen as a better option than localized, defined encampment(s) with access to sanitary facilities (portable toilets, dumpsters, police presence, social work resources, etc). The smaller city parks do not have these sanitary facilities available and will therefore make these areas unsafe to access.

Can you also explain the reasoning for *not* allowing camping at City Hall Plaza or Monument Square? This seems like an obvious contradiction in the proposal. These are places with trash cans that get serviced regularly and are near public buildings with restroom facilities. Disallowing camping in these high-visibility locations, in favor of spreading out our unhoused population to more spread out areas of the city, doesn't serve anyone's best interests. If anything, it would just propagate the problem by moving people out of sight, where their well being can be more easily ignored. I can't imagine that is what the city council intends, but that would be the impact of this proposal. If camping would be allowed in all these other public spaces in Portland used daily by residents including children during the winter months, why not allow it at City Hall where the drafters of this proposed addendum frequent regularly?

Please consider the residents of Portland (and their children) when voting for this addendum. Thank you,
Karen Lambek



OAES_250Feet.JPG
222K

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Camping rule suspension proposal

1 message

Ben Allen <loopmusic@gmail.com> Sun, Nov 12, 2023 at 11:20 AM
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Cc: atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov, rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov, pali@portlandmaine.gov, afournier@portlandmaine.gov, vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov, azarro@portlandmaine.gov, mdion@portlandmaine.gov, ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov, council@portlandmaine.gov

Councilors,

The recent crescendo of reports of overdoses, violence, human trafficking, and drug deals around the campsites would clearly show that these are not 'safe' spaces for ANYONE to live. Let alone during a Maine winter.

My son currently attends Baxter Academy. Baxter is located just off Marginal Way/Somerset encampments and prior to the clearing of the site there, he witnessed open drug use EVERY day within 2 blocks from the school. When going to & from the school, he and his fellow students have had to run a gauntlet of individuals who were clearly 'under the influence' and exhibiting unpredictable & often scary behaviors.

I would like to express, in the strongest terms, my opposition to the proposed amendments to the Portland City Code chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property sponsored by Councilors Roberto Rodriguez and Anna Trevorrow.

Enabling people to return to the sites which have been cleared is the wrong decision and a betrayal of the tax-paying citizens and businesses of Portland, who have been negatively impacted by the influx of people at the various campsites.

The suggestion that the Council should consider suspending the City-wide Camping Ordinance is jaw-dropping.

Our police ALREADY are prevented from enforcing the City's laws inside the encampments. Inviting more people to camp, potentially in multiple new locations where the Police will be unable to enforce the law, is unconscionable. Unsafe for those in the encampments and for the tax-paying, law-abiding residents of Portland.

The root causes of the current homelessness crisis are complex. This is a NATIONAL problem and however well-intentioned, one city cannot expect to solve the issue. Even locally.

I think it bears repeating, that what we have is **primarily an addiction issue and not a housing issue**. Calls for affordable housing will not solve this problem, just like calls to ban short term rentals will not solve the homelessness crisis.

Rather than asking 'What should we do?', the Council needs to be asking 'What **can we reasonably do with the resources available to us?**'.

Thanks for your close attention to this critical issue.

Respectfully,
Ben Allen

Sent from my phone.
Expect a few typos!

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Re: Order #68-23/24

1 message

Kendra Allen <kendra.f.allen@gmail.com> Sun, Nov 12, 2023 at 11:59 AM
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov, council@portlandmaine.gov

Dear all,

I'm sitting here, dumbfounded, just having learned that the Portland City Council is currently considering a proposal to open city property to campsites for unhoused through the winter and into spring 2024. Please explain to me, where is the logic in this?

I'm a parent of a 14 year-old who, every school-day, dodges inebriated and unpredictable transients to whom the Somerset and Marginal Way encampments were "home." Now that those encampments have been cleared (for which I am grateful) and these populations seek out new territories, I fear the places we all look to as an open space for peace and respite could now become hotbeds for continued violence, theft, crime, drug- and human-trafficking, not to mention overdose and hypothermia deaths.

I fully appreciate that not every person in every tent is a criminal or an addict, which makes this proposal even more upsetting. The unhoused people who are fighting systemic injustices that contributed to the loss of a home, and who are genuinely hoping to improve their living conditions deserve safe spaces of their own. The "Housing First" approach could be a logical, humane, and would be a reasonable next step to ensure the well-being of those who are committed to a safe, secure existence. But this "Tents Anywhere" proposal is *un*reasonable, illogical, and ultimately, inhumane.

The nation's problem of homelessness is not and cannot be Portland, Maine's problem to solve. The more attractive and "sticky" Portland makes itself as a destination for unhoused around the region and nation, the less safe its residents will be. This is not opinion or conjecture; the exponentially increasing crime stats from recent years bear this out in black and white.

It is not an exaggeration to say that even after uprooting and moving hundreds of miles to Portland to raise my family, I am actively considering relocating to a community where its law-abiding citizens are ensured a safe and peaceful environment in which to "live, work, and play." This philosophy and assurance was what drew me to raise my family in Portland over a decade ago.

I sincerely hope the safety and security of Portland's law-abiding, tax-paying, culturally- and economically-contributing residents re-emerges as a priority for this City Council.

It goes without saying that the nation's increasing problem of the homelessness/addiction spiral is absolutely heartbreaking. But as well-intentioned as this proposal may be the problem is simply too big, too complicated, and too entrenched for one small city to solve. And if this City Council thinks a "temporary" solution is spreading out the encampments to all of Portland's public spaces (minus a few playgrounds and, interestingly, City Hall) I cannot in good conscience stand by in silence.

This move would be breathtaking in its irresponsibility and shortsightedness. I'm baffled at how we've ended up at this impasse. But I cannot remain silent and watch the city I call home, my family calls home, open its safe and beautiful public spaces to the inevitable darkness and tragedy that follows an addicted, unencumbered population whose primary motivator is securing their next score, not the safety of their community.

Thank you for your consideration of this resident's concerns as you hear the proposal for opening public spaces to encampments.

Respectfully,
Kendra F. Allen
Portland, ME

Sent from my iPhone, please forgive typos.

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Order 68-23/24

1 message

Bayside Neighborhood <bnaportland@gmail.com> Sun, Nov 12, 2023 at 11:59 AM
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

BAYSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
baysideportland.org bnaportland@gmail.com

To Mayor Snyder and Members of the City Council,

The board of directors of the Bayside Neighborhood Association is categorically opposed to amending the city's camping and loitering ordinance as proposed by Order 68-23/24, "*Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property*."

For over two decades the Bayside neighborhood has borne witness to the terrible human suffering of unsheltered homelessness. We remain the center of the encampment crisis and continue to bear the brunt of its community-wide harms. We also continue to advocate for holistic, evidence-based solutions.

Order 68 is not a solution. It offers nothing whatsoever to improve the safety and recovery of unhoused people or mitigate the pressure encampments exert upon residents and businesses in their vicinity, whether in Bayside or any other neighborhood.

In fact the street and sidewalk camping and loitering allowed by this amendment are the same unregulated loitering and encampment-like conditions that have been allowed in Bayside for many years - despite existing city ordinances prohibiting them.

Order 68's apparent restrictions, such as requiring 5' of space for pedestrians to pass people sleeping or loitering on sidewalks, have never been effectively enforced in Bayside and are all but *un*enforceable without the collective cooperation of service providers, the DA's office and the jails with the Portland Police Department - coordination *which does not meaningfully exist*.

Order 68 suggests no mechanism to address this pre-existing condition; rather it threatens to further entrench the dismal notion that a sidewalk can reasonably serve as a human being's bed, living room, and bathroom.

Sanctioning outdoor living as a solution to homelessness is simply wrong, and has been proven disastrous to the health and safety of encampment occupants and the broader community alike in other municipalities. Rape, stabbings, coercion, human and drug trafficking, disease, and overdose are so common as to have become normalized. These traumas ripple out and corrode the physical and psychological safety of the entire community.

The sanctioned camping envisioned by this amendment is not supported by the Maine Statewide Homeless Council. It is not condoned by local and national leaders in housing and homelessness policy. The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) explicitly cautions *against* doing what Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez have proposed:

- *The formation of encampments does not represent an end to homelessness, and strategies that focus on making encampments an official part of the system for responding to homelessness can serve to distract*

communities from focusing on what is most important-connecting people experiencing homelessness to safe, stable, permanent housing.

- *Authorizing encampments as an official part of the system for responding to homelessness creates costs to ensure the safety, security, and well-being of the people living within the encampments, which can prevent funding from being directed to supporting and creating permanent housing and service options for all who are unsheltered.*

Perhaps most importantly it is *not supported by Portland's city staff*.

Every City department with expertise on encampments has listed dozens of reasons why sanctioning encampments is detrimental to the health and well-being of all involved – they promote disease, violence and fire hazards; endanger staff; decrease ADA compliance; permanently damage trees, natural features, and city infrastructure; etc., at great expense to taxpayers, community morale, and the well-being of the unhoused.

Worse yet, endorsing and facilitating outdoor homelessness will frustrate the efforts of the Emergency Crisis Response Team, the first genuine effort the City has made in 30 years to form a coordinated response to homelessness in Portland - an effort that was just beginning to find its stride.

Portland has the opportunity to learn from the mistakes made in other communities that have chosen to sanction encampments. Failing to do so will cast the die for Portland as surely as it was cast for Bayside. There will be no going back from this action.

The BNA asks you to vote no on this order, table it permanently and focus instead on housing-based solutions to homelessness.

Sincerely,

Sarah Michniewicz
President, Bayside Neighborhood Association

BNA Board of Directors

Colette Bouchard
Amy Geren
Jim Hall
Alex Landry
Susan McCloskey
Rob Sylvain
Deborah Van Hoewyk

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Mission Statement

*The **Bayside Neighborhood Association (BNA)** brings members of the Bayside community together. BNA brings conversations about Bayside to Bayside and to the greater community in a way that organizes, informs, and empowers residents; social service and other organizations; local businesses; and city representatives to form meaningful and long-term partnerships. BNA*

preserves and promotes safety, multi-cultural diversity, housing, and carefully planned social, economic, and physical development in this unique urban community.

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Reject both Order #64-23/24 and #68-23/24

1 message

Joanna Sturiano <joannasturiano@gmail.com> Sun, Nov 12, 2023 at 12:00 PM
To: "publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov" <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>, council@portlandmaine.gov

Dear Portland City Council,

I am writing to request you reject both Order #64-23/24 and Order #68-23/24 at this Monday's council meeting.

I live in District 1, and make my living working at a small local business in Portland. I am able to afford to live near my job and contribute to Portland's economy by working here solely because of the below-market rate rent I am lucky that my landlord (--at a cost to themselves only, because of the lack of city incentives to foster affordable housing--) chooses to accept.

I urge you not to lose sight of the most crucial issue facing Portland and its residents today -- the need to ensure the creation and maintenance of safe, affordable housing for all who are in need of it, so folks can live and work here safely and with dignity.

Note that this need does NOT extend to the creation or maintenance of the already overwhelming (--and in the case of short-term rentals, often illegal--) numbers of luxury rental condos, "vacation homes" or second- or third-home properties, investment properties for landlords operating outside of Portland, or unpermitted short-term rentals hosted in Portland which prevent the city from housing its own residents.

Our housing must be safe, secure, and affordable for all. Tents and outdoor encampments do not meet this definition, especially not in a Portland winter, and to suggest otherwise is to invite harm upon those who live in such structures. To have no home in which to live is not a crime, it is a problem, rooted in economic inequality, which our city must use its resources and leadership to help folks solve.

It should be abundantly clear that now is not the time and Portland is not the place to consider inviting professional sports teams to make use of our city stadiums and parks.

Portland City Council, it is your responsibility to enact and carry out public policy to ensure that all Portlanders can be housed safely, and can use Portland's public spaces -- green space and otherwise -- for our safe transportation, recreation, and health. Do not repurpose our parks or sidewalks or sports fields for unsafe temporary housing spaces or for the generation of profit by outside commercial entities such as the USL soccer franchise, at the expense of Portlanders' safety and ability to live affordably in Portland!

Enforce existing laws on the number of short-term rentals in Portland by identifying and then levying and accurately collecting fines on illegal short-term rentals! Brainstorm new ways to make short-term rental income something the city can take a fairer share of through higher taxing or more oversight and safety administration, to make such rentals provide safe lodging conditions equivalent to the standards hotels must provide via their hotel taxes, and to give money back to the city so that Portland's housing stock is not depleted by the removal of units for conversion to short-term rentals. Ensure that short-term rental income does not become solely personal profit for those short-term rental property owners who would sell out our city's former long-term rental housing stock for their own profit, and who impede our city's ability to house its own residents (which ironically, makes local small businesses less able to find and keep staff to run the shops and restaurants which the short-term rentals tout as charms of Portland). Levy vacancy fees on commercial real estate owners who keep our city's commercial storefronts vacant for years on end and impede economic growth because of their unwillingness to offer affordable leases and rents to small businesses!

Most importantly, do not expect Portland taxpayers to shoulder the financial and health burden of bringing in a business in the form of this soccer league which would not serve us, and do not insult the dignity or injure the safety of people without housing by suggesting they spend a Portland winter outdoors in our public space.

Thank you for your consideration.
Joanna Sturiano
District 1 resident

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25" in your subject line

1 message

Kathleen Finn <katfinnpdx@gmail.com> Sun, Nov 12, 2023 at 5:18 PM
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

To City Council, Mayor Dion and the City Manager:

In regards to the proposed change to the city ordinance to allow public camping — It's appalling. The councilors are misguided and are not thinking about the long term sustainability of the city. This will devastate the city much like the same proposals have degraded the once beautiful cities of Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego. I strongly encourage you to travel to the West Coast if you have not been in the past two years and get a peek into our future if open air drug markets are encouraged via legalization.

By legalizing camping, you are opening the floodgates even further than they were this fall when 297 tents littered the landscape. What is the end game? To continue to allow people to flow into the city and live in lawlessness in perpetuity? I fail to see how that helps anyone. You are condemning people to life on the street. And, you are draining the life out of a city that relies heavily on tourism to thrive.

The councilors refer to Portland's most vulnerable residents, yet I am going to guess that only a small portion of the people living in the open air drug markets actually have ties to Portland. The remaining people are from other Maine communities and surrounding states. I agree the city has a responsibility to the residents of Portland, Maine, but I don't agree we have to be a regional hub for people struggling with drug addiction and mental illness to live in degradation and squalor on our sidewalks. The open air drug markets must not be allowed to grow roots and become entrenched. Legalizing criminal activity begets more of the same.

I recognize all of the councilors and our new mayor are inhabiting roles that are super challenging. It's a desperate, chaotic and complex problem that you are charged with helping to fix. But Trevorrow and Rodriquez's 'solution' is not a solution. It's not equitable for the entire city of Portland — there are 65,000+ other people to consider. It's not humane. It's short-sighted and foolish. Please don't throw your hands up and give up and give in — legalizing encampments would be a death knell for our city by the bay.

Kathleen Finn

katfinnpdx@gmail.com

D-3

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Opposed to moratorium on Encampment sweeps

1 message

Jean Wiecha <jlwiecha@gmail.com> Sun, Nov 12, 2023 at 5:22 PM
To: KSnyder@portlandmaine.gov, Pious Ali <PAli@portlandmaine.gov>, "atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov" <atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov>, vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov, "azarro@portlandmaine.gov" <azarro@portlandmaine.gov>, "mdion@portlandmaine.gov" <mdion@portlandmaine.gov>, "rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov" <rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov>, "rphillips@portlandmaine.gov" <rphillips@portlandmaine.gov>, PublicComment@portlandmaine.gov

I am writing as a West End resident and taxpaying homeowner **to register my objection to the 3 proposed city ordinances to enact an Encampment Sweeps Moratorium**. Encampments erode neighborhood safety. I get that homelessness is a complicated problem, but it is not fair to lay the problem at the doorsteps of homeowners in residential neighborhoods.

The encampments in the West End must be closed as soon as possible. The harbor view park encampment is filled with trash, stolen bicycles and rats. I've seen the drug use there. Individuals at the Western Prom encampment have threatened nearby residents (including an attempted break-in) and the smell of human waste now percolates into the Western Cemetery.

Portland's parks are-- or were-- among its greatest assets. Just a few years ago this was a remarkably walkable city. Now the parks must be avoided. But the parks belong to the public and we want them back. Ms. Trevorrow's comment, quoted in the Portland Press Herald, that we can all "share" the parks is naive and ignores the reality that being in the vicinity of individuals behaving erratically and unpredictably is frightening.

I must also comment on the absence of action by the Portland police on the issue of stolen bikes in the encampments. During sweeps, police should sequester bikes for a period of time to allow Portland residents an opportunity to identify and take back their stolen bikes. Bike theft in the West End is epidemic.

Mayor elect Mark Dion has the right idea and I support his proposed strategies. Let's end encampments in Portland. And let's hire more police so we can have foot patrols to improve our neighborhood safety in the meantime.

Jean Wiecha

-
Web: www.jeanwiecha.com
Art IG: @jlwiecha
My book IG @discoverherart . More info here
Deep breath in, slow breath out.

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

the encampments

1 message

Christine McHale <camchale13@gmail.com> Sun, Nov 12, 2023 at 5:39 PM
To: PublicComment@portlandmaine.gov

Please do not allow camping over the Winter. It is just flirting with disaster

Thank you.

Christine

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Change of City Code To allow camping….on city property please No

1 message

Suzanne Hunt <shunt2951@gmail.com> Sun, Nov 12, 2023 at 6:23 PM
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

I am against this proposal. It is an invitation to calamity. Will i wake up to a tent pitched on the sidewalk in front of my house…the police, fire, and rescue be undermined and over whelmed. This is a naive and dangerous proposal.
Suzanne Hunt
36 Winter Street
Portland Maine

Sent from my iPad

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Allowing tenting almost everywhere

1 message

Jacqueline Cohen <jackicohen316@gmail.com> Sun, Nov 12, 2023 at 7:14 PM
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

I am totally opposed to the Rodriguez and Trevorrow idea of putting the unhoused in tents around Portland. A plan to place them indoors must be developed and it looks like shortly there will be room in a shelter for many.
Please reject their poorly thought plan.
Jacqueline F Cohen

Sent from my iPhone

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Order # 68-23/24-Allowing Camping and Loitering on Public Property

1 message

e w <eenebw@hotmail.com> Sun, Nov 12, 2023 at 10:30 PM
To: Kate Snyder <ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov>, Mark Dion <mdion@portlandmaine.gov>, Anna Trevorrow <atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov>, Pious Ali <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, Roberto Rodríguez <rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov>, Andrew Zarro <azarro@portlandmaine.gov>, April Fournier <afournier@portlandmaine.gov>, "rphillips@portlandmaine.gov" <rphillips@portlandmaine.gov>, Victoria Pelletier <vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov>, "publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov" <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
Cc: "dwest@portlandmaine.gov" <dwest@portlandmaine.gov>

As a long term resident of Portland I oppose Order # 68-23/24- Allowing Camping and Loitering on Public Property. While I have compassion, concern and some level of first hand experience in dealing with homeless people in Maine, this Order is not the way to help with the problem of homelessness in my opinion. Portland seems to use failed city government policies like those of Portland Or, Seattle Washington and Los Angeles as a role model for many policies in recent time. Simple observation exposes the drastic change of these cities going from places people flocked to live in to what they are today. Why would we want any policies like those in the forementioned cities? Foremost, As we all know, Maine's winter climate is extreme compared to other cities that allow full time tent cities. Encouraging people to live in tents over the winter will likely result in deaths from hypothermia. How is it humane for the city to enable people to live in substandard tents ill equipped for the winter and in which they can freeze to death? Please think through the pros and cons of this seemingly well meaning proposed Order. This includes the scenarios that may happen by the city opening the door to winter/full year round tent cities such as: Liability and responsibility when someone freezes to death … More tents... more needles.. more trash laying around and more unreported crime in these tent cities??

I do not claim to know the answer to the homeless issue but I don't think you have to look too far into this Order of enabling people to freeze to death in an outside tent on city property to see that it will also likely in more tents popping up in the city. Is this really the type of city we want Portland to become?

What puzzles me and many others, is how we can build, find and always seem to be able to provide housing for asylum seekers, many of whom will not be permitted to stay in the U.S., but seem to do nothing of the sort for homeless Mainers. While it is good to find housing for the Asylum seekers, why is it at the expense of Mainer's that are experiencing homelessness? Why is that and how is that even legal or ethical? Shouldn't Portland focus on creating housing for Homeless also instead of giving them what is left over which is not much?

In summary, I can only hope Portland does not provide the green light for deadly winter camping out in tents on city property.

Thank You

Enoch Wenstrom 88 beckett st

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Order 68-23/24

1 message

'Catherine Dougherty' via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov> Mon, Nov 13, 2023 at 2:17 AM
Reply-To: Catherine Dougherty <newmoonbodywork@icloud.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

I am writing to express my concern and staunch disagreement with the proposed amendments to the Portland City Code chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property sponsored by Councilors Roberto Rodriguez and Anna Trevorrow, which would create a temporary exception to the City's prohibition of camping and loitering on City property, which would allow unhoused people to camp on certain public properties from the effective date of the amendments to April 30, 2024.

Officially sanctioning public camping over the winter would be a lazy, cruel and unacceptable response to a vulnerable group of people. Whether they have anywhere to go or not, there is no humanity or compassion in allowing troubled people to live in their own filth, exposed to the elements and all kinds of dangers. It's not compassionate or helpful to simply leave people to their own devices when they're in the throes of addiction or a severe mental health crisis. This council voted against expanding capacity in the new shelter. I understand you had reasons for that, but don't you think crowding the shelter might be preferable to letting these people OD and freeze to death in our public parks over the winter?

Aside from the obvious dread of having every single public park become a hellscape of frozen bodies this coming winter, I object to this proposal because of the city's recent leniency regarding drug abuse and criminal activity within these encampments. The fentanyl crisis is nothing short of horrifying. There are new drugs coming out that are even more destructive. Have you heard of "tranq?" Look into it. You do NOT want to see people on that in the park, I promise.

Nobody who isn't in active addiction can peacefully coexist with those who are. How is it fair to any resident, housed or not, to have to live near an encampment overrun by IV drug addicts? It shouldn't have been allowed to go on for this long, and it needs to end now. City government needs to take responsibility for guiding people with substance abuse disorder into recovery, or if they refuse, removing them from our community.

This isn't just about homelessness either; I'm tired of losing people I know and love to the out of control fentanyl crisis. I'm angry about it. Aren't you? Hasn't it affected you? I want it out of here, not tacitly accepted and out in the open.

Stop enabling addiction and antisocial behavior. Offer our unhoused residents a bed at one of the shelters, substance abuse/ mental health treatment, or at the very least, a bus ticket to somewhere warm.

Thank you,

Catherine Malia
165 Summit Park Ave, Portland, ME 04103

Sent from my iPhone

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Camping and Loitering on Public Property

1 message

'Stephanie Dambrie' via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov> Mon, Nov 13, 2023 at 4:56 AM
Reply-To: Stephanie Dambrie <trefethenpi@yahoo.com>
To: "publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov" <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>

We are against allowing Camping and Loitering on Public Property sponsored by Roberto Rodriguez and Anna Trevorrow.

Stephanie and Angela Dambrie
8 Kellogg Street
Portland, Maine 04101

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Homeless Shelters

1 message

jcfiutak@gmail.com <jcfiutak@gmail.com> Mon, Nov 13, 2023 at 6:05 AM
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

Dear Councilors,

First, thank you for all your hard work and service to beautiful Portland, ME.

I believe that creating exemptions to current laws is not wise. If the premise is that these folks want to work and partake in society's normal routines, then provide them a plot outside city limits. Provide them tents in neat orderly arrangements. Provide them waste containers, porta-potties, and water. The fee of admission is that they work every day, for the city. Have buses pick them up in the morning and take them to a location to perform job-corp type work. No work, no stay. All other shelters in the city will be cleared out. The first step in recovery is a routine. If citizens of the city feel charitable then they can deliver supplies in person to the camp.

Jon Fiutak

62 Beach Bluff Terrace

Cape Elizabeth, ME 04017

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Opposition to Order No. 64-23/24 and Order No. 68-23/24

1 message

Chris Stewart <stewart.christopher1@gmail.com> Mon, Nov 13, 2023 at 8:37 AM
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Cc: ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov, atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov, rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov, afournier@portlandmaine.gov, vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov, rphillips@portlandmaine.gov, azarro@portlandmaine.gov, mdion@portlandmaine.gov

My wife and I **strongly oppose** both these proposals:

Order No. 64-23/24 Authorizing Stadium Use Agreement with Portland United LLC
Order No. 68-23/24 Allowing Camping and Loitering on Public Property

The first proposal by Portland United LLC makes the city taxpayers liable for extremely costly expenses that should all be shouldered by Portland United. The city's purpose it not to underwrite private business interests, nor to give private business interests exclusive/preferred access to public facilities.

The Camping and Loitering proposal effectively deprives city residents of access and use of the parks. Public property becomes a trash dump, open sewer, drug dealing mecca, and mental health ward. Such a plan is safe for no one. Expanding shelter services seems much preferred, along with increased financial support from the state and surrounding communities that provide no shelter for the homeless and expect Portland to handle this crisis by itself.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chris Stewart and Beth Snyder
81 North Street,
Portland, Maine
04101

Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>

Order 68-23-24 Camping on public property

1 message

Berry Manter <bmanter1@gmail.com> Mon, Nov 13, 2023 at 10:05 AM
To: mdion@portlandmaine.gov, atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov, Pious Ali <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov, Andrew Zarro <azarro@portlandmaine.gov>, April Fournier <afournier@portlandmaine.gov>, rphillips@portlandmaine.gov, vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov, publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

To Portland City Council -

A version of this following letter was previously sent to Kate Snyder and Danielle West just a few days ago. This letter has been edited.

As Portland struggles with homeless encampments, something that has never before swelled to the populations as in recent years, I ask how this has happened? Yes, we need more indoor shelter beds, more services to address the underlying causes. But the root of this is much bigger than Portland and begs to be addressed at a larger plane. This is a nation-wide problem whose groundswell began long ago when "trickle down" was the GOP plan (beginning with Reagan) and decreased funding for social services that provided substance abuse treatment and mental health service funds were cut. The constant evolution of addictive substances from street drugs to synthetic opioids has struck down those on the margins. As long as Portland valiantly tries to address its city encampment problem alone, the larger it will grow.

Where is the federal level money and support for creating easy access to rehab clinics, mental health services across this country on the national level? While we can swell our resources year after year Portland cannot be the sole solution to a population that grows commensurate to efforts to address these issues. While I understand opposing political implications of "socialism", "bleeding heart liberals" and debt concerns are the counter-cry by certain factions, every civilized culture has had a population of those who fall to hard times, often unable to provide minimal needs to survive, as well as those who flourish beyond imagination — who in good conscience can ignore the far reaching effects of trauma, addiction and poverty that has reverberated through entire families, communities and this entire country? No one goes unaffected.

The solution must be far bigger than Portland. I hope our future mayor and council will reach out and help ignite a nation-wide movement to address these inequities.

Yes to a temporary increase in shelter beds. But, NO to free-range camping on public property due to public safety, the safety of the homeless population and especially health and sanitation issues for the public. Allowing continued encampments is but a meager and risky bandaid.

I write having been a past volunteer with the Preble Street teen shelter as well as "adopting" a young homeless woman a who camped out here on Munjoy Hill several years ago (and ended her life by jumping in front of an Amtrak train). Everyone has a heartbreaking story that very possibly could have been prevented.

Please, keep both the homeless and the public safe by adding safe beds to our shelters and uniting with national efforts to seek services for these troubled people.

Berry Manter
Portland, ME

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Althea Turner <turneral@spsdme.org>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Support Order 68-23/24
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 12:20:22 PM

Hello,

As a citizen of Portland, I want to live in a city that is compassionate and just. A speaker at this week's vigil for our unhoused neighbors noted that the greatest measure of a city's strength is how the most marginalized people who live there are doing. Our unhoused community members are those people, and they are being unfairly targeted by the city's sweeps of encampments.

I am a social worker who has worked with many of our unhoused neighbors at Preble Street, Maine Medical Center, and local schools. I have seen first hand how encampments can provide safety, warmth, and a strong sense of community for those who live in them. City sweeps are a cruel way to remove the "unsightliness" of homelessness without actually providing any meaningful care. The city has attempted to cover up its cruelty by encouraging our unhoused neighbors to go to DHHS for housing support during these sweeps. We, the social service providers in the city, know all too well that sending a person to DHHS is an action that has little chance of actually making a difference. The city does not have enough beds for our unhoused community members. Sending folks to wait in a line while potentially missing out on other critical services, just to be reminded that there are not enough beds, is unjust. I think you all know that, too.

I ask that each council member support Order 68-23/24 to allow our unhoused neighbors to be in community with one another. I know that encampments are not a permanent solution, but clearing them is a death sentence to those who suffer most from our housing crisis. Please consider passing this order to support a more compassionate and human Portland for all who live here.

Thank you,

Althea Turner

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Holly Mitchell <hmitchell@kw.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Proposed ordinance regarding encampments.
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 12:19:08 PM

Good afternoon

As a resident, tax payer, and realtor in the city of Portland I strongly oppose an ordnance legalizing encampments on public property.

There needs to be another solution besides making our public spaces camps.

It prioritizes some over everyone and will result in the destruction of public space

Holly

Holly Bentley Mitchell, PhD
Founder, ABODE Real Estate Group
Keller Williams Realty
Portland, Maine 04102
C 207.650.6176
O 207.879.9800

Abodeteam.com
JoinAbode.com

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Damon Yakovleff <damon.yakovleff@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Fwd: Support for Order 68, with Reasonable Amendments
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 11:36:04 AM

Please include this as a public comment for the November 20 Council meeting. Thank you.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Damon Yakovleff** <damon.yakovleff@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Nov 13, 2023 at 1:11 PM
Subject: Support for Order 68, with Reasonable Amendments
To: <council@portlandmaine.gov>
Cc: Danielle West-Chuhta <dwest@portlandmaine.gov>

Honorable Mayor and Councilors,

I am writing in support of the proposed Order 68 that is before you, with reasonable amendments to address issues brought forward by staff and key stakeholders. Sometimes policy questions offer an opportunity for feel-good, win-win outcomes. Unfortunately, I do not believe this is one of those situations, especially in the short term. Hard decisions need to be made, and it is crucial that those decisions do not unjustly affect those least able to accommodate hardships, our unhoused population.

While I understand condoning camping is a very hard political decision to make, the de-facto policy to concentrate large numbers of unhoused people at Harbor View Park is not a just solution. There should be more areas available, both to enhance safety for our unhoused people and lessen the impact on the immediate neighborhood.

That being said, I do think some reasonable restrictions on camping locations can be beneficial and would be in the public interest. It is especially important to ensure that winter sidewalk snow clearing operations are not impacted by camping, to promote safety of the general public and avoid impacts on campers by heavy snow removal equipment.

Crucially, we need time to start addressing the root causes of homelessness and build housing first facilities and supportive shelters. And we need to identify policy changes at existing shelters to remove barriers that have encouraged people to continue preferring to live outdoors. We should do these things as quickly as possible, but they cannot happen instantly. Furthermore, we will have a new Mayor and new Councilors on board shortly. Let us give the unhoused population a chance to find safer spaces, and our new elected officials, with their fresh perspectives, a chance to work with longer-serving Councilors to find solutions.

For all of these reasons, I advocate you to pass Order 68 with reasonable amendments addressing concerns raised.

Sincerely,

Damon Yakovleff
Bolton Street

From: Damon Yakovleff on behalf of Damon Yakovleff <damon.yakovleff@gmail.com>
To: Dena Libner
Subject: Re: Support for Order 68, with Reasonable Amendments
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 11:35:14 AM

Thank you very much, I will do so.

On Wed, Nov 15, 2023 at 8:45 AM Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov> wrote:

> Thank you for your email.
>
> If you intended your email to be included as written public comment in the November 20 Council agenda materials, please make sure to send it to publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov before November 19, 2023 at 12pm.
>
> Sincerely,
>
> Dena Libner
> Chief of Staff
>
> On Mon, Nov 13, 2023 at 1:11 PM Damon Yakovleff <damon.yakovleff@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> > Honorable Mayor and Councilors,
> >
> > I am writing in support of the proposed Order 68 that is before you, with reasonable amendments to address issues brought forward by staff and key stakeholders. Sometimes policy questions offer an opportunity for feel-good, win-win outcomes. Unfortunately, I do not believe this is one of those situations, especially in the short term. Hard decisions need to be made, and it is crucial that those decisions do not unjustly affect those least able to accommodate hardships, our unhoused population.
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> > Crucially, we need time to start addressing the root causes of homelessness and build housing first facilities and supportive shelters. And we need to identify policy changes at existing shelters to remove barriers that have encouraged people to continue preferring to live outdoors. We should do these things as quickly as possible, but they cannot happen instantly. Furthermore, we will have a new Mayor and new Councilors on board shortly. Let us give the unhoused population a chance to find safer spaces, and our new elected officials, with their fresh perspectives, a chance to work with longer-serving Councilors to find solutions.

For all of these reasons, I advocate you to pass Order 68 with reasonable amendments addressing concerns raised.

Sincerely,

Damon Yakovleff
Bolton Street

Notice: Under Maine law, documents - including e-mails - in the possession of public officials or city employees about government business may be classified as public records. There are very few exceptions. As a result, please be advised that what is written in an e-mail could be released to the public and/or the media if requested.

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Jeremy Lock <jlock619@hotmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Encampments in Public Spaces and Parks
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 11:20:33 AM

Dear City Council,
I implore you to not legalize encampments in public spaces and parks as it's a major health and safety risk to all, including camp residents. If allowed, this would be a terrible example of city leadership as your constituents clearly do not want this to happen. Please find a more sensible way to deal with the unhoused population. Thank you for your time.

Jeremy Lock
Broker | Partner

Waypoint Brokers Collective
C | (207) 747-7871
O | (207) 804-2012
jeremy@waypointbrokers.com
waypointbrokers.com
85 Exchange St, 3rd Fl | Portland, ME 04101

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Toji Perlman <tojiperlman@hotmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Encampments in Public parks
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 11:02:59 AM

Hello Representatives,

I would like to write to ask you to remember that in our representative democracy, that you represent the will of all of your constituents. While we must be thoughtful and compassionate toward those who are experiencing homelessness, I hope you keep in mind the wellbeing of those who do have housing and who vote in our communities. One of the reasons that Portland is such a wonderful city is its wonderful parks that all can enjoy. Community comes together in these parks and we get to mix with our neighbors in nature. I believe encampments stop this from happening, and degrade the hard work that our city parks service and various nonprofits put into making the parks a welcoming and safe space. Our common areas are just that. A place for all to use, but not abuse. If they are abused then that hurts all Portlanders. City ordinances protect the parks from abuse and should be upheld. The unhoused situation is complicated and much needs to be done. I challenge you to find solutions that protect the safety and well-being of those experiencing homelessness and those who have homes, such as making services more available, building low income and transitional housing, and leveraging development to contribute to creating a better safety net for low income residents.

Thank You,
Toji Perlman

Sent from my iPhone

From: cgianniny@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Caitlin Gianniny <cgianniny@everyactioncustom.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 9:56:54 AM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Caitlin Gianniny
235 Brighton Ave Portland, ME 04102-2336
cgianniny@gmail.com

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of bailey100@gwi.net
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	End the sweeps and support public encampents
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 9:42:06 AM

As long time residents of Portland we are writing to support the proposal by Council Members Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriquez to allow public encampments during the winter months. We understand that this is a temporary only solution but at least it would ease the burdens for the homeless population for a time.

We have been distressed by the sweeps and want them to end and this proposal would help. My father was Joe Kreisler, who started the Preble Street Resource Center. He felt that Portland was mostly a caring place that tried to find humane solutions to the problems faced by those without resources. I often think how distressed he would be if he saw what is happening now with the sweeps.

My husband and I understand that this is a difficult problem with no easy solutions but it is important not to continue to do things that clearly don't work and to try to act in a way that recognizes we are all human beings and should all be treated accordingly.

Thank you.

Janice Bailey

Ken Bailey

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Mary Conroy <mary@portsidereg.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Homelessness encampments
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 9:23:27 AM

Hello
I am writing to tell you that I think this is a horrible idea. You are letting this City fall apart. This will impact real estate values and the cities overall tax basis. We need to take our City back, not give into this situation. Portland has never been a city filled with homelessness. Why are you allowing this to happen before our eyes? I urge you to reconsider.
Sincerely
Mary Conroy

From:	erringtontori@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Max Errington <erringtontori@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 9:16:55 AM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Max Errington
105 Rowe Ave Portland, ME 04102-1421
erringtontori@gmail.com

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Fred Andrews <spectrumrealestatellc@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Encampments
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 9:08:57 AM

Hello,

Please do not do anything that would allow encampments in public spaces and parks!!! You are pouring gasoline on a fire instead of water! Embracing these encampments is steadily driving business and homeowners out of the city. Your legacy as city councilors should be the exact opposite of what you are doing.

I feel you are neglecting the rights of the tax payers in Portland to be able to access and feel safe in areas we pay to use and maintain. This needs to end for all involved.

I look forward to seeing you on Monday night!

Thank you,

Fred Andrews
207-233-6699

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Laura Madsen <laura.madsen@exprealty.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Enough is enough.
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 9:04:26 AM

Hello,

As a citizen, resident, and business owner who operates in Portland, it would concern me greatly if the encampments were allowed to continue here.

There have been concerns addressed by a plethora of concerns from physical safety to destruction of property that the city continues to ignore!

Why is this happening?

The last I knew, there were options for finding a safe indoor facility and adding to the current shelters.

Enough is enough. Those people should be in a shelter and not on the streets of Portland.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns,
Laura

upload image

Laura Walker Madsen
MAINE LIVING REAL ESTATE
Client Specialist + Marketing + Team Support
P: 207.401.5333 M: 207.210.7414
A: 510 Main Street (Rte. 25) Gorham, Maine 04038
W: maineliving.me E: laura@maineliving.me

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Jen Hoffer <jenhoffer4@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Support Order 68
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 8:47:04 AM

Hello,

I urge you to support Order 68; the encampment sweeps are inhumane and do not provide any realistic or accessible alternative for people to go. It is unsettling to me how willing the city has been to literally sweep people without permanent housing to the side, when we could easily allocate resources toward sustainable housing solutions. It is truly perturbing to walk around the city I call home, viscerally feeling how its leaders willingly and callously choose to tend to the wealthy, forgetting the rest of the citizens who make up Portland's heart and soul. It's really devastating to feel the dissonance of the wonderful community of people here next to what feels like pure greed coming from the powers that lead us.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hoffer
86 Vesper St, Portland, ME 04101

From:	"Ed Musholt" via Public Comment on behalf of "Ed Musholt" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Camping in public parks
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 8:38:35 AM

Dear Council Members, It has come to my attention that the city council is considering allowing camping in city parks into the Spring. Having had multiple visits to Portland Oregon, where this is permitted I can attest to the disastrous consequences of such a policy not the least of which has been a significant loss of business and tax revenue. Social discord has increased, the police tasked with maintaining public harmony are demoralized and the ability to help those in need degraded. Citizens avoid utilizing parks their tax dollars support. The city council's rationale appears to be based on the unproven idea that smaller encampments are safer. This is a flawed assumption. This policy will disperse crime through the city, hinder the identification and potential treatment of those who are mentally ill, addicted or both, and lead to significant public health risks. Lack of appropriate sanitation and garbage removal risks infestation of animal vermin such as rats and increases the probability that such populations will seek shelter in the homes of nearby home owners. Once the privilege of camping in parks is allowed there is no guarantee that those camps will remain small. A privilege once granted is hard to rescind and enforce. While the assumption seems to be that smaller is safer it ignores the fact that isolated and impaired individuals are more likely to be victimized. There appears to be no consideration of how people who are predatory will be constrained from traveling about and encroaching on the vulnerable in smaller encampments and an increase in such encampments would seem to be harder to police. I am strongly opposed to such a plan Please carefully consider the consequences of implementing such a plan and the unintended consequences which can ensue. Finally I would like to note that my concerns are formed both by my prior work as a forensic psychologist (now retired) tasked with mitigating public risk in Wisconsin and by my current incarnation as a grandfather in the beautiful state of Maine who wants to ensure the safety of his grandchildren. Please carefully consider how you proceed. I am strongly in support of emergency housing/shelter that can be flexed as needed to preclude people who are homeless from freezing to death in a harsh winter. Simply dispersing people is not humane!

Sincerely, Ed Musholt PhD

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Kristine Matteo <klmatteo0108@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Fwd: Homeless encampments
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 8:37:58 AM

Writing to ensure my voice AGAINST allowing encampments in Portland is public record

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Dena Libner** <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Wed, Nov 15, 2023 at 8:28 AM
Subject: Re: Homeless encampments
To: Kristine Matteo <klmatteo0108@gmail.com>

Thank you for your email.

If you intended your email to be included as written public comment in the November 20 Council agenda materials, please make sure to send it to publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov before November 19, 2023 at 12pm.

Sincerely,

Dena Libner
Chief of Staff

On Tue, Nov 14, 2023 at 6:10 PM Kristine Matteo <klmatteo0108@gmail.com> wrote:

> I strongly oppose the homeless encampments on any public property. It's ruining our town

Notice: Under Maine law, documents - including e-mails - in the possession of public officials or city employees about government business may be classified as public records. There are very few exceptions. As a result, please be advised that what is written in an e-mail could be released to the public and/or the media if requested.

From:	julia.irene.10@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Julia Hazel <julia.irene.10@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 6:33:37 AM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Julia Hazel
104 Lexington Ave Portland, ME 04103-1921
julia.irene.10@gmail.com

From:	emilycharest12@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Emily Charest <emilycharest12@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 11:15:49 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Emily Charest
19 Lunt Rd Falmouth, ME 04105-1235
emilycharest12@gmail.com

From:	weezerann@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Louisa Radtke Rowe <weezerann@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 10:30:59 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Louisa Radtke Rowe
53 Monument St Portland, ME 04101-4571
weezerann@gmail.com

From:	megcharest02@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Meg Charest <megcharest02@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 10:23:15 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Meg Charest
19 Lunt Rd Falmouth, ME 04105-1235
megcharest02@gmail.com

From:	nick3caruso@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Nick Caruso <nick3caruso@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 10:12:50 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Nick Caruso
55 A Main St Topsham, ME 04086-1203
nick3caruso@gmail.com

From:	ashatamiriza@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Asha Tamirisa <ashatamiriza@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 10:08:49 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Asha Tamirisa
88 Bolton St Portland, ME 04102-2502
ashatamiriza@gmail.com

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Kyle Zortman <kyle.zortman@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Pine Street Lights
Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 10:00:50 PM

Hello,

Multiple lights on pine street have been flickering for about a week. Multiple requests have been acknowledged by the public works department. When will these repairs be complete?

Cheers,
Kyle

From:	portland-city.4c4kv@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Octavian Neamtu <portland-city.4c4kv@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 9:05:25 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

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There must be some other solution.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Octavian Neamtu
70 Thomas St Apt 2 Portland, ME 04102-3673
portland-city.4c4kv@passmail.net

From:	hayles1122@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Haley Brandt <hayles1122@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 8:00:25 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Miss Haley Brandt
145 Sherman St Portland, ME 04101-2198
hayles1122@gmail.com

From:	ariannamaiasims@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Arianna Sims <ariannamaiasims@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 7:57:31 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Arianna Sims
1040 Wake Towne Dr Raleigh, NC 27609-7469
ariannamaiasims@gmail.com

From:	xt.spencer@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Christina Spencer <xt.spencer@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 7:07:45 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Christina Spencer
35 Taylor St Apt 1 Portland, ME 04102-3973
xt.spencer@gmail.com

From:	reneelulamichaud@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Renee Michaud <reneelulamichaud@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 6:48:17 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

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Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The people who are calling to complain about the encampment do not have the best interest of Portland's houseless community in mind. The best interest of Portland's houseless community can only be understood by listening to them directly. If y'all continue to silence Portland's houseless community, you will see the City of Portland falter as a result. Encampment sweeps kill. The longer that your sweeping efforts continue, the further the City of Portland demonstrates itself as a Center of Dehumanizing Practices. The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Renee Michaud
131 Sherman St Apt 4 Portland, ME 04101-2103
reneelulamichaud@gmail.com

From:	samspadaforeofficial@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Sampson Spadafore <samspadaforeofficial@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 6:46:45 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sampson Spadafore
304 Eastern Promenade Apt 1 Portland, ME 04101-2719
samspadaforeofficial@gmail.com

From:	isabellaostrowski2@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Izzy Ostrowski <isabellaostrowski2@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 6:39:03 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Izzy Ostrowski
655 Congress St Apt 403 Portland, ME 04101-1311
isabellaostrowski2@gmail.com

From:	bookwormtaxicab@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Caroline Beckwith <bookwormtaxicab@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 6:27:17 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Caroline Beckwith
42 Main Rd N Hampden, ME 04444-1307
bookwormtaxicab@gmail.com

From:	pella1228@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Abigail Pelletier <pella1228@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 6:23:16 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Abigail Pelletier
111 South St Farmington, ME 04938-6823
pella1228@gmail.com

From:	elsafoggvernon@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Elsa Vernon <elsafoggvernon@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 5:53:01 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Elsa Vernon
61 Saint Lawrence St Portland, ME 04101-5282
elsafoggvernon@gmail.com

From:	awashburn@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Alex Washburn <awashburn@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 4:37:45 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Alex Washburn
255 Maine St Brunswick, ME 04011
awashburn@bowdoin.edu

From:	stactran@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Stacey Tran <stactran@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 4:34:41 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Stacey Tran
7 Deerfield Rd Portland, ME 04101-1805
stactran@gmail.com

From:	mimiwswim@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Maria West <mimiwswim@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 4:18:53 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Maria West
398 HIGH St Wiscasset, ME 04578
mimiwswim@gmail.com

From:	ahmjazz@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Ahmad Muhammad <ahmjazz@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 4:06:19 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mr. Ahmad Muhammad
24 May St Portland, ME 04102-3734
ahmjazz@gmail.com

From:	ahmjazz@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Ahmad Muhammad <ahmjazz@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 4:02:31 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mr. Ahmad Muhammad
24 May St Portland, ME 04102-3734
ahmjazz@gmail.com

From:	"roger zimmerman" via Public Comment on behalf of "roger zimmerman" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	correction to my 11/14/23 E mail to you.
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 3:55:31 PM

In the 7th paragraph there is an error. In the last line of that paragraph the word "unavoidable" appears.
It should be :
"avoidable"

Please read it with the correction.

Thanks

Roger Zimmerman
14 Pleasant Ave.
Portland, Maine

From:	"roger zimmerman" via Public Comment on behalf of "roger zimmerman" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Passing order 68
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 3:46:53 PM

I urge Portland City Council to stop the criminalization of the homeless population. Passage of order 68 would be a needed corrective.

Sweeps of encampments are but one example-albeit a glaring one-of such criminalization. Passing order 68 would at least put a temporary stop to these 'people clearings'.

Marginalized people make up the majority of the unhoused. That's the reality. We neither help, save money, clean up the city, etc. by simply removing swaths of people and destroying what little they have. What we do accomplish is this: further isolation of citizens who happen to be down and out. Being "down and out" should not be a crime. Here's something else we accomplish: a further entrenchment of the "othering process". These folks are real people, not abstractions. They're fellow citizens.

Out-of-sight, out-of mind, seems to have been the unspoken guideline. We should engage our better angels.

Sweeps have a long history tinged with racism. Such acts also violate human rights that are (presumably) constitutionally protected, e.g. 4th amendment. From a physical health perspective they exacerbate ongoing medical problems. The negative impact on mental and emotional health is obvious, and study findings are available and in the public domain.

Marginalized people lack resources, which is how many individuals end up marginalized in the first place. Sweeping away people does little more than deepen distrust in government and officials. Remember: these are people, these are fellow citizens; not abstractions.

Here's something else. Winter is coming on, which means cold, wet, raw conditions. It is a recipe for serious hypothermia amongst many of the unhoused. As a Registered Maine Guide and Wilderness First Responder (WFR) I can tell you that severe hypothermia is a life threatening condition that is difficult to treat even within a formal medical care unit. To boot, it is pretty unavoidable by providing stable, warm, and decent housing.

I think these sweeps are a waste of public funds. Why? Because they are ineffective; they do not solve the problem of homelessness. They worsen the problem. Again: out-of-sight, out-of-mind appears as the guiding light.

Well, here's a way better guiding light. Provide safe, affordable housing along with access to relevant and necessary social services. Hard to do? You bet. But that's part of your job-the job you applied for.

In a nutshell, here's my bottom line. Criminalizing the down and out , along with it's associated 'get rid of 'em idea, is simply, wrong. Way wrong.

Roger Zimmerman, Ph.D.
14 Pleasant Ave.
Portland, Maine

From:	joannajag1@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Joanna Gerber <joannajag1@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 2:40:46 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Joanna Gerber
229 Derwen Road 229 Derwen Rd 229 Derwen Road Merion Station, PA 19066
joannajag1@gmail.com

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Sosanya Pok <sosanyapok@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Support for order 68 - stop the sweeps!
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 2:10:23 PM

Dear Portland City Council,

I am writing in support of the amendment to order 68 proposed by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez to Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code.

Encampment sweeps are dangerous and not a solution to homelessness. Please stop the sweeps, and focus on real solutions, like more affordable housing for Portlanders.

~~Sosanya Pok (she/her/hers)~~

From:	janbindastenney@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jan Bindas-Tenney <janbindastenney@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 12:49:15 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

I live in South Portland. But I wholeheartedly support this. The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jan Bindas-Tenney
39 Mclean St South Portland, ME 04106-6118
janbindastenney@gmail.com

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Eric Brackett <ericscottbrackett@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Cc:	ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Nov 20th vote
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 12:45:08 PM

As a 10th+ generation Mainer and lifetime Portland resident, my family and household is counting on you to vote against allowing public camping and to remove the encampment at harbor view park. We have been harassed, been broken into, had possessions stolen and have to fear for our safety on a daily basis. This cannot continue in a residential neighborhood.

Please help us.

Your Constituent,

Eric Brackett

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Barbara DeSerres <bildes49@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Order 68 - A Bad Idea
Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 12:26:53 PM

I wish to express my strong opposition to Order 68. It is bad for the homeless people who have chosen to come to Portland. It is bad for those of us who live here. It is disastrous for our public spaces and a threat to the safety of all who live here.

Legalizing camping in public spaces without facilities, especially in the winter, is irresponsible governance. Enabling the desecration of public spaces, which should be accessible to all, is irresponsible governance. Councilors ignoring the opinions of city employees, who maintain and protect our city, is irresponsible governance.

I live in the West End and have participated in and worked toward the development of HarborView Park for the past several years. We have worked with city employees and volunteer groups to clear brush from the embankment, establish gardens and plant native trees and shrubs. It is heartbreaking to see the destruction of our public space. It is deceptive to define the current encampment as the tent city under the Casco Bay Bridge. It is an encampment that is destroying a public park; a fate I would not wish on any of the other 65 parks in Portland.

Barbara DeSerres
West End, Portland

Sent from my iPad

From:	mikayla.patel@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Mikayla Patel <mikayla.patel@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 12:11:57 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Let's think of solutions that center each and every person's humanity first and foremost. Rather than simply brushing people to the side, let's invite everyone into the conversations about how to build the most inclusive and welcoming city for all.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mikayla Patel
9 Jordan St Portland, ME 04103-5343
mikayla.patel@gmail.com

From: council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Aaron Engebreth <aengebreth@hotmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Opposition to Amendment
Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 10:59:35 AM

To the council:

I write in opposition to the amendment forwarded by councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez which would end Homeless Encampment Sweeps and therefore allow homeless camping in public places outdoors in Portland through March.

I believe this proposal to be misguided. Rather, I ask you to please stand with Homeless advocates from around the community by urging increased capacity at existing shelters, placing temporary holds on incoming refugee populations (until we have our house in order here in Portland). Then, we can and should open our arms to refugees again.

The sweeps may be bad optics but allowing the lost, mentally ill and drug addicted to die in cold public parks is far worse.

Aaron Engebreth
69 Morning Street
Portland, Maine

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Susan Lyons <susan.lyons01@gmail.com>
To: PublicComment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: allowing overnight camping until April 30, 2024
Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 10:57:37 AM

Dear City Council members and Mayor:
I write in hopes you will not vote to pass the Encampment Sweeps Moratorium read at the 11/13 council meeting.

First, it's not necessary in the sense that overnight camping has been passively allowed by not enforcing existing provisions around vagrancy, public intoxication, hours of operation of parks.

Second, the encampments do not provide basic warmth, security, safety, or sanitary needs (The two porto-toilets at Harbor View are woefully insufficient.). On the contrary, they are dangerous to the health and welfare of the inhabitants, particularly as they continue to grow.

Third, there's an assumption that the sweeps are cruel and heartless. I don't agree. The City, particularly health and human services, has been diligent about reaching out: onsite workers, access to sheltered options, storage for belongings. I think it's possible to define and work with the subset of unhoused who may not meet the criteria for shelter (pets, families) without demonizing the process of closing down the encampments. It also seems unfair to continue to put public safety officers, city workers, and the campers themselves at risk because of the conditions of the encampments.

Susan Lyons, 25 High Street, #301
Portland 04101

From:	karolyngreenstreet@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Karolyn Buck <karolyngreenstreet@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 10:57:22 AM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

I honestly can't believe we're still having to advocate for this. Why are we punishing people for a systemic problem that they can't do anything about? It's not their fault they are homeless. Our system is broken. Using taxpayer resources to disrupt their lives even more is beyond short sighted, it is cruel and demoralizing for everyone involved. I don't like seeing homeless encampments anymore than anyone else, but at least it's a community. You're just destroying what little these people have. The only thing worse than seeing a homeless encampment, is seeing it get destroyed. Leave the encampments and use those resources to fix the root of the problem. To keep thinking we are fixing the problem by sweeping is the very definition of psychosis.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mrs Karolyn Buck
102 Berrys Mill Rd West Bath, ME 04530-6333
karolyngreenstreet@gmail.com

From:	courtney.pladsen@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Courtney Pladsen <courtney.pladsen@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 9:19:08 AM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Dr. Courtney Pladsen
374 Broadway South Portland, ME 04106-2914
courtney.pladsen@gmail.com

From:	gracevsullivan@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Grace Sullivan <gracevsullivan@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 8:33:28 AM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Ms. Grace Sullivan
26 Stanley St S Portland, ME 04106-6616
gracevsullivan@gmail.com

From:	putnam.hannah@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Ray Putnam <putnam.hannah@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 8:17:47 AM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mx. Ray Putnam
26 Stanley St South Portland, ME 04106-6616
putnam.hannah@gmail.com

From:	mvdavies17@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Marly Davies <mvdavies17@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 8:16:40 AM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Marly Davies
232 Brighton Ave Portland, ME 04102-2343
mvdavies17@gmail.com

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Johannah Hart <hartjohannah1@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Fwd: homeless encampments
Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 7:49:42 AM

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Johannah Hart <hartjohannah1@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Nov 11, 2023 at 9:19 AM
Subject: homeless encampments
To: <council@portlandmaine.gov>

Dear councilors,
I urge you to ban homeless encampments on publicly owned land.
While it may be emotionally (& politically) beneficial, it is not the
way to run a city.
Are you familiar w/ Santa Monica CA history? Sincerely, Johannah Hart

From:	dwrose201@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Destiny Wilkens <dwrose201@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 6:51:42 AM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mx. Destiny Wilkens
645 Congress St Portland, ME 04101-3373
dwrose201@gmail.com

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of DM Nguyen <ruhajj@gmail.com>
To:	council@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Unhoused Portlanders
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 1:20:33 AM

I have noticed that the encampments in Portland have been disappearing. We have an apartment near my husband's work on Foreriver. The encampments at Foreriver, Deering Oaks, Park and Ride, Noyes building have been disappearing. We thought wow, the city must be helping these folks find shelter for the winter. I felt more comfortable with the tidy cleaned up spaces around town. Honestly, I felt more comfortable about not having to think about my humanity on the way to Whole Foods.

Color me surprised when I heard out front of city hall tonight (from folks living it) that the city of Portland has been playing "wack a mole", chasing the unhoused from location to location.

Each time a location is swept, people are dispersed to become even less visible, less protected (by each other, and social services), and more vulnerable. They loose what little they have and instead of keeping appointments for help, medical care, housing appointments they have to find food for the day, blankets, coats, shoes, shelter…

We are reminded, a measure of a people is how their most vulnerable are treated. We need to pass order 68 and stop encampment sweeps. Let's temporarily created designated safer spaces for folks to camp in instead of hiding our impoverishes, our vulnerable, our marginalized.

Thank you,

Dawn Nguyen and Laurence Averill
35 Frederic St, Apt 3
Portland, ME 04102

From: council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Alexa Pappas <apappas319@gmail.com>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: PLEASE PASS ORDER 68
Date: Monday, November 13, 2023 11:14:55 PM

Hello,

I urge you all to pass order 68 as the first of many necessary steps the city must take to ensure our unhoused neighbors are taken care of. Each sweep is a racist, violent, traumatic upheaval of camp sites providing the community and safety this city fails to. As a social worker and former outreach worker with our unhoused community from 2018-2022, I have seen first hand the devastation these sweeps have on my friends living in encampments. Every death of our unhoused family is preventable and a failure of the city of Portland to protect its own. Stop listening to the egregiously ignorant individuals complaining about people camping out and listen to the data and personal stories of people dying as a direct result of these displacements and the importance of these communities. Passing order 68 is the bare minimum, do your jobs and care about your people.

Alexa Pappas, East End
--
All the best,

Alexa Pappas

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Alexa Pappas <apappas319@gmail.com>
To:	counsil@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	PLEASE PASS ORDER 68
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 11:11:29 PM

Hello,

I urge you all to pass order 68 as the first of many necessary steps the city must take to ensure our unhoused neighbors are taken care of. Each sweep is a racist, violent, traumatic upheaval of camp sites providing the community and safety this city fails to. As a social worker and former outreach worker with our unhoused community from 2018-2022, I have seen first hand the devastation these sweeps have on my friends living in encampments. Every death of our unhoused family is preventable and a failure of the city of Portland to protect its own. Stop listening to the egregiously ignorant individuals complaining about people camping out and listen to the data and personal stories of people dying as a direct result of these displacements and the importance of these communities. Passing order 68 is the bare minimum, do your jobs and care about your people.
--
All the best,

Alexa Pappas

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Jessica Barker <jessybarker77@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Support for order 68 - stop the sweeps!
Date: Monday, November 13, 2023 11:04:19 PM

Dear Portland City Council,

I am writing in support of the amendment to order 68 proposed by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez to Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code.

Encampment sweeps are dangerous and not a solution to homelessness. Please stop the sweeps, and focus on real solutions, like more affordable housing for Portlanders.

Sent from my iPhone

From: council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of jude brzozowski <judebrzski@gmail.com>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: LD 68
Date: Monday, November 13, 2023 10:49:06 PM

Dear Council,
I'm writing to express my support for LD 68 to enact a moratorium on encampment sweeps. While it is clear that some community members are upset by the visibility of the unhoused community, sweeping encampments does nothing but make it more difficult for unhoused people to get back onto their feet because it causes them to lose both important belongings such as identification and fragments the unhoused community. When people lose their identification in sweeps (which is to say when their belongings are stolen by the police) it makes it significantly more difficult to maintain benefits, employment, housing, and other services, making it even more difficult for them to improve their circumstances. Encampment sweeps try to shove people around the city as if that will make them disappear. A fair and just community would not do that to people with nowhere else to go.
Please pass LD68 and prove that Portland is a compassionate community, Seek to get people into homes instead of shoving them around the city and fragmenting their communities.

Jude Brzozowski
106 Ocean Avenue, Old Orchard Beach, ME

From:	sarah.s.katz@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Sarah Katz <sarah.s.katz@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Please: Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 10:42:35 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

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Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sarah Katz
61 Monument St Portland, ME 04101-4367
sarah.s.katz@gmail.com

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Stephen Carpenter <presumpscot@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Support for order 68 - stop the sweeps!
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 10:42:35 PM

Dear Portland City Council,

I am writing in support of the amendment to order 68 proposed by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez to Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code.

Encampment sweeps are dangerous and not a solution to homelessness. Please stop the sweeps, and focus on real solutions, like more affordable housing for Portlanders.

Sent from my iPhone

From:	janelleanastacio@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Janelle Anastacio <janelleanastacio@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 10:31:32 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Janelle Anastacio
15 Memory Ln Buxton, ME 04093-3765
janelleanastacio@gmail.com

From:	ginnjulien@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of jules ginn <ginnjulien@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps now!!! Pass Order 68-23/24!
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 10:27:07 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
jules ginn
62 Marion Jordan Rd Scarborough, ME 04074-9422
ginnjulien@gmail.com

From:	stroutjulia@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Julia Strout <stroutjulia@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 10:22:21 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Julia Strout
74 Winter St Apt 3 Portland, ME 04102-5323
stroutjulia@gmail.com

From: council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Ryan Kleinert <ryan.kleinert@gmail.com>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Order 68
Date: Monday, November 13, 2023 9:50:04 PM

Portland City Council,

I am a resident of Portand and I am strongly urging you to Pass order 68 to stop the callous encampment sweeps!!! Encampment sweeps are not the answer! They have dire consequences on our unhoused neighbors.I urge you to choose compassion and empathy and pass order 68.

Sincerely,

-Ryan Kleinert

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Ryan Kleinert <ryan.kleinert@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Order 68
Date: Monday, November 13, 2023 9:49:38 PM

Portland City Council,

I am a resident of Portand and I am strongly urging you to Pass order 68 to stop the callous encampment sweeps!!! Encampment sweeps are not the answer! They have dire consequences on our unhoused neighbors.I urge you to choose compassion and empathy and pass order 68.

Sincerely,

-Ryan Kleinert

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Penelope Simpson <penelopesimpson03@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps.
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 9:37:31 PM

Hello,
I'm a Portland resident writing to urge Portland city councilors to support Order 68. I want to be a part of a community that shows all of its members kindness and compassion. Unhoused people have the right to exist. Criminalizing people simply because they cannot afford housing further perpetuates the systemic violence that puts people on the streets in the first place. Sweeps threaten people's constitutional rights, worsen the homelessness crisis, and disproportionately harm Black and Brown people. Stopping the sweeps will give people a chance to survive the winter months in the communities they have built.
Sincerely,
Penelope Simpson
14 Hamlin Ct.
Portland, ME
04102

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Annika Schmitt <annikarea.76@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the Sweeps
Date: Monday, November 13, 2023 9:37:29 PM

Hello,

I am a Portland resident writing to voice my support for passing order 68-23/24. It's important to me to be a part of a community that shows kindness to all of its members. With colder months approaching and the health and safety of our neighbors in jeopardy, I hope that we may all do what we can to help and to show empathy.

Annika Schmitt
14 Hamlin Crt
Portland, ME 04101

From:	jillianmcleodtardiff@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jillian McLeod-Tardoff <jillianmcleodtardiff@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 9:37:07 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jillian McLeod-Tardoff
6 Robinson Ave Brunswick, ME 04011-2810
jillianmcleodtardiff@gmail.con

From:	algross96@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Arielle Gross <algross96@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 9:34:07 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Arielle Gross
59 Oakdale St # 1 Portland, ME 04103-4834
algross96@gmail.com

From:	penelopesimpson03@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Penelope Simpson <penelopesimpson03@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps! Pass Order 68-23/24!
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 9:23:00 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Penelope Simpson
14 Hamlin Ct Apt 2 Portland, ME 04102-4006
penelopesimpson03@gmail.com

From: annikarea.76@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Annika Schmitt <annikarea.76@everyactioncustom.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date: Monday, November 13, 2023 9:21:17 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Annika Schmitt
14 Hamlin Ct Portland, ME 04102-4006
annikarea.76@gmail.com

From:	council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Eva Fury <eva@furyeveryday.com>
To:	Council@portlandmaine.gov; Publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Pass Order 68: Stop the Encampment Sweeps
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 8:55:58 PM

Dear Portland City Council,
Please pass order 68 and stop clearing encampments of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeping the encampments breaks up communities trying to survive and access basic care. The sweeps are killing people and making it even more challenging for service workers to provide aid to the most vulnerable.

I would like to live in a city that cares for individual human life and dignity, a city that honors the life of the living as we mourn those lost in Lewiston and Maine this year. Stand on the side of justice and community. Stop the sweeps.

Eva Fury
22 Orange Street
Portland, Maine 04102

--
Eva Fury
(they/them)

Ask me about Kindling Collective

From:	sagefriedman@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Sage Friedman <sagefriedman@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24 because it is the right thing to do
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 8:40:36 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sage Friedman
126 North St Unit 2D Portland, ME 04101-5709
sagefriedman@gmail.com

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Jay Stonerook <jestonerook@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Support for order 68 - stop the sweeps!
Date: Monday, November 13, 2023 8:33:52 PM

Dear Portland City Council,

I am writing in support of the amendment to order 68 proposed by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez to Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code.

Encampment sweeps are dangerous and not a solution to homelessness. Please stop the sweeps, and focus on real solutions, like more affordable housing for Portlanders.

There is nowhere for our unhoused neighbors to go. They often lose many of their belongings in these sweeps, including items donated by the housed community to help them survive living outside, and simply end up at another encampment. The only problem solved by sweeping encampments is preventing the more privileged of us from having to see them. It does not provide housing. It does not encourage those without homes to seek help at shelters. It only proves to them that the city does not care about them as humans, but sees them as a nuisance.

I know how lucky I am to have housing, even if I can barely afford my studio apartment in Portland with my full time, salaried position. I am lucky to have only ever been temporarily without housing, and lucky to have had friends with couches to crash on. I am lucky to have avenues through which I can access my medications. I am lucky not to have to drink myself into a stupor just to get a bit of sleep.

Please consider the actual ramifications of these actions. When you put the interests of businesses above these individuals, you show just how little they mean to you.

They are people. A few more missed paychecks and I could be right there with them. I'm sure many Portlanders would. These are our neighbors. Treat them as such. I challenge you to get to know them, any of them.

Stop the sweeps.

Thank you,
Jay Stonerook
District 1 Constituent

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Drew Sigfridson <dsigfridson@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 8:33:10 PM

I am not in favor of creating a temporary exception to the city's prohibition on camping and loitering on City property from the date of amendment through April 30, 2024.

This is a dangerous and slippery slope we are going down as a city and the city's policies could have a detrimental impact and compound an already dire situation.

An alternative strategy may be to temporary lift the cost-prohibitive green building code upgrade requirements and/or zoning restrictions to get people out of the weather for the winter months, on a temporary basis, in existing, vacant buildings.

Drew Sigfridson

69 Brookside Road

Portland Maine 04103

C: 207.831.5838

From:	"Constantina Vathis" via Public Comment on behalf of "Constantina Vathis" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	ATrevorrow@PortlandMaine.gov; RRodriguez@PortlandMaine.gov
Cc:	PublicComment@PortlandMaine.gov
Subject:	Homeless Encampments
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 8:18:35 PM

Dear Ms. Trevorrow and Mr. Rodriguez,

I am writing regarding my concern for the Encampment Sweeps Moratorium which will allow overnight camping in several city parks and on sidewalks throughout the city until April 30, 2024.

Allowing tents to stay in our parks through April, or any timeframe for that matter, is not the answer. This is a very dangerous idea and as a homeowner in the West End of Portland, I am 110% against this.

Allowing encampments will bring nothing but negative results for our community. Small business owners will suffer, our residents will no longer be able to enjoy our parks, tourism will decline, and our overall safety is at risk which should be a top priority for you as our City Council Members.

I have witnessed drug sales and drug use in the middle of the day in multiple encampment locations around the city. This cannot be allowed; we cannot let this happen.

Our parks and neighborhoods must remain safe places for our community to enjoy.

Thank you for your time,
Constantina Vathis
Portland, Maine

From:	adynnkitchin@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Adynn Kitchin <adynnkitchin@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 7:57:51 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Adynn Kitchin
25 Bedford St Portland, ME 04101-1929
adynnkitchin@gmail.com

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Isabelle Jade <isajaded@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Order 68
Date: Monday, November 13, 2023 7:44:23 PM

To members of the Portland City Council,

I am writing to urge the passage of Order 68 to temporarily stop the sweeps and the enforcement of the public camping and loitering bands. The current protocol and continuing actions taken by the city to displace unhoused Portlanders— our community members—are dangerous, counterproductive, and in direct conflict with the moral and ethical conscience of the citizens of this city, state, and country.

Social service workers and folks on the front lines of this issue are begging for a change in policy and approach. Sweeps break trust between the city's institutions/social resources and the populations who need support, derailing any hope of moving forward and upward. If the city is going to rely on non-profit and volunteer organizations to carry the brunt of the work to keep our unhoused population safe, we NEED to honor their requests and listen to their pleas. Stopping the sweeps will save lives.

We need concrete solutions to our housing crisis and homelessness in the city, and until we can find these solutions we MUST center policy around compassion and the acknowledgment of basic human rights and decency. It is the only way to keep ALL community members safe, build trust between citizens, government, and service workers, and pave the way for a better future for the city of Portland.
Thank you for your time and for your vote,
Isabelle Jade Desroches
28 Norwood st, Portland ME 04103

From:	mebecks@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Elise Becksvoort <mebecks@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 7:41:24 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mx. Elise Becksvoort
23 Linden St Auburn, ME 04210-4738
mebecks@gmail.com

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Mat Mahoney <mat.mahoney@gmail.com>
To:	pali@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov
Cc:	PublicComment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Encampment Sweeps Moratorium
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 7:15:25 PM

Dear City Council Members

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed Encampment Sweeps Moratorium legislation that would legalize overnight camping throughout our cities parks and green spaces. As a Portland resident, home owner and taxpayer, I believe this measure would have detrimental effects on our neighborhood for several reasons.

Firstly, the preservation of public spaces is crucial for the community's well-being. Our parks are designed for daytime recreational activities, not for sustained overnight use. Permitting overnight camping will only lead to overuse and degradation of these cherished green spaces, ultimately diminishing their beauty and utility for everyone.

Secondly, there are significant safety and health concerns to consider. An increase in overnight occupancy will only further add to existing sanitation issues, illegal drug use and petty crime in the city. Something I'm sure we can all agree is a bad idea.

Furthermore, this proposal will inadvertently aggravate the homelessness issue and not help it as it's only a temporary fix. While I empathize with the plight of the unhoused, allowing camping in public spaces is not the answer.

Our parks should remain spaces where residents can safely enjoy recreation and relaxation, not areas burdened with the complexities of overnight camping.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response and am hopeful for a resolution that prioritizes the well-being and safety of our entire community.

Sincerely,

Mathew Mahoney
9 Lewis st
Portland, Maine

From:	nikanorris9@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Nika Norris <nikanorris9@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 7:13:35 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

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Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Nika Norris
261 Northeast Rd Standish, ME 04084-6452
nikanorris9@icloud.com

From:	finleymacdonald309@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Finley MacDonald <finleymacdonald309@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 6:45:53 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mx. Finley MacDonald
40 Lily Ln New Gloucester, ME 04260-4063
finleymacdonald309@gmail.com

From:	katesullivanjones@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Kathleen Sullivan-Jones <katesullivanjones@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 6:42:27 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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We need to create a sanctioned camping area and take actual steps to create housing for people instead of just temporary shelter. Anyone who supports these sweeps will never get my vote.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Sullivan-Jones
96 Front St Portland, ME 04103-4904
katesullivanjones@gmail.com

From:	magnolia.vinci@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Magnolia Vinci <magnolia.vinci@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 6:41:26 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Ms Magnolia Vinci
25 Bedford St Portland, ME 04101-1929
magnolia.vinci@maine.edu

From:	candice.lasalle@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Candice LaSalle <candice.lasalle@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 6:19:22 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

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With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Candice LaSalle
9 Hilltop Dr Old Orchard Beach, ME 04064-1513
candice.lasalle@gmail.com

From:	abardales95@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Audrey Ramirez-Bardales <abardales95@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 5:55:40 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Audrey Ramirez-Bardales
124 Park Ave Portland, ME 04101-2171
abardales95@gmail.com

From:	gabelasalle27@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Gabriel LaSalle <gabelasalle27@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 5:34:21 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Gabriel LaSalle
9 Hilltop Dr Old Orchard Beach, ME 04064-1513
gabelasalle27@gmail.com

From:	laney.pacheco@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Eleni Pacheco <laney.pacheco@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 5:01:19 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Eleni Pacheco
12 Trueworthy Ave Augusta, ME 04330-3942
laney.pacheco@yahoo.com

From:	akanehsemionenyc@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Akaneh Semione Draper <akanehsemionenyc@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 4:46:27 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Akaneh Semione Draper
119 Morning St Apt 8 Portland, ME 04101-3249
akanehsemionenyc@gmail.com

From:	mariamylena1@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Maria Vargas <mariamylena1@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 4:38:29 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Maria Vargas
64 King St # 2 Westbrook, ME 04092-3535
mariamylena1@gmail.com

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of bstauffer@eco-story.com
To:	ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; PAli@PortlandMaine.gov; "April Fournier"; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; ATrevorrow@PortlandMaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; "Andrew Zarro"; mdion@portlandmaine.gov
Cc:	"Danielle West"; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	encampments
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 4:18:36 PM

Dear Councilors:

My name is Bill Stauffer. I am a small business owner in Portland and the current board president of Mechanics Hall. The increase in the homeless population has been something many of us have watched with a great sense of humility and frustration – frustration in the sense that we often feel helpless to make a difference. Over the last several years, I have had to make changes to my own business practices, such as adding camera systems, locking buildings 24/7, additional security lighting, etc. Some of this is the price of doing business in Maine's largest City. Graffiti clean up, human waste clean up, needle clean up, trash clean up, etc has certainly increased but has always been "part of the job." More recently, however, we and our tenant base have experienced physical threats, broken windows, and theft. It is my belief that legalizing the encampments lacks the thoughtfulness and creativity of better solutions. It seems obvious that doing so will increase our already large numbers of homeless from away. Yet, it also will legitimize unsafe living in our City. As a father of two young daughters who work in Portland, they have faced harassment, threats, and people overdosing in the bathrooms of their place of work (CBL). I have spoken to numerous businesses that are planning to leave the City. Clearly, many have already chosen to shut their doors, evident by middle Congress Street. We all want to work toward a solution. But legitimizing the encampments clearly does so in the face of many of your other constituents, from homeowners to business owners. We are here to be part of the solution if you seek our help, but protecting our interests and our children must be part of the solution, and not an afterthought, which is what this proposal feels like. Thank you, Bill Stauffer

Bill Stauffer
PH: (207) 699-5727 x11
FX: (207) 699-2321

Storrey Industries
Eco-story LED Lighting
151 Newbury Street
Portland, ME 04101
USA
www.eco-story.com

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From:	emmaplishness@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Emma Lishness <emmaplishness@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 4:12:02 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Emma Lishness
39 Maggie Ln Portland, ME 04103-6500
emmaplishness@gmail.com

From:	celestial.familiar@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Brittany Heizler <celestial.familiar@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 4:07:53 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Additionally, consider reallocating funding that would have gone toward a sweep to resources to assist our houseless community in portland in more safe and just ways. Consider funding meals, clothing, shelter programming, mental health resources, etc.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Brittany Heizler
89 Sheridan St Apt 2 Portland, ME 04101-2657
celestial.familiar@gmail.com

From:	jenniferheald8154@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jennifer Heald <jenniferheald8154@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 3:59:54 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Ms. Jennifer Heald
880 Forest Ave Apt 7-8 Portland, ME 04103-4115
jenniferheald8154@gmail.com

From:	samuel.crankshaw@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Samuel Crankshaw <samuel.crankshaw@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 3:50:48 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Samuel Crankshaw
79 Revere St Apt 1 Portland, ME 04103-4009
samuel.crankshaw@gmail.com

From:	recluse@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Ian Hernandez <recluse@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 3:38:16 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Ian Hernandez
142 Court St Farmington, ME 04938-5923
recluse@gmail.com

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Ashley Flowers <ashschmid@gmail.com>
To:	Public Comments for City Council Meetings
Subject:	No Camping in Public Parks
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 2:08:13 PM

To the Portland City Council,

Regarding Order #68-23/24
Please keep our parks safe and clean for families and children to recreate and enjoy the beauty of the outdoors by keeping them free from tent encampments. Please find alternative solutions for people experiencing houselessness that do NOT include them setting up camp in our cities parks and public green spaces.

Gratefully,

Ashley Schmid
17 Fernald Terrace
Portland, ME 04103

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Keri Lord <oliviamine58@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; Steve Campbell
Subject:	Camping ordinance, Fitzpatrick contract
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 1:45:45 PM

Dear Council, Mayor, Corpoation Counsel

Keri Lord
58 Deering St

I am long time, resident participant in city government. I write to tell you that the proposed amendments to the camping ordinance is a huge detriment to our city. You should not support it in anyway! It is not our only option! Portland government is not and should not take responsibility for all these people in need! We have 3 other layers of government that should be doing their share: County, State Legislaters/Governor.
They are absent from this crisis... the Governor has proudly reported that our "Rainy Day" fund is bulging. I urge you to get really tough w the above levels. They are not doing their part... they are suckering our welcoming city.
Time to stand up for our city Councilors! Its pouring,and we have no raincoat or umberella....

The contract for use of Fitzpatrick field property.... whoever negotiated it gave away the candy store! My guess is the "Club" wrote most of it. Needs to be renegotiated much more favorably for the city... makes us look like patsys.

Respectfully
Keri Lord
58 Deering St

From: council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Abby Gordon <abby.gordon@gmail.com>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: HSC beds/Encampments Vote
Date: Monday, November 13, 2023 12:30:38 PM

Dear City Councilors,

As a resident and taxpayer in the Portland Downtown district, I am writing to express my strong support for additional HSC beds and any other support these facilities may need. I am also writing to share my ***very strong*** disagreement with any legalization or normalization of encampments. Not only does this pose a real public safety concern (especially for women such as me, living and often walking the streets alone), but it is unfair to our homeless neighbors. I sincerely hope you will vote accordingly.

Best,
Abigail

_____

Abigail Gordon
10 Exchange Street #314
Portland, ME 04101

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Jenny Potter Scheu <jpscheu@gwi.net>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	PLEASE VOTE YES on Order 37-23/24 Tonight ….and next week, DO NOT SANCTION NOR ACCEPT HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 12:29:45 PM

City Councillors!

PLEASE VOTE YES on Order 37-23/24 on November 13,2023.

and
next week, November 20,2023

Please DO NOT SANCTION NOR ACCEPT HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS

THANK YOU

Jenny Scheu
29 Waterville Street #3
Portland ME 04101

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Lauren Sterling <laurenannsterling@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Unhoused Encampments
Date: Monday, November 13, 2023 12:28:19 PM

Dear Councilors Trevorrow, Rodriquez, Fournier, Pelletier, Phillips, Zarro, Dion, and Mayor Snyder.

I am writing to express my concern and strong disagreement with the proposed amendments to the Portland City Code chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property sponsored by Councilors Roberto Rodriguez and Anna Trevorrow, my East Bayside Councilor.

These proposed changes, as I understand them, would create a temporary exception to the City's prohibition on camping and loitering on City property, which would allow unhoused people to camp on certain public properties from the effective date of the amendments to April 30, 2024.

There are several issues I have with the proposed code changes to allow our unhoused community -- forever growing -- because of inaction on the part of the City Council.

The first is that the well-developed, comprehensive plans outlined by the professionals in the field at Preble Street have been ignored leading up to these proposed changes. They include:

- **Supporting the health and safety needs of the entire community** by providing essential services for unsheltered individuals such as water, toilets, food, medical care, mental health, and substance use treatment.
- **Creating an Intentional Plan to shelter and house unsheltered individuals**. More than 100 beds will soon be available at the City of Portland's Homeless Services Center (and others as we now know from Kate Snyder's Nov 10th notice), and we cannot afford to squander this opportunity. For this plan to be successful, it must be created in partnership with unsheltered individuals.
- **Continuing efforts to make City shelters more low-barrier and accessible** to people who are living outside.

Absent any action by the City Council on the above recommendations, the Preble leadership is now supporting the code changes, which they presumably believe is a more compassionate direction than the encampment sweeps. It's understandable. Nobody wants people, whether they are residents or not to be cold, hungry, or in harm's way, myself included. Getting people into shelters should be the priority.

However, scattering the unhoused community, over 80% of which are dealing with addiction and/or mental health crises, across the city's small, neighborhood parks and spaces – spaces used by residents of all ages to get from one place to the other for work

or otherwise, is not going to improve the safety of the unhoused, and only threaten the safety of the rest of the city's resident population.

It seems that Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriquez believe it will be safer for campers to be in smaller groups but have suggested nothing in the proposal to ensure that's the outcome.

It seems, at the very least, the following questions need answers before changing the code.

What will the cost be for health staff and law enforcement to manage this long list of public spaces to ensure safety and health for the unhoused, the residents, and the neighborhoods in which they sit?

In what way will these code changes advance the execution of increased emergency shelter space in which to better assess and serve the unhoused?

In what ways is the city engaging with the county and state agencies and planners to manage the unhoused and the lack of safe emergency shelter and treatment?

I'm grateful that Portland has elected Mark Dion and look forward to benefitting from his experience and strategic thinking. I hope this code change proposal is rejected to give the mayor-elect the opportunity to work with the Council to consider a better alternative than what's been submitted. The unhoused deserve better, and so do the rest of Portland's residents and taxpayers.

Thank you, all, for your service to the community.

Lauren Sterling
Cell in U.S. 207-465-5228
Cell in Puyloubier, FR +33-07-87-40-84-19
laurenannsterling@gmail.com

Ask me about these great Maine organizations:
Palaver Strings
https://www.palaverstrings.org/about

Maine State Music Theater
https://msmt.org/

McGillicuddy Humanities Center at University of Maine
https://umaine.edu/mhc/

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Nikki Williams <nikki.eleni.williams@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Fwd: Stop the encampment sweeps!
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 12:24:00 PM

Dear elected officials,

My name is Nikki Williams and I live at 68 Berkeley St in Portland. I'm writing to implore the City to stop the sweeps of tent encampments in Portland. It is inhumane and poor policy. It does not make any situation better, but just redirects us away from solutions and shatters people's lives in the process.

As a city, we have to do better for ALL of our residents and neighbors. I urge you to adopt the proposal to allow public camping as you continue to pursue policies that support people to find safe and affordable housing for themselves and their families.

Sincerely,
Nikki

Nikki Williams (she/her)
917.612.0424

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Tom Doherty <tdoherty@milestone-recovery.org>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Milestone Recovery Statement on Unsheltered Homelessness
Date: Monday, November 13, 2023 12:23:15 PM

Dear Councilors, Mayor Snyder, Manager West,

On behalf of the staff and board of Milestone Recovery and as a resident of Portland, I want to applaud your time and effort working to meet the crisis in housing/sheltering in our city, while also expressing my concerns regarding the needs of our unhoused neighbors.

Unsheltered homelessness is at a crisis level right now, a level never before seen in Portland. To protect the lives of its citizens, it is imperative that Portland lift the shelter cap imposed in May 2022. The decisions you make now will either entrench the issue of unsheltered homelessness or return Portland to being what it once was: a model community with low levels of unsheltered homelessness.

Unsheltered homelessness was not always so prevalent in our city. In 1987 City Manager Bob Ganley established a policy that no one in Portland would be unsheltered. When shelter capacity was reached or exceeded, additional resources were brought online, perhaps not a bed, but a warm place where people could be safe, both from the elements and from predation. For 35 years we got this issue right and there were small numbers of folks outside. For 35 years police, outreach workers and hospitals had a place to send people when they encountered them. For 35 years there was not exponential growth in the need for emergency shelter. In May 2022 the City reversed that longstanding policy and began capping shelter beds. Without safe options in place, we have seen dangerous exponential growth in encampments.

Last winter there were about 80 people unsheltered in Portland. Milestone's HOME Team, using privately raised funds, worked tirelessly to keep these citizens alive, shuttling food, clothing, and other critical resources to encampments throughout the City; we just made it. I was astounded that we had no deaths due to hypothermia last year.

As I write this there are 215 tents in Portland with winter fast approaching. Despite our best efforts, here is no way we can keep all those people alive this winter. If we go down the road of not providing opening adequate shelter and moving folks indoors, preventable deaths from hypothermia are inevitable, and the results will be devastating to our unhoused neighbors, as well as to the police, paramedics, and outreach teams that need to deal with the aftermath. A death from overdose takes an emotional toll on first responders, but a preventable death from hypothermia will even more so. To underline this was the article in the Press Hearld I saw yesterday morning about 4 deaths of unsheltered individuals in Anchorage during a storm.

Even as we see the terrible suffering in encampments, we must also recognize the detrimental effects of forcibly closing those encampments without first providing adequate alternatives. Mental illness, substance use, and general distrust of the system all increase when an encampment is forcibly dispersed. The Department of Housing and Urban Development, National Alliance to End Homelessness, and US Interagency Council on Homelessness all report that people whose belongings are destroyed in an encampment sweep are less likely to engage with the shelter system, less likely to find long-term housing, less likely to engage with medical or mental health care, and more likely to die of overdose than those who are engaged in outreach while living in camps.

We have all seen the devastating harm of both the sweeps and large encampments. Both these approaches are dangerous and deadly to the marginalized folks they impact. We need a third, well proven response: sheltering into housing.

Permanent housing is the only long-term, sustainable solution to homelessness, and shelter is the proven avenue to housing. Last month alone, Milestone's Housing Navigator helped four formerly chronically homeless individuals find permanent housing: four individuals who had occupied over 1300 bed-nights in local shelters! The Team at the HSC likewise does truly amazing work getting people into housing, clearing bed capacity to serve more folks coming into the shelter system. Through its Long-Term Stayers initiative, the City heads a public-private coalition that is at the cutting edge of moving people from shelter to permanent housing, but these efforts are undermined when full shelter options are not provided.

With the HSC and new Asylum seekers shelter, we now have the facilities and resources to go back to the proven approach that served Portland well for over three decades. Now is the time to take the bold steps that Bob Ganley took 36 years ago and commit to serving our neighbors not with an eviction notice and a front-end loader, not with a tarp in a parking lot, but with real, sustainable, long-term housing options. The City's services are wonderful resources that can do more for our community. Milestone can and will do its part too. We are working hard to get folks into safe shelter. We are working to counter misinformation about the City shelter with clear information about the policies and conditions at the HSC. We are looking to increase the overflow capacity of Milestone's own Emergency Shelter as much as our tiny facility can handle.

In summation, sweeping encampments and allowing unfettered growth in encampments are both oversimplified solutions to a very complex problem. We need to undertake better, more difficult solutions for our unhoused neighbors. Now is the time to reintroduce the bold, proven policy that worked for 35 years for our City, our people. As a first and critical step, I strongly urge the City to reverse its May 2022 decision to cap shelter availability.

Thank you for your service to this city and attention to this vexing issue.
Tom

"Tom" Thomas Doherty M.S.W. (he/him/his)
Executive Director
Milestone Recovery
65 India Street
Portland, ME 04101
www.milestone-recovery.org
www.linkedin.com/company/milestone-recovery-maine
(207)775-4790 Ext 114

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Brian Townsend <briant@commonspacemaine.org>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: For: Order 68 (Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18 and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property).
Date: Monday, November 13, 2023 12:21:53 PM

Dear City Councilors and Mayor Snyder,

I'm the Executive Director at Commonspace (known until recently as Amistad), and I am writing to strongly encourage all of you, in the name of what is best for our community members who are unhoused and unsheltered, to reject the current effort to amend existing City rules, enforcements, and strategies related to camping and loitering. I first want to acknowledge that this amendment proposal has very evidently been put forward with good intention, with compassion, and out of an effort to comprehend and act upon the multiple reports and opinions presented to this Council over the last many months. The Council has heard from a range of voices, including community members who simply want this "problem" to go away, advocates and outreach workers who have passionately described the traumatic impact of encampment sweeps, and people living within the encampments who have asked for humane and urgent attention to their circumstances. Regrettably, I don't believe that the Council has heard in adequate measure from the numerous agencies whose missions involve deep connection with the community of Portlanders experiencing homelessness.

With the long season of cold weather already upon us, our community needs to maintain a laser focus on getting all our community members indoors. Three previous obstacles--insufficient number of shelter beds, a learning curve for the component parts of the ECRT, and the relative comfort of warm weather-- have been removed. In a couple of weeks the Homeless Services Center will have over 120 beds made available by the opening of the new shelter for asylum seekers (and will optimally have the 50 additional beds made available as an emergency response measure by this Council), the ECRT's collective focus on and success with supporting people into shelter and housing has vastly improved with time and experience, and the work of encouraging people to accept support is far simpler when the ground is frozen and the risks of harm from exposure are real and immediate. Our community team and our HUD-supported effort is in place, and we will soon have an adequate number of indoor options to successfully bring all Portlanders indoors.

Beyond this, we owe it to all Portlanders, and especially to our unhoused residents, to stop romanticizing encampments, which are hubs of misery, violence, and exploitation. Given the number of people we see victimized and exploited within the encampments on a daily basis, it seems to me that it must require a great deal of emotional distance and privilege for anyone to emphasize "the right to live outdoors" as the issue at stake here. And while I love and respect our community advocates for their Stop the Sweeps efforts, any advocacy that holds as its focus the relief of harms to our unsheltered neighbors must have an equal focus on stopping the harms that are occurring because the encampments exist. The sweeps of encampments are traumatic. The encampments themselves are traumatic. The answer: bring everyone inside.

Especially now. It is November. In years past, up until this very recent phenomenon of high-volume encampments, a very few hardy souls would weather the winter outdoors in Portland. We still remember some for whom this effort ended tragically. The others, at the onset of winter, suddenly

discovered other options to get out of the cold. Those options were often not ideal— an emergency shelter bed, or the couch of a friend—but were far better options than remaining outside and succumbing to the steady misery of living outdoors in the winter, with its attendant risks of exposure, a tent fire, illness, and other dangers. At any rate, everybody else around them was working to get indoors, and any worker doing outreach was focused on removing obstacles to shelter or housing before the cold season, rather than hustling to find warm blankets and propane tanks. Common sense and compassion were not at odds.

We are all learning on the fly, across the nation, about why these encampments are happening now, and what measures work and don't work in response to them. One thing we have learned is that encampments, once established, create their own reality, and grow exponentially. People throw their lot in with an encampment because it is there. If the encampment wasn't there, they wouldn't be there either. We have also learned that confusing or ambivalent community messaging encourages increased camping and the arrival of people joining encampments from well outside the region. At this moment in time, it is critically important that our community speaks with clarity and consistency about the dangers of camping outdoors in winter and demonstrates a commitment to moving everyone currently living outdoors into shelter or housing.

Finally, I would note that one of the outcome objectives of this amendment effort, of breaking up the larger encampments in exchange for multiple smaller encampments across the city, has perceived value on its surface, but would in fact make the numerous encampments more dangerous and less accessible to our housing and shelter outreach teams, while making the challenge facing Portland more complex and entrenched. With neighboring states setting shelter caps, any permissive language about outdoor camping here will bring increased numbers of unhoused people to this city. The numerous, smaller encampments could potentially become numerous large encampments. Given that we know these encampments to be dangerous and exploitative environments for those who live within them, and given that we know that it is fundamentally unsafe for almost all people to live outdoors all winter, this is an outcome we must avoid at all costs.

The sweeps are traumatic. So are the encampments. We aren't faced with a choice of doing what is humane versus doing what is inhumane. We are faced with determining which set of interventions best supports providing current and future unhoused Portlanders with the greatest opportunity to secure safety, stability, housing, and recovery. The ECRT is in place. The Homeless Services Center is in place, and ready to fulfill its intended purpose of providing safe, indoor shelter with wraparound health and community services, and to continue its strong track record of placing shelter guests into housing.

Please do not vote to support the zoning amendment, and please do support the addition of 50 beds to the HSC through declaring the limited state of emergency or, as others have suggested, to temporarily allow the shelter to serve people to the extent of its determined fire/safety capacity, in order to meet this moment of critical importance for our unsheltered residents and for our community.

Sincerely and gratefully,

Brian

Brian Townsend
Executive Director
103 India Street, Portland, ME 04101
(207) 272-0429
briant@commonspacemaine.org

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Hilary Bassett <hilarydbassett@gmail.com>
To:	ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; Azarro@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Please oppose or withdraw Order 68-23/24 Camping on Public Property; Please support Order 37-23/24 Temporary Expansion of Homeless Services Center
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 11:46:21 AM

Dear Mayor Snyder and City Councilors:

I write to urge you to withdraw or vote NO on the recent proposal to allow encampments in Portland's public spaces for unhoused persons (Order 68 – 23/24, Camping and Loitering on Public Property). This approach will negatively impact our public parks, open spaces and walkways which should be maintained and kept safe and available to everyone in the community for access, recreation and peaceful enjoyment of the outdoors. Allowing encampments will not resolve the challenges facing the unhoused population.

Cullen Ryan's op ed piece "Sanctioning homeless encampments would be a grave error," in the Nov. 10 *Portland Press Herald*, provides a helpful perspective and recommendations that I believe would be more effective. As Ryan states, and I agree, a better approach would be to:

1) <!--[endif]-->Adopt a "no one will be unsheltered policy"

2) <!--[endif]-->Support the 50 bed temporary expansion of the Homeless Services Center during a transition period to accommodate current needs. (Reconsideration of Order 37 -23/24, Declaring a State of Limited Emergency at 654 Riverside Street)

3) <!--[endif]-->Support the mission of Homeless Services Center as a place where people can access resources they need and move on to longer-term housing so they can achieve stability.

4) <!--[endif]-->Prioritize shelter beds for unhoused individuals. The opening of the new facility for asylum seekers will free up over 100 beds.

5) <!--[endif]-->Initiate a concerted effort in the community to coordinate services, resources and housing so that the Homeless Services Center is a temporary stop along the way to a more stable housing. Engage individuals, organizations and agencies at the local, county and state level, to accomplish this goal.

I trust that the Council will continue to pursue ways to provide additional housing options, including those that support families, recovery, mental health, and various special needs. These efforts take time to implement, but will provide much-needed longer-term positive effects.

Thank you for your work to address the needs of all of the citizens of Portland and for your

consideration.

Hilary Bassett

55 Morning St 1-1, Portland

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Zack Barowitz <zbarowitz@gmail.com>
To: City Council; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Encampment issue should focus on solutions
Date: Monday, November 13, 2023 10:41:19 AM

Honorable Mayor and Councilors:

It hardly bears saying that the issue of the encampments and homelessness in general, is complex with no ready solutions. It is an issue where my understanding is ever-evolving.

It is a very hard political decision to condone camping (for obvious reasons) but I think it must be considered until a better alternative is found. We all know that removing people from encampments does not solve the problem and exacerbates any trauma conditions that people might have and might have contributed to their becoming (and remaining) unhoused while adding new ones. Sweeps are not the way to build trust with people who may be reluctant to stay in a city-run shelter.

Secondly, we will have a new mayor who has vowed to take a new approach to this issue. These ideas should be given full consideration before any further sweeps are made.

Thirdly, we have more shelter beds coming online. There should be no sweeps before such beds are made available.

Fourthly, allowing camping is not incompatible with outreach strategies to get people into shelter/housing. Ideally, there ought to be an outreach trailer staffed by medical and social service providers at encampment sites. At the bare minimum, there should be a 24-hour police presence at encampments as, I believe, was done when the Oxford Street Shelter.

I see the priorities as follows:

1. Work to build trust and minimize the trauma of those living outdoors
2. Increase the number of emergency shelter beds particularly over-flow shelter beds (as had been done in the past) as well as specialty shelters that serve people with special needs (e.g. geriatric, behavioral health, etc.)
3. Develop and implement programs for homelessness prevention
4. Develop various models of supported housing (e.g., housing first, transitional housing, etc.)
5. Build more housing

I wish all of you the best of luck in finding solutions for this issue and will applaud any progress no matter how small. Thank you for your dedication to serving the people of Portland

Cordially,

Zack Barowitz

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Jeff D. Emerson <jdemerson@northendgroup.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Homeless Camping in Public Parks
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 9:54:24 AM
Attachments:	image001.png

The Portland City Council is considering legislation which would allow homeless people to camp in selected City parks without fear of being removed. This is an incredibly bad idea. It was tried, in the other Portland, to disastrous effect https://www.opb.org/article/2023/10/30/oregon-homelessness-portland-camping-ban-police-city-council/ and subsequently repealed. Common sense suggests that allowing homeless people to camp **anywhere** outside in winter is an invitation to problems—for them and for City residents. To do so is just treating the symptoms, not the problem. The City Council should focus on reducing the homeless population and finding shelter for unhoused people. It also should ask the common sense question: why do we have so many homeless people in Portland, relative to its population, during the winter. The answer may be enlightening.

Jeff D. Emerson
President
NorthEnd Group LLC
18 Redlon Park Road
Portland, ME 04102

Tel: (240) 752-7143
Efax: (207) 221-1159

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From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of 2075952058@vzwpix.com
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Date: Monday, November 13, 2023 4:09:32 PM
Attachments: text_0.txt

FRIENDS of DEERING OAKS

MISSION STATEMENT

The Friends of Deering Oaks is a non-profit citizen organization committed to preserving, protecting and enhancing the physical condition of Portland's historic Deering Oaks Park and promoting its use by residents and visitors. The 1994 Deering Oaks Master Plan will guide the activities of the Friends of Deering Oaks.

Friends of Deering Oaks
P.O. Box 10416
Portland, Maine 04104
(207) 774-0437

November 14, 2023

Portland City Council
389 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101

Re: Homeless Encampments

Dear Mayor Snyder and City Councilors:

We are writing to express the strong opposition of the Friends of Deering Oaks to the proposed ordinance/policy that would: severely limit "sweeps" of encampments, allow camping in all City parks, and eliminate "emphasis areas" that ban camping in designated places.

As some of you will recall, a large encampment emerged in Deering Oak during the pandemic. Many of the same problems associated with current encampments were obvious in the park: rampant drug use and drug-dealing, overdoses, overdose deaths, assaults, sexual assaults, drinking, public urination and defecation, trash, etc.

Following dozens and dozens of extremely serious complaints by the public, the City finally designated Deering Oaks an "emphasis area". While it has been two years since this designation, drug use in the park continues, with many, many needles collected in boxes and reported/picked up all over the park. Queenie's Café in the Castle closed this summer due theft of property from her premiseto and some of the noted behaviors that affected her business. The public restroom insalled on Park Avenue to serve the unhoused in the area was regularly used for drug injection and recently destroyed by vandalism.

As it does regularly, FoDO surveyed its members and the general public this summer. Strong feedback was received about the perceived lack of safety in the park. We recite this because, even after designation as an emphasis area and special attention by the police and Parks staff, there is still a strong public perception that Deering Oaks is not safe. It will take years to correct this impression.

We are very concerned that eliminating "emphasis areas" and allowing encampments in parks all over the city are steps backwards. Focus should instead be on getting campers inside for the winter and connected with the services they need.

Deering Oaks abuts Parkside, the most dense and diverse neighborhood in the state. The park is the "backyard" for this population, including the YMCA daycare program.

Parks are for all and all must abide by reasonable rules. Parks cannot afford the physical impacts and behaviors that deny other users their right to enjoy these special places equitably with others who also observe basic rules.

Please vote "no" on the well-intended, but deeply-flawed Rodriguez/Trevorrow proposal.

Very truly yours,

Anne B. Pringle
President

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Victoria Adams <va6662@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Order 68
Date: Sunday, November 19, 2023 12:00:19 PM

To the city council,

I am writing to express that I do not support order 68. I am a Portland native and registered nurse, Allowing the unhoused population to remain outdoors throughout the winter is completely unsafe and inhumane. There are other options that must be utilized to help this population with housing, mental health and substance abuse. These encampments are creating large areas of unsafe and unsanitary spaces that are endangering those living there and those who are in close proximity. As a city we must find new and creative ways to solve this problem by looking to experts in healthcare and city planning. I hope that you will take more time to find a better solution for the residents of Portland, tax payers, business and also the unhoused.

Thank you,
Victoria Adams

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Deb Shannon <shannond517@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	ORDER 68
Date:	Sunday, November 19, 2023 11:58:40 AM

Thank you for your service to the people of the City of Portland.
I am strongly opposed to Order 68. Allowing people to camp in this climate is dangerous to the individuals in tents and to the neighbors and the community as a whole.

With the increase in housing that becomes available on November 29th, many who are in tents can be brought into safer and warmer environments.
I walk all over Portland and I am deeply concerned by the horrid conditions of the encampments as the weather chills.

People who live under constant environmental stress create more stress on their personal and physical environments. This creates a steep downward spiral in behavior, health, and attitude for everyone in the area and beyond. We are empowered to provide support and we must be firm in ensuring that our community upholds a high safety standard.

Please reject Order 68 and take action to focus Council energies on how to create more housing for all the unhoused in our community.

Regards,
Deb Shannon

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Nathaniel B <baldwindia@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stopping the Sweeps Does Not Require Legalizing Camping
Date:	Sunday, November 19, 2023 11:55:57 AM

My name is Nathaniel Baldwin and while I live in Falmouth I own a business and work in Portland. I am incredibly worried about Order 68 and urge the City Council to break it up into separate orders. There is no reason why an order to stop the sweeps needs to be bundled in with an order to legalize camping throughout the city and it feels incredibly underhanded and unproductive to do so. I think most constituents in Portland want to see an end to sweeps but by tying that to legalizing camping you have created a divide in this city where there shouldn't be one. We shouldn't be forced to choose between all or nothing - you can stop the sweeps without legalizing camping everywhere. I urge you to do what is needed: end the sweeps and get these people indoors.

Nathaniel Baldwin

From:	"kstratton" via Public Comment on behalf of "kstratton" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25
Date:	Sunday, November 19, 2023 11:53:33 AM

Resending w/correct subject above.

146 Brentwood Street
Portland, Maine 04103
November 19, 2023

Via email to: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

Re: Order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25

Dear Portland Council Members:

I urge you to vote against the above proposal to amend Portland City Code. Rather than a blanket code amendment that will effectively change public parks, which must be available for active and passive use for all community members, to designated camps for unhoused community members, you must do better.

The impact will be swift and virtually impossible to manage for any city department. Rather, the city must develop a plan to address **what is and will be** an ongoing and diverse community of unhoused people in Portland, people with different needs and goals. This requires a coordinated and concerted effort to create a safe alternative to formal shelter locations that can be supported through a variety of services from outreach to sanitation to public health interventions.

This issue is very important to me personally, as I have worked at the intersection of people and the environment for 20 years and have dedicated my life to supporting public spaces that benefit all. More recently, I have worked to support local park and recreation departments across the country. I am a park and rec kid, who greatly benefited from summer programs at the playground near my childhood home in Millinocket and every day since as a resident and visitor to communities big and small across the country. Dispersed encampments, particularly those resulting from people with substance use disorder or who are experiencing mental health crises, reduce or eliminate the ability of all community members to use and enjoy public spaces. Perhaps more importantly, it is absolutely impossible for park and recreation staff to maintain public spaces with ongoing encampments, placing great burden on already overtaxed and under-resourced departments and exacerbating what are already hazardous conditions for those teams to manage. It is unfair and unwise.

Rather than pass a blanket amendment that would open up all but a few parks to encampments, I urge you to work with city departments to identify **a specific space or spaces** that can be effectively supported through concerted outreach services,

sanitation services (clean water, showers, toilets, etc.), and other forms of maintenance, public health, and safety services. Many cities have adopted this approach, because it is the only way to preserve public parks and spaces as accessible to all while also providing coordinated support to unhoused members of the community. We can't pretend that any temporary measure will address this solution, least of all a public parks camping ordinance. We must recognize that the homeless crisis is here to stay, and all forecasts are that it will be getting worse. A housing first mindset, trauma informed outreach response, increased shelter capacity, and organized and **specific** space for *safe and supported* camping are examples of such an approach. When even the Department of Transportation recognizes the crises by opening up rights of way, you know it's time for all cities, including Portland, to work on this in a planful and organized way.

Please vote no and do better.

Thank you,
Kristine Stratton

Sent with Proton Mail secure email.

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Hannah Scott <coastalcs@gmail.com>
To:	ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov
Cc:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the ordinance legalizing citywide camping
Date:	Sunday, November 19, 2023 11:51:32 AM

I am writing to share my concern and asking to please stop the ordinance legalizing citywide camping in Portland.
There are many reasons why this is a terrible decision for the homeless, tax paying citizens of Portland and workers as listed below:

- This proposal represents grave public health and safety threats to the unhoused individuals living in the encampments. We have already had confirmed outbreaks of infectious diseases, vermin infestations, violent crimes including rape and assault, and fires caused by using unsafe methods to heat and cook in tents. These issues will only grow worse if people are left outside through the winter.

- This proposal is counter to best practices that have been shared with the city by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and local experts like Community Housing of Maine's Cullen Ryan, who are unanimous in stating that the sanctioning of encampments leads to worse outcomes for the unhoused and the communities they camp in.

- This proposal is mistimed, coming right before the city expects to add 150+ beds to the shelter system. Without the incentive of resolving encampments, this proposal would make it much more difficult for outreach workers to convince unhoused individuals to take shelter in advance of winter.

- This proposal is universally condemned by a wide variety of city departments, including Health and Human Services, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Police, and Housing and Economic Development. Read a memo from these department heads below.

- This proposal will deny other residents of Portland peaceful use of city parks and trails, which are supposed to be amenities for the shared use of the entire public. It will be impossible for activities like sledding at Payson Park, skating at Deering Oaks, or cross-country skiing at Riverside Golf Course to occur if these parks are open for unfettered camping and the unfortunate public safety threats that emanate from congregations of campers.

- This proposal will make it nearly impossible for the city to conduct routine winter snow and ice removal operations if encampments continue to block public ways through the winter.

- This proposal is hypocritical, exempting City Hall Plaza from accepting encampments where the City Councilors putting this forward work routinely, while pushing encampments into neighborhoods and near businesses where

the vast majority of the city lives and/or works.

Sent from my iPhone

From: "kstratton" via Public Comment on behalf of "kstratton" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: (No Subject)
Date: Sunday, November 19, 2023 11:50:40 AM

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146 Brentwood Street
Portland, Maine 04103
November 19, 2023

Via email to: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

Re: Order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25

Dear Portland Council Members:

I urge you to vote against the above proposal to amend Portland City Code. Rather than a blanket code amendment that will effectively change public parks, which must be available for active and passive use for all community members, to designated camps for unhoused community members, you must do better.

The impact will be swift and virtually impossible to manage for any city department. Rather, the city must develop a plan to address **what is and will be** an ongoing and diverse community of unhoused people in Portland, people with different needs and goals. This requires a coordinated and concerted effort to create a safe alternative to formal shelter locations that can be supported through a variety of services from outreach to sanitation to public health interventions.

This issue is very important to me personally, as I have worked at the intersection of people and the environment for 20 years and have dedicated my life to supporting public spaces that benefit all. More recently, I have worked to support local park and recreation departments across the country. I am a park and rec kid, who greatly benefited from summer programs at the playground near my childhood home in Millinocket and every day since as a resident and visitor to communities big and small across the country. Dispersed encampments, particularly those resulting from people with substance use disorder or who are experiencing mental health crises, reduce or eliminate the ability of all community members to use and enjoy public spaces. Perhaps more importantly, it is absolutely impossible for park and recreation staff to maintain public spaces with ongoing encampments, placing great burden on already overtaxed and under-resourced departments and exacerbating what are already hazardous conditions for those teams to manage. It is unfair and unwise.

Rather than pass a blanket amendment that would open up all but a few parks to encampments, I urge you to work with city departments to identify **a specific space or spaces** that can be effectively supported through concerted outreach services, sanitation services (clean water, showers, toilets, etc.), and other forms of maintenance, public health, and safety services. Many cities have adopted this approach, because it is the only way to preserve public parks and spaces as accessible to all while also providing coordinated support to unhoused members of the community. We can't pretend that any temporary measure will address this solution, least of all a public parks camping ordinance. We must recognize that the homeless crisis is here to stay, and all forecasts are that it

will be getting worse. A housing first mindset, trauma informed outreach response, increased shelter capacity, and organized and **specific** space for *safe and supported* camping are examples of such an approach. When even the Department of Transportation recognizes the crises by opening up rights of way, you know it's time for all cities, including Portland, to work on this in a planful and organized way.

Please vote no and do better.

Thank you,
Kristine Stratton

Sent with Proton Mail secure email.

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Sean Donahue <seanplanet@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Reject Order 68 as is. Rethink it.
Date:	Sunday, November 19, 2023 11:49:58 AM

Hello,

I would like the Council to reject Order 68 as written and go back to the drawing board. We need a better solution that stops encampment sweeps without creating new problems in the short- and long-term.

I believe we need a process that allows for input from all the stakeholders who will be affected by Order 68. For example:

- Working with the heads of all the city departments to develop a more workable solution that addresses the concerns they outlined in their memorandum on the Order.
- Creating a more transparent and criteria-driven process for determining which properties are exempted from Order 68. Why are City Hall Plaza, Monument Square, etc. exempted and not others? Why are the sidewalks in the Portland downtown district exempted, but not others? Businesses and homeowners in areas outside of the PDD should have a say in developing this order.

I also think the Council needs to develop any such Order with a much clearer understanding of the end game/next steps. What happens after April 30th when the Order expires? Won't this effectively become permanent since it's being expressly promoted as a measure to stop encampment sweeps? Sweeps won't suddenly be OK on May 1... so where do we go from there?

Please work on a better solution. Thank you.

Sean Donahue
66 Alba St.

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Abigail Long <abigail.long2018@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Pass Order 68
Date:	Sunday, November 19, 2023 11:45:58 AM

Portland City Council,

I am urging you to pass order 68 to temporarily stop encampment sweeps and enforcement of the cities public camping and loitering bans.

Encampment sweeps are unconstitutional and inhumane as they take away a persons rights to shelter, resources and community. Encampment sweeps are a public health and safety violation as it makes it harder for social workers to keep track of individuals to get them into shelters and keep them safe and alive, especially through the winter. Encampment sweeps are racist as a majority of black folks and people of color who are unhoused live on the peninsula where the sweeps are occurring.

Please have some decency and compassion and make Portland a city accepting of all people. It is infuriating to see our community members be treated so inhumanely. Everyone in the Portland community deserves basic rights and access to food, shelter and community. The sweeping of encampments further displaces people cutting them off from these resources which in many cases leads to death.

Lives are in your hands. Make the choice for humanity and pass order 68.

Thank you,
Abigail Long
Parkside resident

From: "Mallory Haar" via Public Comment on behalf of "Mallory Haar" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the sweeps. Protect our homeless.
Date: Sunday, November 19, 2023 11:44:55 AM

Portland Public Comment,

The sweeps must stop. The crowding of our homeless in one encampment, creating dangerous conditions for all who live there, must also stop.

That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

Because of that, this amendment is supported by groups like Preble Street, the ACLU, the Portland Housing Coalition, Homeless Voices for Justice, STRIVE, Grace Street Ministries, and so many others who work directly with or care so deeply about this population.
Forcing people to move constantly is not a solution. Giving them the space to build community and trust is. Please vote yes on Order 68 on Monday.

Mallory Haar
mallorypaulinehaar@gmail.com
289 DEERING AVE
PORTLAND, Maine 04103

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Sharon & Eric Obery <seo@142neal.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: order 68 - Camping & Loitering on Public Property
Date: Sunday, November 19, 2023 11:41:41 AM

Attention City Of Portland Maine: November 19 / 2023, 11:30 am

I am responding to the act put forth by order 68 on the Camping & Loitering on Public Property by council members Trevorrow & council Rodriguez, whom bypassed sub-commitee to propose this ordinance. Every City of Portland Department heads is against this proposal. Not only a bad idea the cost to the city of Portland will be estimated annual cost of 1.2 million dollars.

Numerous tent fires occurring on regular basis, unsanitary conditions for people living outside, Hepatitis A is now to date on rise within Portland Encampments & this is going to become more of a Health issue for the residence of Portland as well.

The City & residence that live, work & bring up families here deserve more from the City government that is meant to provide us with safe, healthy conditions through the city that we all navigate on a daily basis. The city employees that work the streets, parks, business districts should not have to navigate around homeless encampments with crime, drug abuse & unsanitary conditions, to subject themselves to harm.

Portland Maine is loosing good employees from City jobs, because of this out of control homeless encampment allowance put forth by the present City Council. I am strongly against allowing continued Encampments in Portland, if continued this will place Portland into a depressed situation for Business to operate, for residence to safely navigate through the city and neighborhoods , not able to enjoy our parks that we find relaxing places to visit without feeling stressed of crime & violence . Allowing the camping throughout the city in all public spaces will only destroy Portland Maine as a safe livable city.

Please remember the City makes a lot of profit from the tourist visiting and spending throughout, Cruise ships visiting = income, All of this will suffer by the continued open doors for homeless encampments.

We have shelters beds available for people, stop allowing the crime, drug abuse, unsanitary conditions. Allow the Police to do their jobs.

Concerned Portland Me. resident

Sharon Obey

From: council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Winston Lumpkins <winston.lumpkins@gmail.com>
To: City Council; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Order 68, camping & loitering
Date: Sunday, November 19, 2023 11:39:45 AM

Dear Mayor Snyder, Portland City Councilors,

The debate around order 68 appears to be in essence **"should we harass people while they freeze, or should we let them freeze in peace?".**

Neither of these options is acceptable. By all accounts there are more than 170 people out there.

Housing a growing unhoused population is expensive. **Well, repairing the wear and tear on our parks that legal *or* illegal camping brings about is also expensive**, damage to trees from fires or other causes may be permanent; we must consider the value of our parks- if we wish to have little pockets of nature in the city, we may have to spend large amounts of money solving the entire states homelessness crisis. If some will only accept some sort of arrangement where they're allowed to continue to use drugs, well, it may be cheaper to do that than not; no matter what you think should happen this council is not going to forcibly institutionalize everyone on the street; esp. **if order 68 passes, we shall have to entice them off the street.**

Order 68 is a promise to entice them off the street by offering something they will prefer to living on the street. It's an expensive promise, but it's one those voting in favor must not break. If necessary, the council should raise its own pay so that councilors have the time to find solutions. *"We're underpaid and don't have time to solve these problems"* is a poor excuse when no one but the council can raise said pay. **Do not vote for order 68 unless you're prepared to fulfil that promise: By April every one of these folks will have housing they will accept.**

I am relieved to see an amendment that should allow snow clearing, and keep trails and sidewalks safe and accessible. Parks may be a luxury (I don't think they are) but no one can say transportation is.

I also see that an additional park has been added; 3 parks on Congress Street will remain no camping areas, while there are no other such parks set aside in any other districts... Is that merely an optical thing for tourists? Sure seems that way...

There's a lot of public comment here; thanks for reading mine if you got this far...

Sincerely,

~Winston

Winston Lumpkins IV (he/him/his)

District 1, East end, Portland Maine

From: "Nancy Richards" via Public Comment on behalf of "Nancy Richards" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Sunday, November 19, 2023 11:39:44 AM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Nancy Richards
nansealea@gmail.com
157 GRANT ST, APT 20
Portland, Maine 04101

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Peter Blackstone <peterblackstone17@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Opposition to Order 68 Ordinance changes
Date: Sunday, November 19, 2023 11:37:58 AM

I want to join many of my fellow Portland residential citizens to oppose allowing people to tent in our public parks. People should not be living outside in tents during our Maine winters. We are not helping the unhoused by letting them live in unsupervised tent communities where violence and illegal drug use is rampant. Lack of adequate water and sanitation endangers themselves as well as the our greater law-abiding taxpaying community.
I too have empathy for these unfortunate individuals but it is wrong for them to hold our city hostage to supporting criminal behaviors and degradating our beautiful city.
Sincerely.
Peter Blackstone
76 Cumberland Ave
Portland

From: council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Amy Landry <amylandry1@gmail.com>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Opposed to Order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25
Date: Sunday, November 19, 2023 11:32:47 AM

Dear Mayor Snyder and members of the council,

I'm writing to express my opposition to Order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25. Many of you know me, and I want to be clear that I'm writing on behalf of myself, not representing any business or organization I'm involved with. **These words are entirely my own and not copy and pasted from a form email or influenced by any political group.**

I'm a 22-year resident of Portland, a local small business owner, a community volunteer, and mother to a young child. Before the roles that some of you know me for, I worked 15 years in healthcare administration and policy. I studied at the Muskie School of Public Service and served on the board of directors of a free health clinic for seven years. All this life and professional experience influence my approach and opinions to the issue before you now.

Before forming my opinions specific to this ordinance, I spoke to several city councilors, including one of the sponsors**. I do not believe the sponsors are ill intentioned, but I DO feel that the approach they've proposed is the wrong one**. We should be prioritizing shelters, continuity of care, and collaboration, not scattered pockets of camp sites on our public spaces.

Continuity of care is crucial, especially for homeless populations. But allowing camping on virtually any public space would only further hinder the ability of health and social service providers to locate and care for unhoused clients. Additionally, **this ordinance would do irreparable harm to our city parks and public spaces and compromise the health and safety of our unhoused neighbors and all that live in and visit Portland.**

The recent "sweeps" of several encampments was the major catalyst behind this proposal. I think it's important to note that one of those was carried out by the Department of Transportation, not the City of Portland. Regardless, I agree with the sponsors of the ordinance that those need to stop. But I urge the council and city staff to work together to find ways to prevent sweeps and provide the services our unhoused neighbors need without this ordinance. **There are 170 new shelter beds opening. Working to get people out of tents and into these beds should be the priority.**

Lastly, **as mother, I'm worried for the safety and health of our children.** The children living in and out of tents and shelters. The children living in apartment buildings where public land is their play space and backyard. And for children and adults alike who find joy in our parks and nature trails.

My ten-year-old has asked me, “why do people want to live in tents”, “is someone going to put a tent next to our house”, “are the kids living outside going to be ok”, and in her own words, “am I safe”. The answers to her questions are just as complicated as the solutions required. But we must all work together, councilors, city staff, organizations, and residents to find them.

Thank you all for your service to our city. **Please reject this dangerous proposal and find real solutions to bring our unhoused neighbors in from the cold.**

In gratitude and health,

Amy Landry, Portland, Back Cove Resident, District 3

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Leslie Hart <blesliehart@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov
Cc:	atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Order #68
Date:	Sunday, November 19, 2023 11:26:15 AM

We are residents of Portland and are **opposed** to the proposed changes in Order 68 for the following reasons:

- Permitting camping in public places will have a detrimental effect on health and quality of life for Portland residents this winter.
- Hepatitis and other infectious diseases are spreading in encampments. The danger of fires will increase as the weather gets colder.
- The general public will no longer be able to enjoy public spaces as they become filled with garbage and become gathering places for people who unfortunately are often mentally unstable, creating unsafe conditions in places that should provide recreation for all Portland families, especially young children.
- Encampments are not good for our local businesses when they make potential customers afraid to walk down a sidewalk, drive down a street, or park on a street and create a sense a fear.
- Our police and fire departments are opposed to the proposed changes in Order 68 as they will make their jobs harder.
- This will not ultimately help the unhoused, who deserve a humane solution to their situation. Portland is a caring community that can do much better than this to protect the quality of life for all of our residents.

We urge you to do the right thing and oppose these changes.

Thank you,

Leslie Hart & Kevin Schochat
917.364.3682
215 Sheridan St.
Portland ME 04101

From: "Gianna Charest" via Public Comment on behalf of "Gianna Charest" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the sweeps. Protect our homeless.
Date: Sunday, November 19, 2023 11:24:20 AM

Portland Public Comment,

The sweeps must stop. The crowding of our homeless in one encampment, creating dangerous conditions for all who live there, must also stop.

That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

Because of that, this amendment is supported by groups like Preble Street, the ACLU, the Portland Housing Coalition, Homeless Voices for Justice, STRIVE, Grace Street Ministries, and so many others who work directly with or care so deeply about this population.
Forcing people to move constantly is not a solution. Giving them the space to build community and trust is. Please vote yes on Order 68 on Monday.

Gianna Charest
gianna_charest@yahoo.com
76 Douglass St
Portland, Maine 04103

From:	"DAVID MACHESNEY" via Public Comment on behalf of "DAVID MACHESNEY" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Cc:	mdion@portlandmaine.gov; ksynder@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Strongly oppose Order 68
Date:	Sunday, November 19, 2023 11:15:07 AM

As both residents and business owners in Portland, we strongly oppose Order 68. We ask that Monday you and your colleagues vote against this measure. It is the humane thing to do. We as a city need to take firm action against encouraging encampments. There is no benefit to allow these tent communities to continue.

Thank you,

David and Nancy Machesney
213 Sheridan St
Pratt Abbott Cleaners

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Larinda Meade <larindameade@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Cc:	ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Order #68-23/24
Date:	Sunday, November 19, 2023 11:03:36 AM

Please vote NO to Order#68-23/24. We cannot legalize campaign in public spaces. There are safer solutions and the Council must NOT legalize camping in public places.
Larinda Meade
32 Willow Lane
Portland. Maine

From: "Grace Tumavicus" via Public Comment on behalf of "Grace Tumavicus" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Sunday, November 19, 2023 10:55:17 AM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Grace Tumavicus
gracetumavicus@gmail.com
77 PROSPECT ST
Portland, Maine 04103

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Christine McHale <camchale13@gmail.com>
To: PublicComment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: encampments
Date: Sunday, November 19, 2023 10:52:35 AM

Please do not allow this to go on through the winter. It is unsafe and it just flirts with disaster. The fire danger is huge, disease has started spreading and it's just cruel. Please do not allow it to just get worse. Thank you Christine McHale

Thank you.

Christine

From:	"Robert Morse" via Public Comment on behalf of "Robert Morse" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Order #68 - Oppose
Date:	Sunday, November 19, 2023 10:51:00 AM

Order #68 (especially as a temporary attempt to address encampments) is a complete waste of money. Consider the following:

1. Beds are offered and rejected.

2. The encampment itself creates a dangerous and unhealthy environment.

3. We need to identify different levels of need within the homeless community and begin to create solutions that address these various needs.

4. We need to realize that some of the issues may not be able to be solved. People have to be ready to accept the offered aid.

5. We need to push for a comprehensive solution. As a stand-alone, any one municipality cannot possibly solve this issue.

REJECT THIS PROPOSAL! Robert Morse (208 Sheridan St. Portland).

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Carol Pickering <cpicky@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Oppose Order 68
Date:	Sunday, November 19, 2023 10:41:35 AM

Dear Portland City Council,
I live at 66 Alba St. in Deering Center. I urge you to oppose Order 68.
Thank you, Carol Pickering

From: "Celeste Henriquez" via Public Comment on behalf of "Celeste Henriquez" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Sunday, November 19, 2023 10:40:56 AM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

I live up just up the hill from the commercial street encampment. I have watched my homeless neighbors move from site to site, and it is too glaring and proudly sad how this city isn't getting ahead of the learning curb so now we are hitting another winter. Our city will be involved if the city can lead a direction that gives time to support these neighbors towards warmth and health supports.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Celeste Henriquez
celestejunehenriquez@gmail.com
91 State Street, apt 6
Portland, Maine 04101

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Tom Lafferty <tlaffer@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Homeless Encampments
Date: Sunday, November 19, 2023 10:39:56 AM

I'm writing as a resident of District 5 to voice my opposition to the council's proposal to legalize camping in Portland.

While the intention behind legalizing camping may stem from a desire to address homelessness, it's crucial to consider the potential drawbacks. Allowing unrestricted camping could lead to public health and safety concerns, exacerbating the challenges faced by both homeless individuals and the broader community. We are seeing the health and safety impacts now, with the outbreak of Hepatitis A among many of those in the current encampments. There have been reports of violent crimes, including rape and assault and fires caused by using unsafe methods to heat and cook. These issues will only grow worse if people are left outside through the winter. Implementing comprehensive solutions that focus on affordable housing, mental health support, and job opportunities offer a more sustainable and compassionate approach to tackling homelessness.

This proposal is counter to best practices that have been shared with the city by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and local experts like Community Housing of Maine's Cullen Ryan, who are unanimous in stating that the sanctioning of encampments leads to worse outcomes for the unhoused and the communities they camp in.

This proposal is mistimed, coming right before the city expects to add 150+ beds to the shelter system. Without the incentive of resolving encampments, this proposal would make it much more difficult for outreach workers to convince unhoused individuals to take shelter in advance of winter.

This proposal is universally condemned by a wide variety of city departments, including Health and Human Services, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Police, and Housing and Economic Development. Read a memo from these department heads below.

This proposal will deny other residents of Portland peaceful use of city parks and trails, which are supposed to be amenities for the shared use of the entire public. It will be impossible for activities like sledding at Payson Park, skating at Deering Oaks, or cross-country skiing at Riverside Golf Course to occur if these parks are open for unfettered camping and the unfortunate public safety threats that emanate from congregations of campers.

This proposal will make it nearly impossible for the city to conduct routine winter snow and ice removal operations if encampments continue to block public ways through the winter.

This proposal is hypocritical, exempting City Hall Plaza from accepting encampments where the City Councilors putting this forward work routinely, while pushing encampments into neighborhoods and near businesses where the vast majority of the city lives and/or works.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Lafferty
54 Deepwood Dr
Portland ME 04103

From:	"mweather" via Public Comment on behalf of "mweather" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Support for moratorium on clearing encampments
Date:	Sunday, November 19, 2023 10:39:55 AM

Dear City Councilors,

I am writing to you in support of councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez's proposal to put a moratorium on removing encampments during the winter months. There are not enough beds to shelter everyone currently living outside. With the increasing number of special attention areas from previously cleared sites, people who are unhoused will be forced to find more hidden and remote sites, which is especially dangerous in winter. Clearing encampments during the winter and displacing people will also make it harder for outreach workers to connect with people who are unhoused and get them access to things they need to stay alive through the winter.

If clearing encampments worked, there wouldn't be more popping up after. Please focus resources where it is needed- access to water and bathrooms where people are camping out, increased resources for more case managers, and prioritizing funding for affordable housing and section 8 vouchers.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Weatherhead

Sent from Proton Mail for iOS

From:	"William Linnell" via Public Comment on behalf of "William Linnell" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	Afournier@portlandmaine.gov; Andrew Zarro; Kate Snyder; Mdion@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Re: Homeless camping proposal 11/20/2023
Date:	Sunday, November 19, 2023 10:37:14 AM

I urge you to vote against expanding the encampments by legalizing them on public property

I've worked with at-risk, mentally and emotionally challenged, and addicted people for 18 years at Long Creek, and 2 years at a Day One residential rehab.

We need to stop creating incentives for troubled people to come to Portland. We have all we can do to take care of people that are already here. It's irresponsible to invite more than we can care for. It's important to remember that most tenters came in the last few months. This ISN'T their only choice; it's just their most recent one. There are some with clinical mental illnesses. The tents, with the active substance abuse population, is no place for them to be.

The most difficult problems involve substance abuse, especially IV drug users. They're out of control, as the drugs have taken over. They will go wherever it is easiest to continue using. Lax law enforcement is an incentive, as is free housing, food and water. We had 80 tents in May. Now we have approx. 280. Every IV drug user shoots up 10 to 20 times per day, risking death from overdose every time. It isn't compassionate to lower barriers and attract more IV drug use to Portland: it's IRRESPONSIBLE. We are on track for over 70 overdose deaths this year. The Hepatitis A outbreak will add to that.

Furthermore, an opioid habit costs from $40 to $200 per day. A crack habit is $400 to $500 per day. The addicts, which includes most of the tenters, judging by the piles of needles, are unemployed. That means they must steal, or traffic in drugs or sex to support their habits. We need to stop encouraging, enabling, and incentivizing this behavior.

If we enforce laws against camping on public property, the substance abusers will move on, as they know they can't use in jail. They will find couches as they have done for years. It's harsh, but it's not as harsh as filling our parks with more and more addicts, and adding to the numbers of daily overdoses, assaults, and crime. Every city that has made the mistake of lowering barriers to drug use and offering more benefits has become overwhelmed with needles, filth, crime, overdoses, and tents.

Please stop expanding the encampments.

William S.Linnell
1905 Congress Street

From: "Isabela Muldoon" via Public Comment on behalf of "Isabela Muldoon" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Sunday, November 19, 2023 10:36:55 AM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

As long as I have lived in Portland I have seen how the city fails our most vulnerable population and repeatedly tried to "fix the problem" with solutions that do not get to the root of why so many people are houseless. Without addressing wealth inequality, a lack of mental health care, cutting resources to drug rehabilitation programs houseless populations are vilified and mistreated. I have seen how city officials ignore houseless populations even in 2020 when hundreds were displaced and had no choice but to live out front of city hall. It is glaringly obvious how much city council values tourism and its wealthier populations over the people who need the most support from the systems of government.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Isabela Muldoon

isabelamuldoon@gmail.com
1917 Washington Ave
portland, Maine 04103

From: "Elizabeth Davidson" via Public Comment on behalf of "Elizabeth Davidson" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the sweeps. Protect our homeless.
Date: Sunday, November 19, 2023 10:33:58 AM

Portland Public Comment,

The sweeps must stop. The crowding of our homeless in one encampment, creating dangerous conditions for all who live there, must also stop.

That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

Because of that, this amendment is supported by groups like Preble Street, the ACLU, the Portland Housing Coalition, Homeless Voices for Justice, STRIVE, Grace Street Ministries, and so many others who work directly with or care so deeply about this population.
Forcing people to move constantly is not a solution. Giving them the space to build community and trust is. Please vote yes on Order 68 on Monday.

Elizabeth Davidson
davidson.elizabeth.a@gmail.com
126 Summit Street
Portland , Maine 04103

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Maureen Lafferty <maureen.lafferty@gmail.com>
To:	mdion@portlandmaine.gov
Cc:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Opposed to Legalized Camping in Portland
Date:	Sunday, November 19, 2023 10:32:52 AM

Hello
I'm writing as a resident of District 5 to voice my opposition to the council's proposal to legalize camping in Portland.

While the intention behind legalizing camping may stem from a desire to address homelessness, it's crucial to consider the potential drawbacks. Allowing unrestricted camping could lead to public health and safety concerns, exacerbating the challenges faced by both homeless individuals and the broader community. We are seeing the health and safety impacts now, with the outbreak of Hepatitis A among many of those in the current encampments. There have been reports of violent crimes, including rape and assault and fires caused by using unsafe methods to heat and cook. These issues will only grow worse if people are left outside through the winter. Implementing comprehensive solutions that focus on affordable housing, mental health support, and job opportunities offer a more sustainable and compassionate approach to tackling homelessness.

This proposal is counter to best practices that have been shared with the city by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and local experts like Community Housing of Maine's Cullen Ryan, who are unanimous in stating that the sanctioning of encampments leads to worse outcomes for the unhoused and the communities they camp in.

This proposal is mistimed, coming right before the city expects to add 150+ beds to the shelter system. Without the incentive of resolving encampments, this proposal would make it much more difficult for outreach workers to convince unhoused individuals to take shelter in advance of winter.

This proposal is universally condemned by a wide variety of city departments, including Health and Human Services, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Police, and Housing and Economic Development. Read a memo from these department heads below.

This proposal will deny other residents of Portland peaceful use of city parks and trails, which are supposed to be amenities for the shared use of the entire public. It will be impossible for activities like sledding at Payson Park, skating at Deering Oaks, or cross-country skiing at Riverside Golf Course to occur if these parks are open for unfettered camping and the unfortunate public safety threats that emanate from congregations of campers.

This proposal will make it nearly impossible for the city to conduct routine winter snow and ice removal operations if encampments continue to block public ways through the winter.

This proposal is hypocritical, exempting City Hall Plaza from accepting encampments where the City Councilors putting this forward work routinely, while pushing

encampments into neighborhoods and near businesses where the vast majority of the city lives and/or works.

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Lafferty
54 Deepwood Dr
Portland ME 04103

...

From:	"Robin Silva" via Public Comment on behalf of "Robin Silva" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	City park encampment proposal
Date:	Sunday, November 19, 2023 10:31:42 AM

I am writing to express my feelings regarding the proposal for the city of Portland to allow overnight occupation and tent encampments in our city parks and on our sidewalks. As a tax paying citizen for almost 20 years in this city, I am adamantly opposed to this proposal! I feel that my civil rights are being invaded upon. I pride myself in supporting the city as a safe and inclusive community and that our efforts as citizens and civic leaders should be focused on maintaining that pride and safety. All illegal activities should not be allowed in our public areas. Please keep the city of Portland a safe and healthy community. Please think and vote against this proposal with the best interest of your constituents, for whom you represent, in mind.

Sent from my iPhone

From:	"Kathy Buxton" via Public Comment on behalf of "Kathy Buxton" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	mdion@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Fw: Oppose Order 68
Date:	Sunday, November 19, 2023 10:25:35 AM

Dear City Council,

You should NOT pass the proposed order to allow camping in our parks. This would pose a HUGE safety risk.
Housing in the winter is the goal that needs to be attained.
People will freeze on the streets or in the parks in tents. Cold temperatures, snow, fire are all real risks. Along with the potential for health and disease related outbreaks. The ongoing crisis of overdose. The list goes on and on.

The order as proposed allows for camping without law and order. This is a risk to public safety. It's also a risk to those unhoused experiencing trauma. Law and order is necessary to control Drug and substance use, human trafficking and general human safety from assaults, harrassment, public indecency, etc.

Camping on sidewalks is detrimental to the livelihood of business owners and potentially the health of their workers. Likely driving away customers.

What about City Staff and their health and safety. City employees out doing the work, your Parks and Rec staff? Health and Human Services, police and fire? As a City Council you need to show support for the very people in the trenches trying to help. You have an obligation to them as employees. And if you don't show them you care, if you don't listen to their concerns, they will leave and stop doing the work. This is the harsh reality.

The City has a real crisis with encampments, legalizing them in our parks and on our streets is not the answer.

Please do not pass this proposal by Coucilors Travarrow and Rodriguez, it's a BAD plan for our unhoused, it's a bad plan for our business leaders our taxpayers and our City employees.

Kathy Buxton
Resident & Taxpayer, Lane Ave Portland Maine

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

From: "Selene Spivak" via Public Comment on behalf of "Selene Spivak" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Sunday, November 19, 2023 10:08:06 AM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Selene Spivak
vivalux8915@gmail.com
261 state st
Portland, Maine 04101

From: "Abigail Maycock" via Public Comment on behalf of "Abigail Maycock" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the sweeps. Protect our homeless.
Date: Sunday, November 19, 2023 10:07:19 AM

Portland Public Comment,

Dear Councilors,
The sweeps must stop. The crowding of our homeless in one encampment, creating dangerous conditions for all who live there, must also stop.

That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

Because of that, this amendment is supported by groups like Preble Street, the ACLU, the Portland Housing Coalition, Homeless Voices for Justice, STRIVE, Grace Street Ministries, and so many others who work directly with or care so deeply about this population.
Forcing people to move constantly is not a solution. Giving them the space to build community and trust is. Please vote yes on Order 68 on Monday.

Sincerely,
Abi

Abigail Maycock
abigailpmay@gmail.com
20 vermont Ave
Portland, Maine us, 04103

From:	"Kathy Buxton" via Public Comment on behalf of "Kathy Buxton" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Oppose Order 68
Date:	Sunday, November 19, 2023 10:05:55 AM

Dear City Council,

You should NOT pass the proposed order to allow camping in our parks. This would pose a HUGE safety risk.
Housing in the winter is the goal that needs to be attained.
People will freeze on the streets or in the parks in tents. Cold temperatures, snow, fire are all real risks. Along with the potential for health and disease related outbreaks. The ongoing crisis of overdose. The list goes on and on.

The order as proposed allows for camping without law and order. This is a risk to public safety. It's also a risk to those unhoused experiencing trauma. Law and order is necessary to control Drug and substance use, human trafficking and general human safety from assaults, harrassment, public indecency, etc.

Camping on sidewalks is detrimental to the livelihood of business owners and potentially the health of their workers. Likely driving away customers.

The City has a real crisis with encampments, legalizing them in our parks and on our streets is not the answer.

Please do not pass this proposal by Coucilors Travarrow and Rodriguez, it's a BAD plan for our unhoused, it's a bad plan for our business leaders and our taxpayers.

Kathy Buxton
Resident & Taxpayer, Lane Ave Portland Maine

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

From: "Amelia Keleher" via Public Comment on behalf of "Amelia Keleher" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the sweeps. Protect our homeless.
Date: Sunday, November 19, 2023 10:04:19 AM

Portland Public Comment,

The sweeps must stop. The crowding of our homeless in one encampment, creating dangerous conditions for all who live there, must also stop.

That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

Because of that, this amendment is supported by groups like Preble Street, the ACLU, the Portland Housing Coalition, Homeless Voices for Justice, STRIVE, Grace Street Ministries, and so many others who work directly with or care so deeply about this population.
Forcing people to move constantly is not a solution. Giving them the space to build community and trust is. Please vote yes on Order 68 on Monday.

Amelia Keleher
amelia.keleher@gmail.com
33 Grant St #3
Portland, Maine 04101

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Kat Blackstone <katlyn50@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Order #68
Date: Sunday, November 19, 2023 9:59:59 AM

As a matter of public record, my name is Katlyn Blackstone and I am an older adult resident of Portland. Being a Mainer and having lived in Portland since 1980, I have seen this city go through many changes, particularly here on Munjoy Hill. I am **strongly opposed to Order #68** which would allow unhoused people to live outside in tents in our parks. This situation has gotten completely out of hand and the fact that no one is in charge is very disturbing. The fires, drug use, stolen bikes, filth, and now the Hepatitis outbreak is all a result of a city that lacks strong leadership. Allowing tents to be placed in our beautiful parks will serve to increase the unhealthy and dangerous behaviors we have all witnessed. This is not the answer no matter what the temperature is outside.

From:	"Suzanne Shelley" via Public Comment on behalf of "Suzanne Shelley" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	homeless camps
Date:	Sunday, November 19, 2023 9:56:57 AM

Please ***VOTE NO*** on the upcoming camping ordinance. We need to learn from the mistakes of other cities like Seattle, San Francisco, and the "other" Portland, before we end up in the same situation. They tried being 'compassionate' by allowing these encampments, but now their cities have been overrun with these unsanitary, unsafe and inhumane living conditions. Allowing these encampments only exacerbates the problem and destroys cities.

Already, here in Portland, Maine, the police are called to assaults and other crimes daily, there are dangerous needles left all over the ground, there has been a recent hepatitis outbreak, and the city can't secure a contract to empty the overflowing porta-potties that have been provided. People defecate on the sidewalks and this is a setup for third-world outbreaks like hepatitis A, cholera and even typhoid.

How can this be considered compassionate? We can't turn our heads and pretend that allowing filthy, disease-, drug- and violence-ridden encampments is being "compassionate". Those who promote permitting these encampments are not being compassionate, they are simply being lazy.

We cannot allow Portland to become a third-world city. Permitting homeless encampments is NOT the answer to the homeless problem. It might seem like the "easy" fix, but it is neither easy nor compassionate, but it is dangerous, and it will destroy the city we care about.

VOTE NO on the camping ordinance. Once we go down that road, there is no turning back!

Thank you

Suzanne Shelley

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of trish m <trishmacomber@hotmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Order 68
Date: Sunday, November 19, 2023 9:39:33 AM

I strongly oppose the passing of Order 68 that would allow public camping anywhere in the city through out the winter months. These encampments are deadly, unsafe, rampant drug use, outbreaks of Hepatitis A and other infectious diseases. Used dirty needles, trash, feces are everywhere near these encampments. There is a help offered to the unhoused people staying in these encampments but they choose to stay in their situation for various reasons. I do think there needs to be options available for the unhoused that have pets. I also feel unhoused couples should be able to stay together and there needs to be options for them as well.
Safety for city staff including emergency responders as well as Preble Street and the other social service agencies, should be paramount and top of mind.

This proposal should never have been created without going through proper channels. Shame on Council members, Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Every department in the city is opposed to this passing and they are the ones who are directly responsible for carrying it out. Trevorrow and Rodriguez should live in the encampment all winter to see what actually happens.
Trish Macomber
24 Orange Street
Portland, ME 04102

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of georged <georged@3dxstudios.com>
To:	rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov; ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	OPPOSE Order# 68-Camping and Loitering on Public Property
Date:	Sunday, November 19, 2023 9:30:50 AM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to order #68 which would allow camping on public property.

I honestly can't believe that everyone waited until the cold winter weather set in to now start worrying about this. This last minute decision making is not how to solve this problem. Putting a band-aid on a bullet hole is not the solution. The city was able to house hundreds of immigrants for several months, but can't come up with a shelter solution for the homeless that have been here much longer? Allowing the homeless to camp as they have been is not only unsafe for them through the winter but also unsafe for the general public needing to go through or near these areas for work, recreation or parking. Needles, trash, human waste, fires, rats and other pests are just a few of the underlying problems caused by this, not to mention potential crime, prostitution and drug use. Transitional housing, or even just safe winter shelters need to be provided for them, not just a piece of a public parking lot. Tens of thousands of dollars were spent to house the immigrants that came to Portland, why can't the same be done for our homeless. Let them use the same facility the immigrants used and don't use the excuse that basketball is in season. If basketball is more important than or homeless situation then maybe it's time to let those who think that move on and be replaced with people with hearts for our community.

Thank you,
George Deep

From: "Lizz Sinclair" via Public Comment on behalf of "Lizz Sinclair" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect and provide support our houseless neighbors!
Date: Sunday, November 19, 2023 9:21:25 AM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

The sweeps cast more harm in long term as well as for the immediate welfare of folks- https://nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/NHCHC-encampment-sweeps-issue-brief-12-22.pdf

https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2803839

Funds should be put toward developing long term solutions, including shelters that accept people who may be actively engaged in substance abuse with access to support services. Also more housing for families, youth and all unhoused. Please. And as new shelter and housing options are considered, please involve the community to help bring us along and avoid the outpouring of fear and anger, and appalling spread of misinformation, such was experienced at a meeting in the Rosemont area about the proposed shelter on Brighton avenue a few years ago. It was shocking to hear my neighbors speak against it, and wish there were ways to educate and bring people along.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Thank you for your compassion, thoughtfulness, and courage to address this issue in a substantive way.

Respectfully yours,
Lizz Sinclair
15 lawn ave, portland maine

Lizz Sinclair
elizabeth_sinclair@me.com
15 Lawn Avenue , #3
Portland , Maine 04103

From:	"Ann Roderick" via Public Comment on behalf of "Ann Roderick" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Order 68-23/24
Date:	Sunday, November 19, 2023 9:17:00 AM

Dear Mayor Snyder and City Councilors:

Please vote NO on Order 68-23/24 regarding the proposed Legalization of Camping in Portland.

It seems clear to me that allowing illegal camping, illegal drug use, and whatever other illegal activities are occurring has not helped the situation one bit. In fact, the situation has grown frighteningly worse for everyone involved, including the campers. I have heard people note that there have been thefts from their yards (bicycles, backpacks, etc.) if they live even somewhat near an encampment. There has been reporting on the impact to businesses (threats, excrement, needles, etc.). Obviously, this is not acceptable.

The needs of a few should not force the tens of thousands of residents to be pushed aside to accommodate the squalor that ensues at these encampments. I now avoid areas and businesses that are near an encampment.

Yes, these campers have serious challenges, and no one wants them out in the cold. They do have a choice and if they don't want to make changes, why is it the taxpayers' responsibility to enable them?

As a Portland native and long-time resident, I am disgusted by the fact that the City of Portland, Maine has permitted these illegal activities to go on for years. This has negatively impacted residents, taxpayers and businesses. Why would anyone want to visit, let alone move to, a city that allows illegal activity (and blatant at that)?

As you review the comments that have been submitted, please remember that you represent residents, taxpayers, and businesses in the City of Portland, not people from away that have no business here. Even the City Departments are against this order.

Please vote NO on order 68-23/24 and have the Portland Police Department start enforcing the law.

Thank you.

Ann Roderick
970 Washington Avenue
Portland, Maine 04103

From:	"Tanya Deep" via Public Comment on behalf of "Tanya Deep" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	OPPOSE Order# 68-Camping and Loitering on Public Property.
Date:	Sunday, November 19, 2023 9:11:41 AM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to order #68 which would allow camping on public property. This is not the best way to help the homeless. The answer like Mayor Snyder is saying is to bring them inside. Camping is a detriment to their heath, public safety and the surrounding community. Camping gives them a place to do drugs, loiter and commit crimes against each other and the public that has to be near the encampments. The encampments have had issues of drugs, needles being piled up, and health hazards, O.D. issues. They are not safe for even the first responders to go into and help. There have been issues with the crime in and around the camps.

There is also trash that piles up at these encampments that makes it unsafe as well. This draws The sanitation company that was pumping the pitta potties didn't renew their contract because they don't want employees in the encampment and no one will bid on the job. Where does that leave the city? Buying their own pump truck? You send in the parks and rec people to do this or whoever is going to now handle this and that department will start to see vacancies.

There has also been a few tent fires already. What's going to happen when a major tent fire happens and a large part or the whole encampment burns possible injuring or taking lives? Is the city ready to deal with that? How? These encampments are not safe!

Health issues are another reason why these encampments are not the best option, look a the Hepatitis outbreak currently happening. "It is an extremely contagious liver infection that is spread through unsanitary living conditions. Contaminated water, food and surfaces can all carry the disease, which originates in feces. While homeless advocates say the outbreak stems from a lack of access to clean water for drinking and bathing, city officials say the unsanitary conditions are why they have cleared encampments and are focused on getting people into shelters." "Having Hep A is awful no matter what, but being severely sick and still sleeping outside, you're in circumstances where you aren't able to take care of yourself and sleep in a bed or access a bathroom. There is so much added challenge," said Andrew Volkers, a supervisor at the nonprofit Preble Street's health services (Portland Press Herald, Maine). A reason the sweeps need to keep happening, other outbreaks of diseases could happen as well.. The advocates are even saying how the camps are unsanitary. This then puts more strain on our health care system at Maine Med and Northern Light Mercy. Yes they are vaccinating and yes vaccines work but there can and will be other outbreaks (Flu, Covid, RSV, HIV...)

The short term solution would be more beds. The city has already opened up 50 more in the Homeless Service Center and the other shelter is set to open later this month which will open up more beds (~100) in the Homeles Service Center. There should also be warming shelters in the short term when the days get cold enough. Why can't the civic center or hotels be used for the winter? They housed immigrants use it to how the homeless if needed thought the winter. State funding should help with this emergency. Look at FEMA to help with emergency sheltering if needed. This is a crisis and an emergency situation.

The long term answer...More transitional housing with lots of supports. More Rehab facilities, forced by courts if need be, to help get people clean and into the transitional housing. Veteran housing because no veteran should be homeless. More affordable and income based apartments/homes. More care coordination and wrap around services. Stop allowing these developers to buy out of not having to do their part and provide some affordable units.

Please get the homeless into places for the winter and off the street and please do not allow these encampments to be a fixture in the city. Public camping should not be allowed.

Thank you
Tanya Vabalas

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Julie Sawtelle <julie04103@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Order 68, I do NOT support this
Date: Sunday, November 19, 2023 9:08:17 AM

This order will enable the drug addicts, and criminals to continue to disrupt and pollute our city, and now you want to encourage it in our neighborhood parks?? Ridiculous!

I wholeheartedly DO NOT SUPPORT THIS!!

julie Sawtelle
46 Broadway
Portland, ME 04103

Sent from my iPhone

From:	"Diane Caputo" via Public Comment on behalf of "Diane Caputo" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Encampments
Date:	Sunday, November 19, 2023 9:03:27 AM

November 19, 2023…9:00AM

Portland, Maine is a lively, thriving city; however that could change in a heartbeat if encampments are allowed to expand and multiply!!

I am a resident of 15+ years and a taxpayer in the city!! I am TOTALLY OPPOSED TO ENCAMPMENTS IN THE CITY!! The homeless want to STAY in the city due to the proximity of all services that are offered for them! My taxes go toward these services, and while I feel badly for them, this situation in Portland has gotten COMPLETELY OUT OF HAND!! As leaders of Portland you MUST ADDRESS THIS ISSUE BEFORE ANY OTHER!! It's unhealthy, unsafe and SCARY!!

I always felt proud to live in Portland.. a lovely, civilized city. Now, going for a walk is scary and the city looks more and more like a third-world country. I certainly don't feel pride!! The city leaders must realize this "infection" will only SPREAD if drastic action isn't taken NOW!! Businesses have already closed, more wii; and new business will go elsewhere if and when they see encampments at every corner!!

AS A RESIDENT, I BEG you to PLEASE STOP THE influx of new people into Portland and "get a handle on the current problem"..

Diane Caputo

Please let me know that you received this..
Sent from my iPhone

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Randall Mougalian <randall@mougalianrugs.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Portland Encampments
Date:	Sunday, November 19, 2023 9:02:20 AM

Is this really happening? After months of having to work in and around this lawless, inhumane and filthy environment I find it difficult to believe that this council would consider promoting it again.
Did any council members spend time at the Marginal Way encampment ? I would guess that you didn't. If you did there is no way that you would consider changing the ordinance to allow this mess to happen again.
Have you thought at all about the residents, businesses and employees that live and work in these areas? NO.
Do you have an explanation as to how promoting this inhumane lifestyle would help anyone at all?
We just got our East Bayside neighborhood back.
Please think and use just a little common sense.
Please don't change the ordinance to allow for these encampments in Portland.
Please don't destroy this city.

Thank you

--

Randall Mougalian
175 Anderson Street
Portland, Maine 04101
Store: (207) 553-7700

“Sales and Service of the highest quality”

From:	"Norma Filler" via Public Comment on behalf of "Norma Filler" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Order 68
Date:	Sunday, November 19, 2023 8:46:30 AM

I am totally against order 68. It will impact the quality of life on all of Portland, and set a dangerous precedent and put many people in danger Norma Filler.

Sent from my iPad

From:	"harley lewin" via Public Comment on behalf of "harley lewin" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Against encampments
Date:	Sunday, November 19, 2023 8:45:13 AM

Please include me. Send info to Harley@lewinconsult .com
Sent from my iPhone

From:	"LOUISE LE BLANC" via Public Comment on behalf of "LOUISE LE BLANC" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Re: Oppose Order 68
Date:	Sunday, November 19, 2023 8:21:36 AM

Allowing encampments and semi permanent structures on Portland sidewalks and parks is a BAD idea.

. Councilor Trevorrow and Councilor Rodriguez bypassed proper procedures to get input which sets a bad precedent.
• Every City of Portland Department head is against this proposal.
• The estimated annual costs for this proposal is $1.2 million.
• At least 3 to 4 tent fires have all ready occurred in the encampments.
. They are already causing numerous problems requiring police intervention and this will only increase.
• Now a Hepatitis - A outbreak.
. Emergency shelters have been approved

This measure is dangerous and has caused a huge mess wherever it has been tried. I urge the councilors to Oppose Order 68.

I urge you to defeat this dangerous proposal.

Louise LeBlanc

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Jody Brinser <Jbrins@hotmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Oppose Order #68
Date: Sunday, November 19, 2023 8:18:16 AM

Good Morning,

I oppose order #68. We need to provide housing and not encampments. Keep up the sweeps so the citizens and visitors DO NOT FEEL UNSAFE. I have been a long time Portland Residents who loves to walk there are places I do not feel safe walking and enjoying the city I have called home since mid 90"s.
Not all people in encampments are residents of Portland. What assistance is available from other communities. We are becoming a Seatle. IF I wanted that I would have moved there back in the 90"s.
Please oppose order #68
Sincerely,
Jody Brinser

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Staci Hanscom <slpartin.sh@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: No on extension of encampments
Date: Sunday, November 19, 2023 8:09:22 AM

To all Councilors:

I vehemently oppose the proposed changes to City ordinances called Order 68. While “sweeps” are distressing to the homeless population, the rise in disease, fires, and danger in the camps is alarming, along with the Maine winter weather. Please work to move them inside, not perpetuate this dangerous situation.

Staci Hanscom
33 Heather Rd.
Portland, ME

Sent from my iPhone

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of andrea turley <atlvnv@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Oppose order #68
Date: Sunday, November 19, 2023 8:08:59 AM

I am opposed to order 68 because it discriminates against the housed in Portland. Is this proposal were to pass it would effectively deny safe & enjoyable access to most of the parks in our lovely city. Residents would have to weigh the benefits of being in our parks with fear for their personal safety. Since the encampments have high incidences of violence & crime along with dangerous levels of diseases that could spread throughout our population housed residents would not go near the parks that would allow unfettered lawlessness.

The rules by which we must live must be obeyed by all.

Discrimination against the housed is just that — discrimination.

Sincerely,

Andrea Turley

340 Eastern Promenade

Portland, Maine 04101

From: "Sophie Chaney" via Public Comment on behalf of "Sophie Chaney" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Sunday, November 19, 2023 7:58:57 AM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Sophie Chaney
sophielouisechaney@gmail.com
73 Congress St, Apt 2
Portland, Maine 04101

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Rocket Wong <rocket_wong@hotmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Encampments
Date:	Sunday, November 19, 2023 7:33:04 AM

To whom it may concern,

Over the last 20 years my wife and I have owned a condo and lived on Commercial St in Portland Maine. I also was born in Portland Maine.

We are writing because there is now a large encampment located in our neighborhood. It is disgusting and dangerous to me and my wife.

Have you seen this encampment lately? There is litter, garbage and who knows what else in and around that encampment. We drove by there today and the smell was overwhelming.

Who knows what types of diseases are there and could spread. We have also found needles behind our condo. The gas station near the encampment has locked all their doors except one.

Does Portland have a plan for this problem? Are there any upcoming city meetings that Portland residents can attend to express our concern?

My wife and I are always glad to pay our taxes to Portland because we love this city. However, we do not want this encampment in our neighborhood.

Sincerely,
Rocket Wong and Lilliana Acuna

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device
Get Outlook for Android

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Zach Bouzan-Kaloustian <zacharybk@gmail.com>
To: Anna Trevorrow; council@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Re: This is a rogue proposal... Camping in public is not a safe or viable option
Date: Sunday, November 19, 2023 7:16:55 AM

Hi Anna,

I appreciate you addressing my email directly. However, from what I read below and from what was filed, and then amended, I see a large discrepancy between your unofficial words here.

As a human, one of my core and sacred values is honesty, and I also try to assume someone's best intentions. The gap here is that I can't tell if you're unaware of differences in your statements and thus they're unintentional, or if you're intentionally being deceitful. Neither are ideal and put our city and the citizens at risk, but the second is unforgivable.

For example, you say that this virtually unrestricted camping is going to end in May, when the reality is that your proposal has no plan for how to do that. You're all about stopping the sweeps, which I assume means those camping on the sidewalk in front of my house, on the eastern promenade, etc. will just up and leave once the date arrives?

And yes, your proposal does allow someone to camp on the sidewalk, in front of my house, impeding access to my private property.

I'll admit, I (hopefully) have spent less time thinking about possible solutions than you have, but even the proposal for moving this forward will recklessly harm our city in favor of a few. I've read every department letter on this topic, and they say it better than I about what an atrocious idea this is.

Lastly, please identify which legal team wrote, and who funded the writing of this proposal? I feel that the citizens of Portland deserve to know where ideas like this come from.

Thank you,
Zach

On Mon, Nov 6, 2023 at 8:18 PM Anna Trevorrow <atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov> wrote:

> Zach,
>
> I am pasting below the text of the press release that Councilor Rodriguez and I issued yesterday, which will provide you with our rationale. This proposal will place a moratorium on encampment sweeps through the winter, but leave school zones, playgrounds, sidewalks, all public ways and a few other public locations restricted from camping. With the number of unhoused people living in Portland, people are going to be sleeping outside no matter what. Pausing the sweeps will ensure that we are not forcibly separating them from life-sustaining belongings when it is cold enough to freeze to death. This policy seeks to extend a very basic level of humanity to our most vulnerable community members for a limited time. I believe we need strategic, values-based planning in our overall approach to homelessness in conjunction with this, that expands housing and shelter capacity and effectively reduces the barriers to obtaining shelter.

I understand that not everyone is going to agree but hope you do understand that I am offering this policy for Council consideration from a place of best intentions. Thank you.

Anna

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 5th, 2013
CONTACT: Anna Trevorrow, (207) 699-4141; Roberto Rodriguez (207) 450-9729

City Councilors Propose Concrete Action on Encampment Sweeps: Pausing the City's Anti-Camping Ordinances for the Winter Will Save Lives
In the wake of three sweeps of homeless encampments on November 1, City Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez propose temporarily amending the City's prohibition on public camping for the winter, seeking to stop the forcible removal of encampments and promote a policy and practice on unsheltered homelessness that centers human dignity and safety.

PORTLAND, ME — City Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez propose to temporarily amend three sections of the City of Portland Code of Ordinances to pause the City's prohibition on public camping. These sections of the Code have been enforced through the City's practice of sweeping homeless encampments. Encampment sweeps and camping bans forcibly relocate unhoused people, pushing vulnerable residents further to the margins and leading to substantial increases in deaths, hospitalizations, and life-threatening conditions. Temporarily amending the three sections of the Code will temporarily pause encampment sweeps through the winter—when forcibly displacing unhoused residents is even more dangerous—and enable the City Council to take a different approach to the issue of housing and homelessness.

Since July 2022, five large encampment sweeps have been conducted by the City of Portland. Each time an encampment sweep occurs, unhoused residents lose their belongings and must search for an alternative place to go. "It has become clear to me in the last several months that the sweeps are simply inhumane," said Councilor Trevorrow, "we are separating people from the only life-sustaining belongings they have in the world, and sending them off to fend for themselves. In my opinion, we can't continue this through the winter, when temps drop into the 30's and below," Trevorrow said.

Moreover, after each encampment sweep, the location is designated as an emphasis area, so unhoused people are prohibited from returning to the spot. Each encampment sweep reduces the public places on which unhoused residents can sleep, create shelter, and survive. After the November 1 sweeps, only one homeless encampment remains in downtown Portland, at Harbor View Park. As a result, unhoused people have been forced to live in more congested and larger encampments."The size and concentration of the encampments is a grave concern," Councilor Rodriguez said, "forcing together masses of people who are impoverished and facing desperate circumstances can only lead to increased problems," Rodriguez said.

The ordinance amendments proposed by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodríguez will pause any further encampment sweeps during the winter and will remove emphasis areas, enabling

unhoused people to live in smaller and safer encampments until there is enough affordable housing and shelter capacity available in the city.

Encampment sweeps are the wrong approach to Portland's homelessness crisis. In April, the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) published a study that shows involuntary displacement of unhoused people, through encampment sweeps and camping bans, substantially increases morbidity and mortality over a 10-year period. The editorial for the JAMA study concludes that involuntary displacement of unhoused people is "making a bad situation worse." During the winter, when survival outdoors is most challenging, encampment sweeps and camping bans cause even more danger and damage. In recognition of the increased dangers of sweeps and bans during winter and extreme weather, medical and public health professionals support winter bans on encampment sweeps as a "healthful first step."

Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez stressed that these policy changes are in keeping with City Council's 2023 goals to always use "a lens that prioritizes racial, social and justice equity." "We want to ensure that Council policies related to Portland's most vulnerable residents are in-keeping with its goals around equity," Councilor Rodriguez said.

The amendments offered by City Councilors Trevorrow and Rodríguez will pause encampment sweeps and camping bans during the winter to mitigate the dangers and harms related to the involuntary displacement of unhoused people and, ultimately, save lives. They are slated to appear on the Council's agenda for a first read on November 13th, and second read on November 20th.

# # #

On Mon, Nov 6, 2023 at 6:37 PM Zach Bouzan-Kaloustian <zacharybk@gmail.com> wrote:

> Hi,
>
> I'm writing as a citizen of Portland in district 1, Anna's district. I wholeheartedly find the proposal despicable and ask that you all do everything within your power to stop this rogue action.
>
> I live at 73 Federal Street, which, if you're unfamiliar with our location I'll enlighten you.
>
> We sit about 75 feet away from Walgreens which sells and allows theft of Natty Daddy's, and does not enforce loitering on their property in front or back. Day and night there are folks on Federal st drinking alcohol they have purchased at Walgreens.
>
> We are about equidistant from Milestone and Grace Street Services. Both facilities attract a population that I can promise you will sleep on our front steps, will continue to defecate on the front of our house and whom you would not want in your own front yard.
>
> The rogue proposal by the unnamed councilors is a threat to my personal safety, my 4 week old son's safety, and my wife's safety. In addition to being entirely irresponsible for the city's future, this proposal is a threat to the democratic process. It's a backdoor process that I can only imagine is being done by councilors without an ability to create real

solutions.

Because of the crowd in our neighborhood, I have spent hundreds of dollars on security cameras. This is to combat trespassing and personal property theft that I have experienced, to attempt to counteract package theft, and within the last month to submit evidence for a crime at the local laundromat and stop a serial graffiti tagger from continuing to deface public property.

This proposal is an open invitation for more people to flock to Portland to degrade our quality of life. If you're not convinced? Look no further than Portland, Oregon for an example of why this is absolutely the wrong path forward.

Anna - as our district's councilor, I'm asking you to immediately disavow this preposterous proposal.

Please feel free to ask for any clarification on the points I've made, or if you want further details on the crime that I've already personally experienced.

Thank you,
Zach

--
Anna Trevorrow
City Councilor, District 1
(207) 699-4141

Notice: Under Maine law, documents - including e-mails - in the possession of public officials or city employees about government business may be classified as public records. There are very few exceptions. As a result, please be advised that what is written in an e-mail could be released to the public and/or the media if requested.

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Genevieve Leslie <genevieve.leslie@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25
Date:	Sunday, November 19, 2023 6:24:41 AM

To my Portland City Councilors:

I am writing to share my comments on the ordinance being voted on Monday 11/20 that would legally allow encampments of unhoused individuals in most city parks and public spaces. This includes areas next to sidewalks, in front of businesses, on nature trails, in our city parks, and just outside the perimeter of playgrounds and 250 feet or more from our schools. I am opposed to such legislation as I believe it compromises the safety of both the unhoused individuals as well as the residents of our neighborhoods. Our children deserve safe and clean streets, parks, and trails in order to grow and flourish. Our fellow Mainers experiencing homelessness deserve shelter and wraparound services. The city must respond with swift and comprehensive action to provide shelter before winter hits. Allowing for the encampments to disperse and further compromise the safety of families and viability of businesses is not good for Portland.

Respectfully yours,

Genevieve Leslie

--
Genevieve Leslie
207-577-9027

From: "michael smith" via Public Comment on behalf of "michael smith" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Encampments
Date: Sunday, November 19, 2023 5:41:38 AM

Are you people crazy? Let’s find a solution , no permanent encampments

Sent from my iPhone

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Betsy Callahan <betsycallahan@hotmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Council Order 68
Date: Sunday, November 19, 2023 12:39:31 AM

Dear Mayor Snyder and City Councilors:

I am a Portland taxpayer, from District 3, who **strongly opposes** Council Order 68.

Please understand that I am very sympathetic and compassionate to anyone who is experiencing homelessness. I recognize many people have found themselves in this tragic situation through no fault of theirs (such as domestic violence, a fire, or there isn't any housing available after being evicted). I also recognize it is a complex problem. Commonly, there also are substance abuse issues and/or mental health issues. Homelessness and the encampments are the effect…not the cause..and we need to address the cause first.

It is with this sympathy that I **strongly oppose** Council Order 68 for the following reasons:

1. People need to be brought inside: While the sweeps may superficially seem cruel, people living outside in tent encampments during the winter is worse. –Learning of animals being outside in the winter is heartbreaking. Allowing humans to be left outside in the cold is inhumane.

2. Safety: Allowing camping outside is a dangerous situation. Safety was a factor when the encampments at 295, Fore River and Marginal Way were swept.

Safety issues are now evident at the Harbor View Park with:

- Rats;
- Trash;
- Fires; and;

- A recent Hepatitis - A outbreak

Things will become more dangerous when snowplows need to remove snow, too.

3. Cost: The estimated annual cost for this proposal is 1.2 million, which nobody can afford.

4. I concur with very every City of Portland Department head who is also against this proposal.

5. Transparency: It appears that Order 68 did not go through the normal committee process. This lack of transparency raises suspicion and distrust for the taxpayers of Portland.

For the above reasons, please **VOTE AGAINST** this proposal, and consider these suggestions as alternatives:
1). Explore any empty office space that could accommodate people.
2). Also explore now empty business retail space (like the former locations of The Christmas Tree Shop, Bed Bath and Beyond, Sears, North of The Border, Macaroni Grill, Tequila Grill on Commercial Street).
3). Explore the root causes of homelessness in the first place. If the cause is properly addressed, there will be a better effect. What's being done now is not solving the problem, it is simply moving it (as it gets worse).

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Callahan

From: "Michael LeComte" via Public Comment on behalf of "Michael LeComte" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the sweeps. Protect our homeless.
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 10:49:30 PM

Portland Public Comment,

I trust these following organizations Preble Street, the ACLU, the Portland Housing Coalition, Homeless Voices for Justice, STRIVE, Grace Street Ministries. They are in favor of this order.

The sweeps must stop. The crowding of our homeless in one encampment, creating dangerous conditions for all who live there, must also stop.

That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

Because of that, this amendment is supported by groups like Preble Street, the ACLU, the Portland Housing Coalition, Homeless Voices for Justice, STRIVE, Grace Street Ministries, and so many others who work directly with or care so deeply about this population.
Forcing people to move constantly is not a solution. Giving them the space to build community and trust is. Please vote yes on Order 68 on Monday.

Michael LeComte
icanfixtech@gmail.com
1115 Washington ave
Portland , Maine 04103

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Claire Christensen <cmchristensen123@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	I support Order 68
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 10:21:51 PM

I support Order 68 because it will help more people living unsheltered in Portland connect to housing and shelter options. First, Order 68 will stop the city from wasting public resources on ineffective encampment sweeps, so Portland can invest in proven solutions to homelessness: dignified and adequate housing and shelter! Cities waste hundreds of thousands of dollars to clear encampments. But these sweeps do nothing to help unhoused individuals access needed resources or transition towards permanent housing; instead, sweeps destroy whatever stability people living in encampments worked hard to create. Leaders from HUD and homelessness policy centers recognize that providing unhoused people dignified, individualized services that connect them to permanent housing is more effective than clearing encampments. Second, sweeps destroy unhoused people's trust in service providers and the city, making it harder to connect them with shelter and permanent housing. I urge you to pass Order 68 to stop the sweeps and help city staff and service providers build and maintain trust with unsheltered people; this trust is critical for connecting unhoused people to services, shelter, and, ultimately, permanent housing.

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Dolly Foster <dollyfoster.writes@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: NO on permanent encampments!!
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 10:16:42 PM

Sent from my iPhone

From:	"Jerry Devlin" via Public Comment on behalf of "Jerry Devlin" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Public encampments
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 9:38:32 PM

Please don’t allow public encampments. It is a blight on our beautiful city and a health hazard for the inhabitants. Provide housing for those who want housing, provide alcohol/drug rehabilitation treatment for those who want it. The homeless who won’t agree to either, need to be held accountable for those decisions and placed in mandatory rehabilitation facilities. People need to be held accountable for their actions and decisions whether they are homeless or not, but it seems like homeless people are not offered the services they need, nor held accountable for their unacceptable actions. It’s time for the city council to act in a meaningful way and make decisions that will help the homeless while, at the same time, preserving the Beaty of our great city.

Sent from my iPhone

From:	kayli via City Council on behalf of kayli via City Council <Council@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	council@portlandmaine.gov
Cc:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re:Camping and Loitering on Public Property
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 9:32:06 PM

My name is Kayli Elise and I reside at 244 Danforth St in Portland Maine.

I urge you to support the amendment proposed by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez which would institute a moratorium on the sweeps of homeless camps. This amendment would allow people experiencing homelessness to camp in public spaces, with some reasonable restrictions, until April 30th.

This amendment is not only humane and compassionate, but also sensible and effective. Sweeps are a failed policy that harms both the unhoused and the housed communities. They violate the human rights and dignity of people who have nowhere else to go. They disrupt their access to services, health care, and harm reduction. They increase the risk of hospitalizations, overdose, and death. They also waste public money and resources that could be better invested in housing and supportive services.

Sweeps do not reduce homelessness. They only displace it. They also create more hostility, resentment, and stigma towards people who are already marginalized and vulnerable. They erode the trust and cooperation between the unhoused community and the city officials and service providers who are trying to help them.

That’s why I urge you to vote in favor of this amendment. Please show your leadership and courage by standing up for the rights and well-being of our unhoused neighbors. Please show your vision and wisdom by supporting a policy that is based on evidence and best practices. Please show your humanity and compassion by ending the cruel and ineffective practice of sweeps.

Thank You.

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Christine Kean <soulmatesv@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Vote no on public camp in Portland
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 9:03:16 PM

Please don't vote for the camping in public places.

Not only do we have more public safety issues in Portland but we now have health safety issues with these encampments with a hepatitis outbreak.

I use to go for walks passing behind the Thomas building to see the fishing boat on my afternoon walks. I don't anymore because the homeless are sleeping in the gutter or a group is smoking pot. I don't feel safe.

I can't stop at the Irving gas station on commercial street to get coffee , gas or air because a people from the encampment is ranting and swearing incoherently in the parking lot and I don't feel safe . I have to drive over South Portland for these thing now. Or walk down to Free Range Fish Market because I don't feel safe.

Sunday afternoon on November 12 as I walk in DiMillo's parking a homeless man was urinating on the dumpster in Jay's oyster bar parking lot. That was a fun site to see.

Solve the problems get the homeless help and off the streets before we end up pulling frozen homeless out of tents and destroying tourism and businesses in Portland.

Let get back to a safe Portland.

Thank you for your help,
Chris Kean

207-408-7525

From:	"sarah mixer" via Public Comment on behalf of "sarah mixer" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Encampments
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 8:55:12 PM

I am writing as a fellow citizen of Portland. I am vehemently opposed to legalizing encampments on public land. I am disgusted that public officials have let the situation escalate to this point. Support mental health services to help people who want the help and support police to enforce the law and hold people accountable for their illegal actions. Over the past couple of years I have felt increasingly unsafe and avoid certain parts of the city. Wake up or we will completely lose this great city.
Sarah Belote
Sent from my iPhone

From:	council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Lily Fernald <lferne95@gmail.com>
To:	council@portlandmaine.gov
Cc:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re:Camping and Loitering on Public Property
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 8:54:26 PM

My name is Fern Fernald and I reside at 351 Woodville Rd You n Falmouth, Maine.

I am writing to urge you to support the amendment proposed by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez, which would institute a moratorium on the sweeps of homeless camps. This amendment would allow people experiencing homelessness to camp in public spaces, with some reasonable restrictions, until April 30th.

This amendment is not only humane and compassionate, but also sensible and effective. Sweeps are a failed policy that harms both the unhoused and the housed communities. They violate the human rights and dignity of people who have nowhere else to go. They disrupt their access to services, health care, and harm reduction. They increase the risk of hospitalizations, overdose, and death. They also waste public money and resources that could be better invested in housing and supportive services.

Sweeps do not reduce homelessness. They only displace it. They also create more hostility, resentment, and stigma towards people who are already marginalized and vulnerable. They erode the trust and cooperation between the unhoused community and the city officials and service providers who are trying to help them.

That’s why I urge you to vote in favor of this amendment. Please show your leadership and courage by standing up for the rights and well-being of our unhoused neighbors. Please show your vision and wisdom by supporting a policy that is based on evidence and best practices. Please show your humanity and compassion by ending the cruel and ineffective practice of sweeps.

Thank You

Warmly,
Fern Fernald

From:	"Ginger Jelenic" via Public Comment on behalf of "Ginger Jelenic" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	No homeless encampment
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 8:36:10 PM

Dear Portland City Counselman

Please do not make it legal for homeless to build encampments in the city.
This is a dangerous and unhealthy environment for everyone involved.

Thank you

Ginger Jelenic

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

From:	"Bob3" via Public Comment on behalf of "Bob3" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Strongly oppose Order 68
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 7:10:29 PM

Allowing encampments and semi permanent structures on Portland sidewalks and parks is a BAD idea.

. Councilor Trevorrow and Councilor Rodriguez bypassed proper procedures to get input which sets a bad precedent.
• Every City of Portland Department head is against this proposal.
• The estimated annual costs for this proposal is $1.2 million.
• At least 3 to 4 tent fires have all ready occurred in the encampments.
. They are already causing numerous problems requiring police intervention and this will only increase.
• Now a Hepatitis - A outbreak.
. Emergency shelters have been approved

This measure is dangerous and has caused a huge mess wherever it has been tried. I urge the councilors to Oppose Order 68.

I urge you to defeat this dangerous proposal.

From:	"Melinda" via Public Comment on behalf of "Melinda" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Strongly oppose Order 68
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 6:59:11 PM

Allowing encampments and semi permanent structures on Portland sidewalks and parks is a BAD idea.

. Councilor Trevorrow and Councilor Rodriguez bypassed proper procedures to get input which sets a bad precedent.
• Every City of Portland Department head is against this proposal.
• The estimated annual costs for this proposal is $1.2 million.
• At least 3 to 4 tent fires have all ready occurred in the encampments.
. They are already causing numerous problems requiring police intervention and this will only increase.
• Now a Hepatitis - A outbreak.
. Emergency shelters have been approved

This measure is dangerous and has caused a huge mess wherever it has been tried. I urge the councilors to Oppose Order 68.

I urge you to defeat this dangerous proposal.

From: council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Ryan Gahagan <ryangahagan@gmail.com>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Please vote NO on Order 68-23/24 "Camping Ordinance"
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 6:43:24 PM

Dear Portland City Council,

Thank you for your service to this community. It is a difficult and often thankless job, with more complaints than compliments. So let me first compliment you on attempting to address the current unhoused encampments situation, however, I ask Councilors Rodriguez and Trevorrow to please withdraw the proposed amendment to city ordinance. If it should come to a vote, I ask all city council members to please vote NO on Order 68-23/24.

While I understand the ordinance is temporary in nature, it's a common trend that rights, once granted, are extremely difficult to retract. The coming winter, with its cold, ice, and snow, is a terrible time to experiment with allowing camping on public property. The report of a Hepatitis outbreak (if true) is an example of how other colds, infections, and diseases are likely to spread further this winter, if allowed. This is just one reason I do not' support this amendment. Most importantly, without the ability to enforce our ordinances, there is less motivation for the unhoused to seek alternatives and support for becoming eligible for such alternatives.

I encourage you to listen to the concerns of:
Department of Health & Human Services
Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities
Department of Public Works
Police Department
Department of Housing & Economic Development
And allow the ECRT to be effective.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Ryan Gahagan
7 Greenleaf Street
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 551-3131

From: "August Lumpkins" via Public Comment on behalf of "August Lumpkins" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 6:32:26 PM

Portland Public Comment,

Hello, I live here in Portland and have for many years. I've watched as our city continues to miss-handle its own housing crisis, causing hundreds of people to be forced to live outside with no shelter other than a tarp or a tent. And I've watched as the very employees of our city, paid with my tax dollars, struggle to manage a situation for which they aren't properly trained, eventually resorting to violence against anyone caught existing in poverty, in public. I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

If our city continues to sweep encampments of out less fortunate neighbors, stealing and throwing away their belongings, our city will be committing execution without trial. The maine winter with no tent and sleeping bag is a death sentence. The City Council must pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, AND CREATE PERMANENT LEGISLATION PROTECTING OUR MOST VULNERABLE COMMUNITY MEMBERS and permanently granting rights to unhoused people to exist, and to keep their belongings, and to camp where they choose.

Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City’s ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024, which could save countless lives while we wait for city shelter capacity to be increased, or for housing costs to be lowered.

August Lumpkins
digory.lumpkins@gmail.com
24 Gilman St. Apt 1
PORTLAND, Maine 04102

From:	"Joseph Sala" via Public Comment on behalf of "Joseph Sala" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov
Cc:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Please do NOT legalize citywide camping
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 6:18:01 PM

Dear City Councilors,

Please do NOT legalize citywide camping in Portland. I am very concerned by the direction of things and while none of us have the answer this definitely isn't it!

The current situation is unsafe for both those that are unhoused and living in the encampments and residents and business owners alike. I have compassion for those that are living in these awful conditions but legalizing camping is not the answer. I am hopeful that by adding additional beds to the shelter that a number of people will be given a warm place to go with services. Living outside in a Maine winter isn't appropriate or safe. Using our city sidewalks and parks and trails is a horrible idea. It isn't safe not to mention that it isn't right that many of us will no longer feel comfortable using the parks and trails that we all pay for.

I have lived in Portland for many years and am now contemplating selling my home and moving to another area before the city is entirely destroyed.

I know that you are all faced with a very difficult situation and I do not envy you but am hopeful that you will come to what I believe is the right decision - to save our city!

Best,

Joseph Sala
14 Garsoe Drive
Portland, ME

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Gail P. Landry <gailplandry@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Encampments
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 6:07:52 PM

Please be advised that I am adamantly opposed to making public spaces legal for encampments.
Gail Landry
113 Newbury St.
Portland, ME 04101

Sent from my iPhone

From: "Kristan Fucci" via Public Comment on behalf of "Kristan Fucci" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 6:04:09 PM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Kristan Fucci
kristanfucci@gmail.com
147 Pearl Street, Apt. 3
Portland, Maine 04101

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of David O <dorrico@maine.rr.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property -
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 5:46:10 PM

Good day

This e-mail is to inform all members of the Portland City Council that my wife and I are 100% adamantly OPPOSED to the amendment allowing a temporary exception to the City's prohibition on camping and loitering on City property

Sincerely,,

David E. and Malinda N. Orrico

Sent from Mail for Windows

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Jim Allen <jimrigby99@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Please vote no on permanent encampments This is crazy. It is unsanitary cruel un safe and in humane. What's wrong with you people running this city. I've been here in Portland for 85 years and never saw such a disgusting situation that was made availab
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 5:41:38 PM

Sent from my iPhone

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Suzie Rephan <SRephan@lerouxkitchen.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Encampments
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 5:28:17 PM

To Portland City Council

Regarding the upcoming amendment to the city code allowing camping in public parks, I would highly urge you to vote against this measure. Reading other public comments stating sweeps are not the answer; of course they aren't, but neither is allowing people to camp outdoors in the middle of a Portland winter, which is akin to a different form of humiliation and degradation. The unhoused in Portland will still be unhoused even in a tent, which is certainly NOT A HOUSE, and does not provide any protection. I agree that we do need to find an answer, but a moratorium on sweeps is only prolonging suffering, abuse and a dangerous situation. I live in Portland and work on Commercial St, so I have seen the encampments move throughout the city over the course of the spring, summer and fall. The encampments are certainly not the answer and allowing them to continue throughout the city during the winter is a danger to those residing in them as well as the general public who need and choose to move about the city on a daily basis. I hope you will not vote in support of this amendment.

Susan Rephan
Falmouth St.
Portland, ME

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Radder <radder48@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: OPPOSE Order #68
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 5:23:29 PM

Order #68 must be opposed. The rampant filth, contagion, illegal drugs , unlawful behavior and the fact that taxpayers can't safely use parks, sidewalks, find parking or visit restaurants and other businesses without risk has become ridiculous. We want our city back and we want the laws and ordinances that lead to a safe and liveable city enforced again. VOte NO on order #68. It is the only rational choice.

From: "Nathaniel Stephenson" via Public Comment on behalf of "Nathaniel Stephenson" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 5:22:54 PM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Nathaniel Stephenson
njstephenson12@gmail.com
164 Baxter Blvd, Apt 2
Portland, Maine 04101

From: "Michael Larrivee" via Public Comment on behalf of "Michael Larrivee" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the sweeps. Protect our homeless.
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 5:05:51 PM

Portland Public Comment,

The sweeps must stop. The crowding of our homeless in one encampment, creating dangerous conditions for all who live there, must also stop.

That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

Because of that, this amendment is supported by groups like Preble Street, the ACLU, the Portland Housing Coalition, Homeless Voices for Justice, STRIVE, Grace Street Ministries, and so many others who work directly with or care so deeply about this population.
Forcing people to move constantly is not a solution. Giving them the space to build community and trust is. Please vote yes on Order 68 on Monday.

Michael Larrivee
mike54zq@gmail.com
211 Cumberland Ave Apt 506
Portland, Maine 04101

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Mary DiDonato <mdidonato49@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Encampment
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 5:01:57 PM

As a resident of Portland I am against a proposal to allow camping in our city parks. It is not safe to camp thru winter and makes our parks not to people who want to use them as intended. In Libbytown we have campers right next to our new playground and skate park and basketball court. It took us 45 years to get a kind of playground and know kids can't use because of camping and all the needles throw everywhere. We are against this new policy and when will clear out the encampments near our playground.

Sent from my iPhone

From: "Daniel Jordan" via Public Comment on behalf of "Daniel Jordan" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: stop the sweeps
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 4:56:23 PM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Daniel Jordan
jordanda2014@gmail.com
63 Danforth st, Apt 4
Portland, Maine 04101

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Meg Lane <meg.lane25@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Homeless Encampments
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 4:51:18 PM

As the mother of an individual with schizophrenia I strongly say no to allowing or normalizing the encampments in public settings. This is a form of normalizing the lack of mental health services which resulted in the Lewiston shooting. Individuals in these encampment with severe mental illness should be encouraged to take medicine and find adequate housing and employment. Allowing encampments is a lazy policy and I encourage you to tackle this in a more thoughtful way that will not only benefit our city but those unfortunate individuals who need guidance with mental health challenges. Thank you.

From:	"Daniel Koeppel" via Public Comment on behalf of "Daniel Koeppel" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Homeless encampment vote.
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 4:50:11 PM

To councilperson Pelletier and the city council:

We live at 141 Spring St. We are absolutely opposed to the legislation that would open public areas to homeless encampments. This is not the solution. Our parks and streets are for everybody. They are not residences. We are finding needles, human waste, and discarded clothing all up and down spring street, including on our front porch. I have had my cancer medication stolen from my porch by a person I see at Harborview.

Instead, we urge city council to stop debating stopgap measures and mobilize the entire city to come up with a long-term consensus solution that includes housing reform, medical care, existing law enforcement and mandatory relocation to shelters and warming facilities.

Thank you.

Dan Koeppel

Sent from my iPad

From:	council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Susan Hopkins <susanhopkinsesq@gmail.com>
To:	council@portlandmaine.gov
Cc:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Please support Order 68
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 4:28:26 PM

Dear City Council members,

Please support Order 68. Sweeps of tent encampments do not reduce homelessness. Sweeps not only often separate people from the few personal belongings/neccessities that that they own but more critically have been found to increase disease and mortality, & certainly cause psychological distress.

Allowing people to remain in their camping areas aligns with best practices regarding problems associated with homelessness. Order 68 would allow for outreach workers to help provide connection and continuity with various social & legal services, as well as assistance with obtaining shelter. Order 68 would also allow for practical planning of facilities for toileting, showers, needle disposal, and trash disposal.

For these and other reasons, I urge your support of Order 68.

Thank you,

Susan Hopkins
104 Grant St., Unit 102
Portland, ME 04101

Sent from my iPhone

From:	"Sandra Child" via Public Comment on behalf of "Sandra Child" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	OPPOSE ORDER 68
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 4:27:31 PM

TO: Portland City Mayor, Portland City Council

FROM: Sandra H Child
43 Quebec St
Portland, ME 04101

The purpose of this email is to let you know how strongly I am against the proposed order 68 that will allow encampments to spread throughout our communities here in Portland for the reasons below:

* It is incredibly cruel to the homeless to give them the go ahead to winter in outdoor tents. The brutally frigid temperatures here during the winter can and will cause people to freeze to death. As many or even most of the homeless are unstable and drug addicted, the potential for death is far greater as there is no realization that they are freezing and they simply fall asleep to never wake again. Anyone who advocates for winter encampments here needs to realize this. Many will freeze to death, in addition to overdose deaths making this situation far more tragic than it currently is.

* Public encampments are dangerous to everyone; homeless and communities, but way more so in the winter because of the potential for fires (we've already had 4), hepatitis outbreaks (which have already occurred), additional trauma and instability from the extreme cold.

Everyone needs to be brought inside for the winter. We must make shelters more inviting for the homeless and not have rigid rules in order for them to enter, in addition to hiring more mental health and social workers in every shelter. More beds must be found in addition to the 50 beds at Riverton Shelter. We must think creatively for solutions as this is an emergency, but outside encampments are not the answer.

Sandra H Child

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Zach Croll <zachariahcroll@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: End the homeless encampments!
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 4:19:29 PM

To whom it may concern:
I am a longtime Portland resident (rented from 2000 to 2013 and property owner since 2013) who holds a Master of Public Health degree and loves this city. I would like to submit public comment on the homeless encampment issue.

I have a great deal of empathy for the unhoused population and the circumstances they find themselves in. But with the ongoing hepatitis outbreak it is clearer than ever that these encampments pose a significant public health risk to both the unhoused and housed residents of Portland. It is unacceptable to allow this to continue, particularly through winter, and I strongly urge all city counselors and representatives to firmly oppose any legislation that would allow these unsanitary and inhospitable encampments to continue. Providing water and other utilities to the encampments to facilitate their ongoing existence is foolish, wasteful, and dangerous for all involved.

The city should seek help from state and federal legislators to develop sustainable financial and policy solutions to provide needed shelter, health, and social services to the unhoused, as the current arrangement is inhumane and untenable for all. Portland taxpayers (who are already stretched far too thin) should not be on the financial hook for providing these services, as we are not responsible for the inhumane economic, mental health/substance use, and policy context that has given rise to these conditions. The first and most important step is to stop enabling these dangerous and unsustainable encampments.
Sincerely,

Zach Croll
75 Brook Rd
Portland ME. 04103

From: "Libbet Cone" via Public Comment on behalf of "Libbet Cone" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 4:18:32 PM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

I work out of Good Medicine on York Street, across the street from the current encampment. I am a social worker and a psychotherapist in town and a property owner for 40 years. In the interest of being good neighbors, we have started getting to know people in the encampment, learning about how they ended up there and what their needs are. Have any of you ever met any of these people?
They are, by and large, decent people with severe mental and physical disabilities who are constitutionally unable to function independently in our culture. Some have been more able to function in the past, but hard hitting circumstances have crippled them. Someone I used to work with professionally lives there now.
Even though this encampment is growing due to the sweep on Marginal way, people have been respectful of the park where many come to walk their dogs and local businesses send their customers to sip a coffee; the encampment residents have kept to the boundaries down the hill.
In my opinion it is archaic and cruel and terribly unimaginative and punitive to continue this policy of sweeps. Many of us in the neighborhood are fine having them stay there, for sure through the winter. It allows people to settle into a somewhat secure place, it allows people's social and case workers to find them to provide care or inform them that they have a voucher for housing, and it allows us as a neighborhood to make connections and provide them with supplies as we are able.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Libbet Cone
libbet1818@gmail.com
124 Ocean Ave
Portland, Maine 04103

From: "Leah Douglass" via Public Comment on behalf of "Leah Douglass" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Local Resident, Teacher, and Voter Asks Stop the sweeps. Protect our Neighbors.
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 3:49:15 PM

Portland Public Comment,

Dear Councilor,

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I am reaching out in concerns for my neighbors and my students. Continued sweeps of the homeless encampments are only exacerbating issues. The sweeps must stop. The crowding of our homeless in one encampment, creating dangerous conditions for all who live there, must also stop. The sweeps are cruel, useless and a waste of valuable tax payer money.

That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

Because of that, this amendment is supported by groups like Preble Street, the ACLU, the Portland Housing Coalition, Homeless Voices for Justice, STRIVE, Grace Street Ministries, and so many others who work directly with or care so deeply about this population.
Forcing people to move constantly is not a solution. Giving them the space to build community and trust is. Please vote yes on Order 68 on Monday.

Leah Douglass
leahddoug@gmail.com
63 Danforth Street, Apt. 4
Portland, Maine 04101

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of ozzy morales <ozzymo17@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Homeless encampment
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 3:41:39 PM

To whom it may concern;
I am a small business owner in West Bayside. Coals Pizza is located at 118 Preble street in Portland. When the encampment was located behind Trader Joe's the area became a dangerous place for customers as well as
My employee. Cars were broken in, people under the influence were coming into coals the restaurant and exposing themselves in front of children and adults that were dining at coals pizza. I lost employees because they felt the area was not safe as well as customers. I understand not everyone is a bad person living in these encampments. However the numbers don't lie and there has been reports from police officials and health government of increase crime and diseases. Please for the safety of the Portland community we can not allow these encampments to flourish through the city of Portland.
Sincerely,
Ozzy Morales
Co owner
Coals pizza

Sent from my iPhone

From:	"Jeanette Hamilton" via Public Comment on behalf of "Jeanette Hamilton" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Please vote no on permanent camping. As a nurse I am so concerned about these living conditions. Please direct your energies into a healthy living solution. Incidentally, as a senior living at 75 State Retirement community , I have lost the access to the
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 3:38:44 PM

Sent from my iPhone

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Evelyn Fowler <evelynf.fowler@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Encampments
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 3:33:55 PM

City Council Members,

Please VOTE NO on making Portland streets and parks permanent encampments. They are dangerous to all of the citizen of Portland and will prevent children and adults from the ability to use public space out of safety for their health and safety.

Thank you,
Evelyn Fowler

From:	"Elizabeth Rennie" via Public Comment on behalf of "Elizabeth Rennie" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Encampments
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 3:32:48 PM

Sent from my iPhone I am asking the City Council to reject permanent or any camping on public property. It's been proven to be a health problem and it's not the solution for homelessness.
Elizabeth Rennie
94 Gleckler Rd
Portland Me

From:	"Maria Canning" via Public Comment on behalf of "Maria Canning" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Vote no on encampments
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 3:29:27 PM

My family and I have lived in Portland Maine for 27 years and would like very much to remain in Portland, the current encampment situation that exists for homeless people is not acceptable. We would like to feel safe walking through our parks and use them as they were designed to be used. Parks and public places were not designed to house people without a place to sleep. Please do not let our city go the way of so many other cities in the United States like Portland, Oregon, where businesses and communities have moved out of the city. Let's work harder at finding a better solution for the homeless in our community.
thank you,
Maria garcia canning

Sent from my iPhone

From:	"David Susi" via Public Comment on behalf of "David Susi" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Permanent encampments
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 3:28:46 PM

To whom it may concern,

I’m emailing to voice my opposition to legalizing camping in Portland.

One only needs to look at other once beautiful cities like San Francisco to see what lenient policies like this can do.

It destroys tourism, turns away businesses, erodes safety and ruins the beauty of Portland.

Please see reason on this issue. This is not the answer.

David Susi

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Emily Woodbury <gramily@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Allowing encampments
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 3:28:40 PM

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in public spaces is NOT a good idea. As a Portland resident I oppose this move.
Emily Woodbury
125 York St.
Portland, ME
04101
Sent from my iPhone

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Mike Boardman <mike@mikeboardman.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: NO on permanent encampments
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 3:27:42 PM

Cheers,

Mike Boardman

Mobile (207) 956-0632 **Email** mike@mikeboardman.com
Website https://www.mikeboardman.com/

"I realized that if my thoughts immediately affect my body, I should be careful about what I think. Now if I get angry, I ask myself why I feel that way. If I can find the source of my anger, I can turn that negative energy into something positive." - Yoko Ono.

Printing emails is SO 2009

If you received this email in error, please notify us immediately by sending an e-mail or by calling.

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Sheila Mayberry <shemay.93@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: No to camping
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 3:26:29 PM

I am absolutely against allowing camping within city limits. It's time to find a solution that does not put people, homeless and the general public, at risk physically or mentally. The health issues are a danger to everyone.

Sent from my iPhone

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Christina Guthrie <cricket3688@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: vote NO on the campign ordinance
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 3:26:11 PM

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vote NO on the campign ordinance

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of J <jimc060845@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Homeless encampments
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 3:20:56 PM

Continuing, expanding, or letting them camp anywhere is insane.
The definition of insane being. Doing the same thing over and over again, expecting a different result.
The only real resolution to this dangerous, health hazard, crime ridden problem is to get rid of encampments.
The only way to do this is to stop providing ALL services them. This includes but is not limited to food, supplying drug paraphernalia, narcan, needles, or whatever.
The only service they should receive is to get arrested if they break the law.
Come on council, think of the problem YOU have created. Your solution lies in supporting law enforcement and stop supporting the useless.
Socialism has never worked and never will.

Jim C

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Jessica MilNeil <jessicamilneil@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Please Enact Order 68
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 3:11:41 PM

Hello,

I am writing to publicly comment in support of Order 68, to temporarily stop the encampment sweeps. Sweeping the encampments does nothing except make being unhoused harder and MORE dangerous. It is completely disingenuous for the opposition to present themselves as caring about the unhoused. Homelessness is caused by a shortage in housing supply and a high cost of housing relative to income. It is not caused by drug addiction or mental illness, or the homeless themselves. Sweeping the encampments criminalizes poverty.

I recently received a push notification urging me to object to Order 68 due to the rise in Hepatitis A. This is caused by a lack of clean water, waste disposal and clean injection supplies. It is not caused by the encampments themselves, although of course I want these people to have access to housing. The city has the capacity to provide clean water trucks, porto-potties and clean injection supplies immediately, and I urge the city council to move in that direction.

Regardless of the amount of objection you receive against Order 68, clearing the encampments is not working. The city has been clearing encampments prior to the increasing rates of Hep A. Why not try an approach that is humane and prioritizes the needs of the most needy among us? I have to presume that deep down, each and every member of the city council wants to provide for the basic needs of the unhoused people in this city. As a taxpayer, on my behalf, I would like you to start creating solutions rather than waste resources by continuing to chase this problem around the city.

Thank you,
Jessica MilNeil

--
Jessica MilNeil

281 386 8482 - cell
www.preservationtimberframing.com

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Ronna F Coppola <ronna.f.coppola@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Order #68
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 3:10:03 PM

I am writing to express my OPPOSITION to order #68. The situation has become untenable for Portland residents. While I agree that a solution needs to be found but continuing to allow encampments is not safe for anyone.

Sent from my iPhone

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Mark Fernandez <mfalpha1@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: NO for permitting public encampments
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 3:05:24 PM

This is a health hazard to all. A more thoughtful solution which includes sanitary conditions must be found.

Mark Fernandez
Clifton Street
Portland
Maine

Sent from my iPhone

From: "Carlyn Gilbert" via Public Comment on behalf of "Carlyn Gilbert" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the sweeps. Protect our homeless.
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 3:03:34 PM

Portland Public Comment,

The sweeps must stop. The crowding of our homeless in one encampment, creating dangerous conditions for all who live there, must also stop.

That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

Because of that, this amendment is supported by groups like Preble Street, the ACLU, the Portland Housing Coalition, Homeless Voices for Justice, STRIVE, Grace Street Ministries, and so many others who work directly with or care so deeply about this population.
Forcing people to move constantly is not a solution. Giving them the space to build community and trust is. Please vote yes on Order 68 on Monday.

Carlyn Gilbert
carlyn.gilbert@yahoo.com
11 Gable Court
Portland , 04013

From:	citymanager@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Michael Pancook <mpancook@gmail.com>
To:	ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov; Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Please oppose order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 2:51:15 PM

Councilmembers and City Officials,

I am writing to share my opposition to order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25.

While I oppose sweeps of tent encampments in the absence of alternative shelter for unhoused individuals, I do not believe the broad suspension of policies that allow the City to intervene based on the risk to those camping is much better. I am not well versed in homeless policy, but it seems to me that allowing individuals to remain unsheltered is contrary to the housing first approach advocated by many (including me). If there remains insufficient shelter, then a preferable policy would build around how to minimize the impacts of living outside during the Maine winter. I do not see how the amendments would not support this; instead, they appear to defer to an individual's preference between unacceptable options (arrest or hiding from authorities) that only complicate addressing an individual's complex needs.

I recognize that Portland's housing crisis has reached a level that means we cannot wait for more ideal solutions, but the immediate health and wellness of individuals in crisis must be paramount. The policies we choose must strengthen the ability for individuals to access services and for services to reach them, which disorganized freedom to camp in public places does not do.

Thank you,
Michael Pancook
199 Vaughan St.

From: "Brenda LeMay" via Public Comment on behalf of "Brenda LeMay" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Please vote NO on legalizing camping in parks
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 2:47:29 PM

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Linda Geoffrion <lsgeoff50@hotmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Vote no on encampment
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 2:47:13 PM

I believe that the city should NOT allow the encampments to expand or be permanent. Please vote NO
Have a great day!
Linda.

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Beth Mitchell <bethmitchell19@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: NO on permanent encampments!
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 2:42:22 PM

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Beth

"All his life he tried to be a good person. Many times, however, he failed. For after all, he was only human. He wasn't a dog." ~ Charles M. Schulz

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Barbara Martin <barbara.lee.martin@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Vote NO on order 68
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 2:06:59 PM

Vote NO. Please invest instead in additional shelter beds, drug rehab programs, and mental health assistance. The camps are dirty and dangerous. Enough is enough.

Barbara Martin
128 Caleb Street
Portland, ME 04102

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Ward Libby <wardlibby99@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: No to proposal to allow camping in parks
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 1:56:37 PM

City Councilmembers,

I am a Portland resident and taxpayer writing to communicate strong opposition to the pending proposal to allow camping in city parks. My family and I, including young children, frequently use the city parks for recreation. We do not agree with allowing camping as that use is not compatible with the intended function.

We do support the city and state providing appropriate services, including housing, to homeless persons. We do not agree that it is necessary or appropriate for homeless people to camp in these spaces, and are concerned that if the city allows camping, it will further increase the number of people camping in city parks and associated issues.

Thank you in advance for keeping Portlands parks safe and open for city residents to use in accordance with all current laws.

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Joe <joemapper1@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Order 68 is a disaster
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 1:40:24 PM

I am sad at the prospect of Order 68 passing. It seems as if it has been designed specifically to make our city worse for everyone, including the unhoused. I implore each of you to vote no to this misguided idea. Do not do this to our city!

Dispersion of the tents will:
* make it harder to provide services to those who in need
* spread throughout the city the trash and other health issues associated with those living in the streets
* do long-term damage to our parks
* make the parks and other public spaces less pleasant
* make it harder for the city to maintain safe sidewalks and streets, thus making these public ways less safe for everyone
* increase the costs of almost all city operations, removing resources that could more effectively be used for other constituents
* make hiring even harder than it has been for the city.

I do not wish to be complicit in the suffering and possible death that will surely follow those who are living in tents during the winter. I do not want Portland to be the next Anchorage! The unhoused lack the gear to safely endure the winter in a tent. We have already seen tent fires from the absurd attempts to heat tents. People die in fires.

It would literally be a crime to force a dog to live outside in a tent; why is it okay to permit the unhoused to endure such risk?

We have strict standards associated with what constitutes appropriate shelter in our city. Why should the unhoused be denied the protections we demand for all our other citizens? And yet, this proposal offers approval of ramshackle structures that are a disaster waiting to happen.

The unhoused need to make a choice: stay in safe shelter as provided by the city and its partners or by their own friends and family, or find someplace else to go. It is unconscionable for our city to permit people to opt for life-threatening risk.

Please, please, please, for the love of God, do not take this step. Do not ruin our city by inviting all to do whatever they want pretty much wherever they want. Listen to staff. No one in a position of responsibility thinks this is a good idea.

Thank you for your service and consideration.

- Joe

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of jlyn mulligan <jlynm402@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Opposed to Order# 68-Camping and Loitering on Public Property
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 1:22:59 PM

I am a Portland resident, and I am STRONGLY OPPOSED to Order #68 that would allow encampments to spread throughout our community. I actually live here unlike some others who are making their views heard.

If you want city-sanctioned encampments, they must be places where unhoused folks can pitch a tent and have varying degrees of services, from basic sanitation and bathroom facilities, to on-site case management and police patrol. **Not** in public spaces and parks which do not. Having encampments in public spaces affects the entire population of Portland and visitors to the area. This is a complicated issue, but this is not the solution, and circumventing the vote is not the way to go about this either.
Judith Mulligan

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of EJ Koch <ejkoch@gmail.com>
To:	Afournier@portlandmaine.gov; Andrew Zarro; Kate Snyder; Mdion@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Homeless camping proposal 11/20/2023
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 1:18:20 PM

Hello-

I am a 45 year Portland resident, and strongly oppose the pending proposal to permit homeless encampments in public spaces. I do not believe this addresses the safety or the needs of the homeless in any way. Leaving homeless people freezing in tents throughout the city is a bad idea which in no way can address their safety on multiple fronts from disease, danger, self abuse, and vulnerability to abuse by others. People die in these situations.

It forces housed residents to feel unsafe, destroys the sense of shared ownership of public spaces, and promotes an adversarial situation between the homeless vs the housed. Not good.

So far there the public and political will to sensibly address the homeless situation seems totally absent. I am shocked there has not been considerable active work on this policy issue by the council over the summer.

What about the rest of us that are fortunate enough to be housed? Aren't these our public spaces too? Do I want to walk amongst an encampment? Do I feel invited to share in the use of that public area? My peace and enjoyment of public places in our city matters too. Don't pit me against them. Find a better solution.

When city department personnel tell us that such a policy is absolutely unworkable, shouldn't their voices weigh in heavily as they are the people who will be forced to deal with the situation directly?

I am deeply offended by the idea that people writing in from states all over the country about this issue should somehow be given the same weight as those of us who live and pay taxes in Portland.

I was recently in Seattle, and I observed the results of doing nothing, or allowing people to camp on sidewalks in a larger city. I don’t know anyone who wants our city to end up like Seattle and Portland, Oregon.

We can and must do better.

Most sincerely,

Erna koch
81 Vesper st
Portland, ME

Sent from Gmail Mobile

From: "Bethany Louisos" via Public Comment on behalf of "Bethany Louisos" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the sweeps. Protect the unhoused in Portland.
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 1:08:41 PM

Portland Public Comment,

The encampment sweeps must stop. These are our neighbors and they deserve autonomy and respect.

That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

This amendment is also supported by Preble Street, the ACLU, the Portland Housing Coalition, Homeless Voices for Justice, STRIVE, Grace Street Ministries, and so many others who have been doing work around this in Portland for years and are some of the most familiar with what is going on.
Forcing people to move constantly is not a solution. Giving them the space to build community and trust is. Please vote yes on Order 68 on Monday.

Bethany Louisos
grey.louisos@gmail.com
14 Grove Street
Portland , Maine 04104

From:	"Patrick Mailloux" via Public Comment on behalf of "Patrick Mailloux" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; Kate Snyder
Subject:	Order 68
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 1:06:07 PM

Please note my OPPOSITION to order 68 regarding use of public property. Allowing tents, camping and whatever other structures materialize in the green spaces we all enjoy would essentially render them useless for us residents of Portland.
I fully recognize there is no easy solution to the homelessness crisis but punishing the citizens of Portland by giving up our spaces is not one. Please make efforts to work with state leaders to share the responsibility across all of Maine and not let the burden fall only on Portland.
Thank you,
Patrick Mailloux
9 Woodmont St

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Lindsay Butler <lmariebutler@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	I do NOT support Order 68-23/24 Amendment re: Camping on Public Property
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 1:03:10 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Lindsay Butler. I live at 23 Motley Street. I am writing to express my strong opposition to allowing people to camp on city property. We all want the same thing: for people to have safe, healthy places to live, with access to health care, food, and education. Trevorrow and Rodriguez's proposed amendment does NOT make this happen. The encampments are unsafe for the people living in them. It is not safe for people to live outside in Maine through the winter. Their proposed amendment to allow camping on city property will cause unsafe living conditions to proliferate, rather than improving the lives of the people they purport to help. Please do NOT pass this unsafe, wrongheaded amendment.

Sincerely,
Lindsay Butler

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Ben Allen <loopmusic@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: In opposition to Order 68
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 12:53:21 PM

Councilors,

The recent crescendo of reports of overdoses, violence, human trafficking, and drug deals around the campsites would clearly show that these are not 'safe' spaces for ANYONE to live. Let alone during a Maine winter.

My son currently attends Baxter Academy. Baxter is located just off Marginal Way/Somerset encampments and prior to the clearing of the site there, he witnessed open drug use EVERY day within 2 blocks from the school. When going to & from the school, he and his fellow students have had to run a gauntlet of individuals who were clearly 'under the influence' and exhibiting unpredictable & often scary behaviors.

I would like to express, in the strongest terms, my opposition to the proposed amendments to the Portland City Code chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property sponsored by Councilors Roberto Rodriguez and Anna Trevorrow.

Enabling people to return to the sites which have been cleared is the wrong decision and a betrayal of the tax-paying citizens and businesses of Portland, who have been negatively impacted by the influx of people at the various campsites.

The suggestion that the Council should consider suspending the City-wide Camping Ordinance is jaw-dropping.

Our police ALREADY are prevented from enforcing the City's laws inside the encampments. Inviting more people to camp, potentially in multiple new locations where the Police will be unable to enforce the law, is unconscionable. Unsafe for those in the encampments and for the tax-paying, law-abiding residents of Portland.

The root causes of the current homelessness crisis are complex. This is a NATIONAL problem and however well-intentioned, one city cannot expect to solve the issue. Even locally.

I think it bears repeating, that what we have is **primarily an addiction issue and not a housing issue**. Calls for affordable housing will not solve this problem, just like calls to ban short term rentals will not solve the homelessness crisis.

Rather than asking 'What should we do?', the Council needs to be asking 'What **can we reasonably do with the resources available to us?**'.

Thanks for your close attention to this critical issue.

Respectfully,
Ben Allen

Sent from my phone.
Expect a few typos!

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Roger Trettel <rogertrettel@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Portland Taxpayer Strongly Oppose Order 68
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 12:24:13 PM

Dear Portland City Council and Mayor Snyder,

I am a Portland property owner and Taxpayer who cares about the future of Portland and the quality of life here. My tax dollars pay your salaries and for the maintenance and operation of the city. It is your primary responsibility to ensure the long term viability and quality of life of the City of Portland for its tax paying residents and businesses.

Homelessness has become a problem in the City of Portland that must be solved. Order 68 does not solve the problem and will likely only make it worse. It is not right to allow people to squat on city owned or private property, and be supported by taxpayer dollars never intended for this purpose. It does not help the homeless and it degrades the quality of life for all residents and visitors to the City of Portland. As we have seen in other cities around the country where this has been allowed, it drives out business, lowers property values, increases crime, and diminishes the quality of life for everyone.

You must do the right thing and work to solve this problem - that is the job you were elected and are paid to do. Do not encourage more settling of homeless and illegal immigration by supporting this problem with a band-aid approach. No on Order 68.

Sincerely,
Roger Trettel
Portland

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Jan Wilkinson <jwilkinson0108@gmail.com>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: In support of Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 11:59:52 AM

Dear Portland City Council,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jan Wilkinson
58 Federal St
Portland

— I support Order 68 because it will save lives this winter.
— I support Order 68 because it will help more people living unsheltered in Portland connect to housing and shelter options.

— I support Order 68 to prioritize cultivating racial justice and equity by temporarily stopping encampment sweeps and camping bans that are inherently racist and disproportionately harm unsheltered Black people and people of color.
— I support Order 68 because it recognizes that regardless of the structures our unhoused neighbors live in, the U.S. Constitution applies to all of us.

From: "Zoe Ernst" via Public Comment on behalf of "Zoe Ernst" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the sweeps. Protect our homeless.
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 10:08:15 AM

Portland Public Comment,

The sweeps must stop. The crowding of our homeless in one encampment, creating dangerous conditions for all who live there, must also stop.

That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

Because of that, this amendment is supported by groups like Preble Street, the ACLU, the Portland Housing Coalition, Homeless Voices for Justice, STRIVE, Grace Street Ministries, and so many others who work directly with or care so deeply about this population.
Forcing people to move constantly is not a solution. Giving them the space to build community and trust is. Please vote yes on Order 68 on Monday.

Zoe Ernst
zoe.c.ernst@gmail.com
196 Massachusetts Avenue
Portland , Maine 04102

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Ross Maniaci <rossmaniaci@gmail.com>
To:	ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Cc:	mdion@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Order # 68 - I oppose
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 10:01:49 AM

> Hello City Councilors & Mayor -
>
> I'm an Old Port owner for the past 13 years - resident for the last almost five years.
>
> I oppose order # 68 allowing public "camping etc on public property.
>
> I'm a tax payer and expect more for my city dollars. They should not be allowed these opportunities.
>
> I'm very sympathetic to the people - but only if they are willing to help themselves too. Many have turned down the opportunity for shelter.
>
> Please do not allow this to pass.
>
> Thank you -
>
> Ross Maniaci
> 412 Chandlers Wharf
> Portland, ME 04101
> Cell: 315-415-0285
>
>
> Sent from Ross Maniaci's iPhone

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Mary Jayne Gould <gouldmj01@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Order #68 Oppose
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 9:48:20 AM

I OPPOSE order #68. Do not allow public camping to spread throughout our city.
It infuriates me that at one end of Commercial street the signs are up for the rich and entitled to enjoy all the best that the Portland waterfront, Portland Foreside, has to offer and much more.
At the other end people are erecting homes from pallets and tarps.
Do not make a really bad situation even worse. Bring the people inside.
As I've said before, ask Cape Elizabeth, Falmouth, South Portland and all surrounding towns for financial support. Or get them to build shelters.
Portland does not own this alone.
Sincerely,
Mary Jayne Gould

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Anna Gravél <actor@annagravel.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Order 68
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 9:48:17 AM

First, Order 68 will stop the city from wasting public resources on ineffective encampment sweeps, so Portland can invest in proven solutions to homelessness: dignified and adequate housing and shelter!

Cities waste hundreds of thousands of dollars to clear encampments. But these sweeps do nothing to help unhoused individuals access needed resources or transition towards permanent housing; instead, sweeps destroy whatever stability people living in encampments worked hard to create.

Leaders from HUD and homelessness policy centers recognize that providing unhoused people dignified, individualized services that connect them to permanent housing is more effective than clearing encampments.

Second, sweeps destroy unhoused people's trust in service providers and the city, making it harder to connect them with shelter and permanent housing. I urge you to pass Order 68 to stop the sweeps and help city staff and service providers build and maintain trust with unsheltered people; this trust is critical for connecting unhoused people to services, shelter, and, ultimately, permanent housing.

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Sarah Ledoux <serjdoux@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Order #68
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 9:36:57 AM

Please note I vehemently oppose order #68 which does absolutely nothing to address the homeless problem. It does not address the underlying medical issues nor does it address capacity. It just astounds me that the city continues to allow the building of mega hotels and commercial buildings taking space that could be used for affordable housing. Although I'm compassionate as to the plight of these people allowing for access to every green space is not the answer.

Sarah Ledoux
Caleb Street

Sent from my iPhone

From:	council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Samantha Taube <samantha.taube@gmail.com>
To:	council@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Please do NOT pass Order 68
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 9:27:26 AM

Hello,

I am writing to again express my opposition to Order 68. We cannot pass this and allow camping across our city. Here are a few reasons why:

1. This order bypassed subcommittee to bring this to a vote - that is not the right way to do this.
2. All city department heads are opposed to this plan.
3. It will make it harder for the city and support organizations to do outreach if people are spread out.
4. The changes to enable camping don't have a firm end date which likely will enable it to go well past the spring of next year. This is not the right way to do this. If you want something temporary, it needs to have a start and firm end date.
5. Legalized camping has not worked in other cities - it leads to an increase in crime, increase in illness, increase in overdoses, decrease in those actually in shelters, and a decrease in tourism.
6. Anna believes we should all "share" - this is an ignorant comment. You cannot share public spaces like parks and playgrounds when camping leads to public drinking, increased trash and litter, a Hep A outbreak (that is highly contagious), and crime. What she is proposing isn't sharing, it is giving.
7. Playgrounds are not meant for grown adults to camp in. They are meant for children. Under this order, I will no longer be able to take my child to Peppermint Park (where we already deal with open drug and alcohol use) or the East End Playground. That is a disgrace.
8. While I don't like the encampment sweeps, this is not the solution. We need to get those experiencing homelessness into shelters, create a designated camping area with adequate services (water, bathrooms, showers, etc), and to continue to provide services for housing, drug use and mental health.

I believe that this order is irresponsible and not the solution that we need. As a resident of this city, I urge you not to pass order 68.

Thank you,
Samantha Taube
District 1 Resident

From: "Danielle St Pierre" via Public Comment on behalf of "Danielle St Pierre" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 9:11:03 AM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, harmful, and frankly dehumanizing. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

I would also like to add that emergency housing would be very welcome by me. I am lucky and currently have a safe place inside but I am only one or 2 missed paychecks from being homeless myself due to the rising costs of everything, lack of cost of living increases and the affordable housing shortage.

Thank you,
Danielle St. Pierre
757 Congress St
Portland, ME 04102

Danielle St Pierre
danistpierre@gmail.com
757 CONGRESS ST, Apt 2R
Portland, Maine 04102

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Wiecha, John <john383@bu.edu>
To:	KSnyder@portlandmaine.gov; Pious Ali; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; PublicComment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Encampments- hepatitis. Past time to end them.
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 9:10:55 AM

Dear Leaders:

I cannot understand your inaction in tolerating the encampment with their atrocious conditions.

Not surprising, now hepatitis outbreaks. Have you seen the conditions? Trash everywhere. Rampant drug use. It's only getting worse as your tolerance of camping enables the situation, thus, the numbers grow.

It's well past time to put an end to this- it's not good for the campers and it's ruining the city.

John Wiecha
Cushman St.

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Marymusholt <marymusholt2@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Oppose order 68
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 9:00:34 AM

Greetings city councilors, please oppose Order 68. As a former PH nurse I am very concerned about the health and well being of all of Portland ME. The encampments are not healthy for the individuals nor for the community around them. Limits have to be made to ensure the health of everyone.
People who are addicted to drugs are limited in their decision making due to brain changes.
Please do not support order 68. Thank you Mary Musholt. 24 Redlon rd Portland mE 04102

Sent from my iPhone

From:	"Art Schnell" via Public Comment on behalf of "Art Schnell" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov
Cc:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	OPPOSE Order #68
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 9:00:23 AM

Hello,

We have been residents of Portland, Maine since 1974 and are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed Order #68.

It is horrifying, discouraging and negligent to even be proposing such a plan. These encampments help no one, and this is yet another way Portland government is attempting to shift responsibility for the City government's inadequate planning and committment to resolving the wide range of problems facing its residents.

The encampments are dangerous to the people living there and dangerous to the residents in proximity to them. Legalizing encampments allows Portland to shrug off any responsibility to house this vulnerable population. Indoor options must emergently and thoughtfully be increased if the City is genuinely concerned.

Increasingly, Portland government expresses one position and pushes finding the solution onto individual residents and business owners to solve. The City's solutions seem to be poorly thought through and minimally executed. Order #68 is merely the latest example of this.

For a city that encourages a hospitality economy, this plan is absolutely counterproductive.

Additionally, when did contributing, tax paying residents and businesses lose our rights to a safe, clean environment? Recently, we passed the encampment on the Western Prom and saw a man in front of his tent waving a machete. There are countless other menacing experiences reported by others.

City councilors are elected to serve the immediate and long term needs of Portland. Please stop shirking this serious responsibility.

Sincerely,
Michele Bednarz

From:	"Ed Musholt" via Public Comment on behalf of "Ed Musholt" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	Public Comment
Subject:	I oppose order 68
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 8:59:23 AM

Dear Council Members, I oppose order 68. It has come to my attention that the city council is considering allowing camping in city parks into the Spring. Having had multiple visits to Portland Oregon, where this is permitted I can attest to the disastrous consequences of such a policy not the least of which has been a significant loss of business and tax revenue. Social discord has increased, the police tasked with maintaining public harmony are demoralized and the ability to help those in need degraded. Citizens avoid utilizing parks their tax dollars support. The city council's rationale appears to be based on the unproven idea that smaller encampments are safer. This is a flawed assumption. This policy will disperse crime through the city, hinder the identification and potential treatment of those who are mentally ill, addicted or both, and lead to significant public health risks. Lack of appropriate sanitation and garbage removal risks infestation of animal vermin such as rats and increases the probability that such populations will seek shelter in the homes of nearby home owners. Once the privilege of camping in parks is allowed there is no guarantee that those camps will remain small. A privilege once granted is hard to rescind and enforce. While the assumption seems to be that smaller is safer it ignores the fact that isolated and impaired individuals are more likely to be victimized. There appears to be no consideration of how people who are predatory will be constrained from traveling about and encroaching on the vulnerable in smaller encampments and an increase in such encampments would seem to be harder to police. I am strongly opposed to such a plan Please carefully consider the consequences of implementing such a plan and the unintended consequences which can ensue. Finally I would like to note that my concerns are formed both by my prior work as a forensic psychologist (now retired) tasked with mitigating public risk in Wisconsin and by my current incarnation as a grandfather in the beautiful state of Maine who wants to ensure the safety of his grandchildren. Please carefully consider how you proceed. I am strongly in support of emergency housing/shelter that can be flexed as needed to preclude people who are homeless from freezing to death in a harsh winter. Simply dispersing people is not humane!

Sincerely, Ed Musholt PhD

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Julie Finn <juliefinn0916@gmail.com>
To:	mdion@portlandmaine.gov
Cc:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Vote NO on camping proposal
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 8:26:42 AM

Councilor and Mayor-Elect Dion,
This is the first time I have written to city councilors about an agenda item. Please vote no on the proposal to allow camping in city parks and on city land. This is an ill-considered idea for many reasons, including:
- The public health and safety threats as evidenced by the outbreak of hepatitis A in the encampment.
- This is NOT the humane option; in fact, it is the opposite. The humane thing to do is to get these individuals into housing or shelter.
- The opposition of city staff who have experience in these matters.
- This proposal is counter to best practices that have been shared with the city by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and local experts like Community Housing of Maine's Cullen Ryan, who are unanimous in stating that the sanctioning of encampments leads to worse outcomes for the unhoused and the communities they camp in.
Thank you for your consideration.
Julie Finn
Prospect Street

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of mary morse <mrsm1359@outlook.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Order 68-23/24
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 8:17:40 AM

Dear Mayor Synder and Members of the City Council:

I was a nurse for over 40 years in home care and acute care settings. The population I worked with included those with chronic and acute mental illness, dual diagnosis, and substance abuse. Many were homeless. Their stories about living on the street were heartbreaking. Human trafficking, assaults, rapes, theft of belongings and medications, and horrific living conditions were common themes. This lifestyle and environment enables criminal activity, substance abuse and poor compliance with medical and psychiatric treatment as well as sobriety. Encampments threatened not only surrounding neighborhoods but their most vulnerable residents.
I hope that you vote against ORDER 68-23/24. Our resources and energy should be focused on increasing the number and availability of acute and long term mental health and substance abuse treatment facilities and expanding affordable housing. Let's look at lasting solutions.

Thank you,
Mary Morse
208 Sheridan St.
Portland, ME

Sent from my iPad

From: "Johanna Bell" via Public Comment on behalf of "Johanna Bell" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the sweeps. Protect our homeless.
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 7:59:25 AM

Portland Public Comment,

The sweeps must stop. The crowding of our homeless in one encampment, creating dangerous conditions for all who live there, must also stop.

That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

Because of that, this amendment is supported by groups like Preble Street, the ACLU, the Portland Housing Coalition, Homeless Voices for Justice, STRIVE, Grace Street Ministries, and so many others who work directly with or care so deeply about this population.
Forcing people to move constantly is not a solution. Giving them the space to build community and trust is. Please vote yes on Order 68 on Monday.

Johanna Bell
johanna.elizabeth.bell@gmail.com
148 beacon st
Portland, Maine 04103

From:	"Christopher" via Public Comment on behalf of "Christopher" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Vote Down order 68!!!
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 7:57:43 AM

Dear Portland City Council members,

I am a homeowner and an employee in Portland, and I strongly oppose the measure that is up for vote this Monday that will allow public camping throughout the City of Portland.

Due to the current encampment that is located at Harbor View, not only am I concerned about my safety every morning when I walk my dog – I am also concerned about my neighborhood's safety. Every morning I am having to normalize seeing someone shooting up or getting high, which is NOT OK!! No one should have to witness that, especially children. On my morning walks, I encounter parent after parent walking to school trying to keep their child's attention so they are not witnessing what is happening on the benches or in bushes. I don't understand why on earth the City is allowing this to happen.

Portland is a vibrant city that relies on tourism. Currently working in town, customers have expressed grave concern as to what our lovely city is turning into. They are rethinking their future trips to our wonderful destination. Again, why is this being allowed and normalized here? If this ordinance passes, this town which has grown into a thriving economy will come to a crashing halt. Many businesses have already expressed that they will no longer be able to stay in Portland and will be forced to move to another town – or just go out of business. It is not OK that a couple members of this Council believe this is the answer – and will destroy Portland as we know it.

I greatly appreciate your consideration, and I hope and pray you all vote DOWN on the measure that is up for vote.

Regards,
A VERY CONCERNED CITIZEN.

From:	"Jim Mcpherson" via Public Comment on behalf of "Jim Mcpherson" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	I oppose order #68 and I'm a real Portland resident
Date:	Saturday, November 18, 2023 7:46:17 AM

I strongly oppose this. I'm a resident and business owner here. I pay taxes here. I do not want our parks to become campgrounds.

Jim McPherson
260 Veranda st.
Portland, me 04103

899-3854

From: "Susan Neal" via Public Comment on behalf of "Susan Neal" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 7:44:30 AM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Susan Neal
susanneal309@gmail.com
309 Spring St.
Portland , Maine 04102

From: "Lou Hoecker" via Public Comment on behalf of "Lou Hoecker" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 11:55:35 PM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

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Lou Hoecker
louhoecker@gmail.com
113 Vaughan st
Portland , Maine 04102

From: "virginia Collins" via Public Comment on behalf of "virginia Collins" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 11:49:16 PM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

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To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

virginia Collins
giacollins333@gmail.com
63 B WILSON ST
PORTLAND, Maine 04101-4448

From: "Lesley Jones" via Public Comment on behalf of "Lesley Jones" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 9:53:16 PM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Lesley Jones
lesleymjones@yahoo.com
163 Summit Street
Portland, Maine 04103

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Jessica Scott <jessica.j.scott@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Oppose Order 68
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 9:14:37 PM

Hello,

Please oppose Order 68. As a Portland resident, and the daughter homeowner in Portland who can barely keep up with their bills due to astronomically increased taxes and absurd rent control restrictions (2% !) - save at least one piece of what we used to hold so dear to us in Portland...our parks. The property owners, who have lived and loved this city for decades, are bearing the brunt of this crisis. Things need to change.

Thank you.

Jess Scott
35 Taylor Street
Portland, ME 04102

From: "Jaimee Lambert" via Public Comment on behalf of "Jaimee Lambert" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 8:01:29 PM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

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Jaimee Lambert
jaimethibodeau@aol.com
15 Libby Street
Portland, Maine 04103

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Adriano de Cardenas <suzanne.n.adriano@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Order 68
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 7:41:25 PM

Hello,

I'd like to urge you to oppose Order 68. I do not see how this proposal would benefit the tax paying residents of Portland, our reputation as a tourist destination, nearby businesses or the homeless it is trying to help.

In my opinion, emboldening the homeless to occupy public parks and streets helps no one. The homeless would feel the city is endorsing them to stay on the street in winter and not seek appropriate shelter and help. And the quality of life in Portland would be greatly diminished for both residents, businesses and visitors.

Respectfully,
Suzanne & Adriano de Cardenas
611 Chandlers Wharf

Sent from my iPhone

From: "Matthew Fish" via Public Comment on behalf of "Matthew Fish" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 6:42:54 PM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Matthew Fish
mootcoaster@gmail.com
201 Park Ave. Apt. 312
Portland, Maine 04102

From: "Hannah Asif" via Public Comment on behalf of "Hannah Asif" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the sweeps. Protect our homeless.
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 6:31:36 PM

Portland Public Comment,

The sweeps must stop. The crowding of our homeless in one encampment, creating dangerous conditions for all who live there, must also stop.

That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

Because of that, this amendment is supported by groups like Preble Street, the ACLU, the Portland Housing Coalition, Homeless Voices for Justice, STRIVE, Grace Street Ministries, and so many others who work directly with or care so deeply about this population.
Forcing people to move constantly is not a solution. Giving them the space to build community and trust is. Please vote yes on Order 68 on Monday.

Hannah Asif
asifhannah.1@gmail.com
164 Pearl street
Portland, Maine 04101

From: "Madeline Ryan" via Public Comment on behalf of "Madeline Ryan" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 6:21:58 PM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Forcibly displacing unhoused people to the outskirts of Portland is essentially abandoning them. As a resident who lives in the neighborhood where the new shelter is located, there is little help for them out here, and the unhoused cannot be blamed for choosing encampments that are surrounded by far more resources. The council's treatment towards them has worsened over time, and I'm extremely disappointed that they only grow more ostracized. If you want to earn the votes and respect of your constituents, you'll pass the Order 68-23/24 Amendment.

Madeline Ryan
madelineryan1287@gmail.com

147 Lynn St
Portland, Maine 04103

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Greg White <greg.white857@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Order 68
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 6:09:39 PM

Dear City Council:

I am a Portland resident and I am asking that you pass Order 68 to temporarily stop encampment sweeps and enforcement of the city's public camping and loitering bans against unhoused people.

Sweeps against the unhoused community are systematic violence. The police and work crews that the decision makers call in to conduct these sweeps are in fact stealing the property of individuals and families. It is within your power to prevent the theft of citizens' personal and potentially life saving items. People's lives become more imperiled when they are forcibly removed from these camps. Instead of perpetuating these fascist policies, I am asking you to save lives and to pass Order 68.

Sincerely,

Greg White

Sent from my iPhone

From: council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Greg White <greg.white857@gmail.com>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Order 68
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 6:00:56 PM

Hello Portland City Council:

I am a Portland resident and I am asking that you pass Order 68 to temporarily stop encampment sweeps and enforcement of the city's public camping and loitering bans against unhoused people.

Sweeps against the unhoused community are systematic violence. The police and work crews that the decision makers call in to conduct these sweeps are in fact stealing the property of individuals and families. It is within your power to prevent the theft of citizens' personal and potentially life saving items. People's lives become more imperiled when they are forcibly removed from these camps. Instead of perpetuating these fascist policies, I am asking you to save lives and to pass Order 68.

Sincerely,

Greg White

From:	"Amelia Clancy" via Public Comment on behalf of "Amelia Clancy" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Pass Order 68
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 5:46:20 PM

Hello,
I am writing as a Portland resident and teacher. There is no question that we need support for our unhoused neighbors, we are in a severe housing crisis and a majority of residents are one pay check away from being unhoused themselves. The encampment sweeps that have been occurring are cruel and inhumane. You are leaving people no options, destroying items that are attempts to just meet basic needs, and taking away any sense of safety our unhoused neighbors might have.

We are no longer allowing the removed politicians to treat people inhumanly. You do not have the power any longer. We will not stand for Portland to be a city that treats people this way and we will not let you continue to act in such a way.

We demand that Order 68 is passed immediately and that all focus goes to long term housing solutions.

These are our neighbors, our friends and our family and we expect them to be treated with care, respect and humanity.

PASS ORDER 68

Amelia Clancy

From: "Aidan Boardman" via Public Comment on behalf of "Aidan Boardman" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 5:38:05 PM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Aidan Boardman
aidannboardman@gmail.com
315 Sawyer Street
South Portland, Maine 04106

From:	Dan Tarkinson on behalf of Dan Tarkinson <dtarkinson@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Cc:	dlibner@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Fwd: Order 68: Camping proposal
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 5:22:17 PM

Hello,

Why do I not yet see my comment in the packet? I see others in there that were submitted after mine.

Thank you.

-Dan

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Dan Tarkinson <dtarkinson@gmail.com>
> **Date:** November 16, 2023 at 11:43:15 AM EST
> **To:** publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
> **Subject: Order 68: Camping proposal**
>
> Dear City Council Members,
>
> I would like to voice my strong opposition to the notion of legalizing camping within public places in the Portland City Limits.
>
> I was born and raised in Portland, and attended Portland Public Schools. I returned as an adult to raise my own family here and my children now have attended Portland Public Schools as well. We love this city, and its history, culture, character and its people.
>
> This proposal is a slippery slope and I'd like to see you prioritize other, safer actions towards addressing the current problems, not one that will bring more challenges. A very irresponsible proposal in my view.
>
> Sincerely,
> Dan Tarkinson
> 62 Fessenden St.

From: "Michael Bolton" via Public Comment on behalf of "Michael Bolton" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 5:16:21 PM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

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Michael Bolton
notportland@gmail.com
No
no, Maine 04106

From:	"Nancy Hoffman" via Public Comment on behalf of "Nancy Hoffman" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Order 68
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 5:13:54 PM

I oppose order 68 for the following reasons.

1. It's not humane for people to live outside in winter in Portland, ME., moreover it's not a solution to the problem. Allowing our fellow neighbors; many who struggle with mental health and substance abuse issues to live in public spaces without supporting services is not safe for anyone.

2. Allowing camping in public spaces will only encourage more encampments to populate and continue to strain our ability to meet the needs of everyone in the city of Portland.

3. Our public parks are meant to be utilized for walking and enjoying the beautiful landscaping created by our parks and recreation department. They are what makes Portland unique. Utilizing them as campgrounds is not what I imagine for any of our common open spaces. When I stroll past broken tents, shopping carts, used needles and garbage strewn haphazardly on the western promenade I get angry. How is this safe for anyone?

Nancy P. Hoffman
64 Thomas St.
Portland, ME. 04102

Sent from my iPhone

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Mary Lou Moulton <hikingflower2@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Camping
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 5:07:23 PM

I vote no no. No. Reasons being 1. Hearth crisis imminent. 2. Danger to all. Thank you. Mlm

Sent from my iPhone

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Ellen D. Murphy <radochas@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Order #68-23/24
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 4:43:10 PM

To Portland's City Councillors:

As you consider the proposed ordinance amendments captioned Order #68-23/24, I urge you to read and consider carefully the memoranda submitted by City staff in response.

Councillors, you who are considering a vote to approve this Order are in a true position of privilege. Should it pass, you're done - you have no responsibility for the operational outcome of voting to allow and encourage outdoor camping through the winter, nor do you have to deal with the direct results.

You are not the first responders who have to respond to endless emergency calls about drug overdoses, violent incidents, mental health crises, or the inevitable fires from the use of propane heaters in tents (as on the Eastern Prom last weekend) in the encampments. You don't have to pick up the piles of trash, discarded needles, and excrement that accumulate, as do park workers. You don't have to deal with the epidemics of disease - such as hepatitis A, which spread through the tent city on Marginal Way. All you have to do is congratulate yourselves for passing these amendments - and meanwhile, it is City workers who will be on the front lines, 24 hours a day, dealing with the results.

The City has a great number of open positions, as perhaps you are aware. Why would anyone with skills, experience, and expertise want to come to work in Portland knowing that the Council is willing, as here, to not only disregard its professional staff, but actively undermine it by choosing a course of action that contravenes its advice on critical public issues?

While the Council has a role in running Portland, it is the City employees who actually make it work. Again, I urge you to give credence to the warnings of City staff in their analyses of the effects of the subject Order. They offer a breadth of actual experience that should be your primary source of information in deciding how to vote.

Very truly yours,

Ellen D. Murphy
88 Park Street
District 2

From: "Emily Connelly" via Public Comment on behalf of "Emily Connelly" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the sweeps. Protect our homeless.
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 4:33:24 PM

Portland Public Comment,

The sweeps of homeless encampments are cruel and must stop. They are not a solution to homelessness in our community. The crowding of our homeless neighbors in one encampment, creating dangerous conditions for all who live there, must also stop.

That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

Because of that, this amendment is supported by groups like Preble Street, the ACLU, the Portland Housing Coalition, Homeless Voices for Justice, STRIVE, Grace Street Ministries, and so many others who work directly with or care so deeply about this population.
Forcing people to move constantly is not a solution. Giving them the space to build community and trust is. Please vote yes on Order 68 on Monday.

Emily Connelly
emily.e.connelly@gmail.com
80 Bartley Ave
Portland, Maine 04103

From:	"lisa arsenault" via Public Comment on behalf of "lisa arsenault" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Homeless encampments
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 4:27:37 PM

Dear City Councilors

I'm writing to voice my grave concerns regarding the proposal to amend current city codes to allow camping on city property. The consequences of legalizing camping on city property and sidewalks will be detrimental to the people in the encampments as well as the city itself. Allowing encampments perpetuates the victimization of this population - they are victims of the Maine weather, physical and sexual assault, theft, drug dealers and the unsanitary conditions of the encampments.

Please listen to the leaders of multiple city departments with multiple reasons to not allow the proposal to pass. If passed, this proposal will put the encampment population at risk as well as city employees at risk. You must be aware of the fire that occurred at an Eastern Promenade encampment this past week. And it's only November with the Maine Winter ahead. Please give the Homeless Service Center a chance to provide the shelter, safety and services it was built and designed for. We need to get people inside and interacting with people who genuinely want to help them.
Sincerely,

Lisa Arsenault
Sheridan St
Portland, ME
Sent from my iPad

From: "Ellen Brown" via Public Comment on behalf of "Ellen Brown" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 4:26:54 PM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

I also work in the mental health field and see the toll that homelessness and the constant struggle of relocation take. It makes it more and more difficult for un housed residents to receive mental health and other supportive resources.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Ellen Brown
browne4321@gmail.com
156 Massachusetts Avenue
Portland, Maine 04102

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of James Macisso <jmacisso@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Urgent Concerns Regarding Homeless Encampments Proposal
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 4:21:22 PM

Good Afternoon,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the increasing presence of homeless encampments in our city parks. While I understand the complexity of the homelessness issue, it's crucial to address the associated dangers for the well-being of both residents and those experiencing homelessness.

Safety Concerns: The presence of encampments raises safety concerns for both the homeless individuals and the general public. Instances of crime, substance abuse, and other safety issues have been reported in and around these areas. This poses a risk to the community's overall well-being. Many families with young children take advantage of Portland's wonderful trails & green spaces. I allowing homeless encampments in these areas would be a betrayal to all residents.

Environmental Impact: Unregulated encampments can lead to environmental degradation in our parks. Improper waste disposal, fires, and other environmental hazards threaten the ecological balance and undermine the beauty and functionality of these public spaces.

Public Health Issues: The lack of sanitation facilities in these encampments can contribute to public health issues, including the spread of communicable diseases. This jeopardizes the health and safety of both homeless individuals and nearby residents.

Negative Impact on Tourism and Local Businesses: The visible presence of homeless encampments may deter tourism and negatively impact local businesses. This can lead to economic challenges for the city and hinder efforts to revitalize certain areas.

I strongly urge the City Council to consider alternative solutions that prioritize both the safety and dignity of homeless individuals while addressing the concerns raised by

residents. Collaborative efforts involving local government, non-profit organizations, and community members can help create sustainable solutions that benefit everyone.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that, together, we can find compassionate and effective ways to address homelessness in our city.

From: "Dennis Martin" via Public Comment on behalf of "Dennis Martin" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 4:06:26 PM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to not pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forced hundreds of unhoused people in our city to use the shelter system.

Sweeps and camping bans are the correct approach. Encampment sweeps are productive. Laws that ban campin are not racist, do not violate constitutional and human rights, and do not traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly good to use in the winter because unhoused people are forced to use the City Shelter

This winter, the city must use the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to not pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services and dismiss the radical views of the DSA

Dennis Martin
dennyjrdaddy@yahoo.com
241 Babcock
south portland, Maine 04106

From: "Chris Hazelton" via Public Comment on behalf of "Chris Hazelton" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 4:03:40 PM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Chris Hazelton
ch129309@gmail.com
1627 Washington Ave
Portland, Maine 04103

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Beth Mougalian <beth@mougalianrugs.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Portland Encampments
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 3:52:52 PM

Response to public encampments in Portland

When my husband and I and our son first moved our business to Portland we were extremely excited about how nicely the East Bayside area had been restored. This was an extremely expensive move for us and we put a lot of time and effort into improving the property. Unfortunately after this year we deeply regret having moved our business here.

I tend to be in our showroom quite often alone. This summer I have had to resort to locking our door until a customer came to shop. I did not feel safe to come to work alone or leave alone. I have seen, not a foot from my store window, one man snorting coke and another shooting up. This is nothing compared to what the businesses on Marginal Way have had to put up with.

I am sincerely disgusted with Portland for enabling this to get out of hand in a city that brings in Tourism. We have many customers who feel the same.

I have many friends from out of state who love to come eat and enjoy the brewery's. They have voiced that after what they say this summer they will not be returning. And now you want to bring this mess back!! Neighboring towns would not allow this to happen to their business owners.

Beth Mougalian

--

Beth Mougalian

175 Anderson Street

Portland, Maine 04101

Store: (207) 553-7700

“Sales and Service of the highest quality”

From: "Jessica Donovan" via Public Comment on behalf of "Jessica Donovan" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 3:52:41 PM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

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Jessica Donovan
jessicadonovan207@gmail.com
12 Higgins Street
Portland, Maine 04103

From: "Emily O'Neil" via Public Comment on behalf of "Emily O'Neil" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 3:41:33 PM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

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This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

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Emily O'Neil
emilyroseoneil@gmail.com
461 Stevens Ave, Apt 2L
Portland, Maine 04103

From: "Kathryn Shoro" via Public Comment on behalf of "Kathryn Shoro" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the sweeps. Protect our homeless.
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 3:40:07 PM

Portland Public Comment,

The sweeps must stop. The crowding of our homeless in one encampment, creating dangerous conditions for all who live there, must also stop.

That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

Because of that, this amendment is supported by groups like Preble Street, the ACLU, the Portland Housing Coalition, Homeless Voices for Justice, STRIVE, Grace Street Ministries, and so many others who work directly with or care so deeply about this population.
Forcing people to move constantly is not a solution. Giving them the space to build community and trust is. Please vote yes on Order 68 on Monday.

Kathryn Shoro
kathryn.shoro@gmail.com
1627 Washington Ave
Portland, Maine 04103

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Derek Caldwell <dcaldwell86@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Public Comment - Opposition to Order 68-23/24
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 3:33:00 PM

Members of the Council,

I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed Order 68-23/24 an Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property.

My opposition is not a result of direct interactions with any of the existing or past encampments, but rather to **maintain** safe and desirable access to our public spaces for all. The current ordinance is in place to protect this, and, in my opinion, revisions should not be made regardless of how well intended the outcome is.

The memorandums issued by City staff clearly state that there would be the high possibility of adverse and unintended consequences to parks and other public spaces in the City. I ask you to simply heed the guidance of these Staff members whose work allows Portland to be the great City it is. One of the best parts of living in Portland is the ability to access the multitude of amazing trails and parks which exist in nearly every neighborhood.

Admittedly I do not have solutions to the overall national unhoused crisis which has resulted in the creation of large encampments, but I do not believe modifying City ordinances to allow for the free use of any public space for camping (outside of the narrow restrictions) is one such solution. Not passing this order would by no means place limitations on the Council and the City to continue to pursue other actions in support of the overall goal to provide safe shelter for all.

As an observation to the Public Comment emails submitted to date in the agenda packet, I would note that several of the identical public comments submitted are signed by residents of other communities while the body of the letter begins with *"As a Portland Resident."*

As a Portland resident I point this out to not discredit the comment from others in Portland who are in support of the order, but rather urge you to strongly weigh the feedback from City staff and prevent the unintended adverse impacts to the City at large such broad revisions to the ordinance as proposed may result in.

Sincerely,

Derek Caldwell
30 Glen Haven Road E, Portland, ME

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Cheri <cj@maine.rr.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Cc:	Cheri Juniewicz
Subject:	Order 68-23/24
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 3:11:21 PM

IE Order 68-23/24Order 68-23/24To Whom Is Concerned,

Please oppose this change. The city is not able to transition the current numbers of folks in encampments that are in Portland to healthy housing, Why would the city council propose to expand or invite these unsafe conditions into all of our public spaces.
Let's try to create a safe situation not only for the unhoused but also for the people of Portland who want to continue to enjoy a feeling of safety living and doing business within the city. It's hard to understand the benefit of this idea, except to invite larger numbers of people that we cannot help here to "take over the city".

I have had man rub his" junk" on my car window as I was trying to mail a letter at the drive through at the Portland Post Office and my home was broken into cash and camping gear etc stolen. Then when I did a coastal cleanup the following spring we were cleaning an abandoned encampment and there was my stuff, trashed.

PLEASE DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PROPOSED CHANGE. Sincerely

Cheryl Juniewicz
38 Bismark Street
Portland, Maine 04103

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Hannah Morrill <hmorrill@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: order 68
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 3:03:45 PM

Hey there,

I'm sure I'm not the first person to write with my support for Order 68. Strong research suggests that encampments for our unhoused community are safe, and allow aid workers to build consistent relationships, which in turn can help connect community members with valuable resources.

Encampments are not dangerous for those of us lucky enough to have homes. They're just unsightly. And removing them from sight doesn't make them go away.

Thank you for reading.

Best x
Hannah Morrill
45 Montreal Street
Portland ME

From: "Gabriella Deshmukh" via Public Comment on behalf of "Gabriella Deshmukh" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the sweeps. Protect our homeless.
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 2:56:18 PM

Portland Public Comment,

The sweeps must stop. The crowding of our homeless in one encampment, creating dangerous conditions for all who live there, must also stop.

That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

Because of that, this amendment is supported by groups like Preble Street, the ACLU, the Portland Housing Coalition, Homeless Voices for Justice, STRIVE, Grace Street Ministries, and so many others who work directly with or care so deeply about this population.
Forcing people to move constantly is not a solution. Giving them the space to build community and trust is. Please vote yes on Order 68 on Monday.

Gabriella Deshmukh
gabrielladeshmukh@gmail.com
458 Cherry Hill Rd
Princeton, New Jersey 08540

From: "ea73108@gmail.com" via Public Comment on behalf of "ea73108@gmail.com" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 2:52:15 PM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

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ea73108@gmail.com
194 Virginia St
Portland, Maine 04103

From: "Julien Peck" via Public Comment on behalf of "Julien Peck" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Sweeps are not a solution!
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 2:31:21 PM

Portland Public Comment,

I am a Portland resident and I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24.

Displacing unhoused people via encampment sweeps sets us further back from our goal of having every Portlander safe. These sweeps not only put people in danger but do nothing to solve the underlying issue of homelessness and instead create more distrust between city officials and citizens.

Please stand with Anna, Roberto and me by passing Order 68.

Julien Peck
julienhzp@gmail.com
91 State St
Portland, Maine 04101

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Tim Gebhardt <timg@gpmmaine.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Order 68
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 2:27:01 PM

Hello,
I strongly oppose order 68. It is unsafe for permanent residents of those neighborhoods to encourage and allow encampments.

When did it become acceptable to allow public intoxication, drug use and illicit behavior?

I have lived in the West End for over 20 years and raised my family here.

I am scared to walk with my children to Free Range Fish or Becky's diner because of the large encampment blocking our way.

Our heavily increasing taxes fund the upkeep and public use of these spaces and to now have them taken over making them unusable and even impassable is completely absurd.

I understand that some of the homeless population needs substantial help, but I know there is a portion that does not. Some chose this path because it's easier then going to work everyday.

We can all relate to this but most of us chose to work hard everyday and contribute positively to our wonderful city.

I think it's time we look out for our working class citizens first and oppose this order that will exacerbate the homeless epidemic.

Thank you,
Tim Gebhardt
36 Spruce St.
Portland, ME 04102
--
Tim Gebhardt CMCA

Gebhardt Property Management
P.O. Box 11591
Portland, ME 04104
207-541-9468

From: "Nina Shorey" via Public Comment on behalf of "Nina Shorey" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the sweeps. Protect our homeless.
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 2:24:56 PM

Portland Public Comment,

The sweeps must stop. The crowding of our homeless in one encampment, creating dangerous conditions for all who live there, must also stop.

That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

Because of that, this amendment is supported by groups like Preble Street, the ACLU, the Portland Housing Coalition, Homeless Voices for Justice, STRIVE, Grace Street Ministries, and so many others who work directly with or care so deeply about this population.
Forcing people to move constantly is not a solution. Giving them the space to build community and trust is. Please vote yes on Order 68 on Monday.

Nina Shorey
ninashorey@gmail.com
934 Seashore Ave
Peaks Island, Maine 04108

From: "virginia Collins" via Public Comment on behalf of "virginia Collins" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 2:18:09 PM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

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virginia Collins
giacollins333@gmail.com
63 B WILSON ST
PORTLAND, Maine 04101-4448

From: joedasco@comcast.net
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Cc: dlibner@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: FW: Encampments/Public Safety
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 2:14:04 PM

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing about my concern regarding the growing encampment on Commercial Street. My concern is not only regarding the future of this great city but has been recently heightened around public safety. My name is Joe Dasco, I am one of the principals of Reger Dasco Properties. We have been developing in Portland since 2006 and I am a part time resident (2 to 3 days per week) living on India Street. Our projects included the redevelopment of the east end, The Bay House, 113 Newbury Street, the Mason Block and more recently Hobson's Landing which is located on the old Rufus Deering Property where my office in currently located. When we were in the planning stages for the redevelopment of the Rufus Deering site, I heard time and time again from the Planning Board and Staff that our property was considered the "Gateway to Portland and we therefore must do better with the design." We took those comments to heart and spent a considerable amount of time and additional money (the entire project required over $100 million) to design a landmark building that the we and the city would be proud of. The project consists of a 150 room Hotel, 150 residential units and approx. 20,000 sqft. of commercial space. Phase one has been open for over 2.5 years and we are now working on the final phase. Unfortunately now the "Gateway to the city" is not our project, but the growing encampment across from the Eimskip shipping terminal. Over the summer after the initial sweep of the Fore River trail encampment, we noticed tents begin to show up one block away from our project on Commercial Street. The first point that I am trying to make is that these sweeps of one camp at a time is useless, as it just results in relocating the problem. The city must take a stand that trespassing and illegal camping is not tolerated anywhere within the city limits and enforcement is a must.

Secondly, we have all heard of the illegal activities that are taking place within the camps but it has gone much further. Earlier this summer, a woman was assaulted on Commercial Street by one of the campers. The assailant also vandalized an automobile and the city trees in front of our property. In addition to what we have observed, due to the wholesale shoplifting that is occurring at the Irving station on the corner of High Street, that very busy store is in danger of closing due to the threat that the employees face on a daily basis. The Aloft Hotel has had to lock their doors in order to keep campers out of their lobby and bathrooms where they have found campers doing drugs. Most recently, we have had regular incidents of campers breaking into our job site, stealing tools and doing drugs on site. We have now been forced to higher a security guard.

As a little background so you can understand my perspective, I consider myself a compassionate person and socially liberal. Our organization has helped raise over $15,000 for the Milestone Clinic, I have personally joined the Milestone Home Team and visited and distributed care bags in the middle of the winter and I have personally employed recovered addicts. However, we can not afford to become a lawless society. In a short amount of time, we have gone from one of the "safest small cities" to one where visitors are now saying, "stay away from Portland, it is not a safe place."

It is time to take action, please enforce our laws, public safety is a must. The illegal encampments must come to an end, its not safe for the individuals living there nor the public at large .

Thank you for your attention to this very complex matter.

Sincerely,

Joseph Dasco
Reger Dasco Properties
383 Commercial Street, Suite D
Portland, ME 04101

Virus-free.www.avast.com

From:	"Vicki Friedman" via City Manager on behalf of "Vicki Friedman" via City Manager <citymanager@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; Pious Ali; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov; Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	PLEASE VOTE NO on the Proposed Change in Ordinance (Order 68)
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 2:11:08 PM

Good afternoon

My name is Vicki Friedman and I live at 113 Newbury St., District 1.

PLEASE VOTE NO on Order 68 and if councilors want to make a proposed change through proper channels for elements of this proposal, as a city, we will consider them. But this is rushed and not the right solution.

The three items being proposed in this change should NOT be lumped into one vote. They should be separate and should go through proper channels to be considered by experts, the public, and the council.

Portland (and all of), ME can not become as dysfunctional as Portland, OR.

PLEASE VOTE NO

Thank you
-Vicki S Friedman

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of kirby.shelley1 <kirby.shelley1@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Please vote NO on Order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 2:09:01 PM

To the City Council,

Please vote NO on Order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property.

Please do not allow encampments to spread throughout our community. Please do not allow our parks and sidewalks to become sprawling unsafe, unmanageable encampments.

W Kirby Shelley
25 High Street unit 407
Portland, Maine 04101

From:	"Eric Billings" via Public Comment on behalf of "Eric Billings" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Please vote NO on Order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 1:55:10 PM

To the City Council,

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Please do not allow encampments to spread throughout our community. Please do not allow our parks and sidewalks to become sprawling unsafe, unmanageable encampments.

Eric Billings
25 High Street unit 407
Portland, Maine 04101

From: "ciccotelli1956@gmail.com" via Public Comment on behalf of "ciccotelli1956@gmail.com" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the sweeps. Protect our homeless.
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 1:54:09 PM

Portland Public Comment,

The sweeps must stop. The crowding of our homeless in one encampment, creating dangerous conditions for all who live there, must also stop.

That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

Because of that, this amendment is supported by groups like Preble Street, the ACLU, the Portland Housing Coalition, Homeless Voices for Justice, STRIVE, Grace Street Ministries, and so many others who work directly with or care so deeply about this population.
Forcing people to move constantly is not a solution. Giving them the space to build community and trust is. Please vote yes on Order 68 on Monday.

ciccotelli1956@gmail.com
110 Emery Street, #5
Portland, Maine 04102

From:	"LESLIE HENRY" via Public Comment on behalf of "LESLIE HENRY" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov.
Cc:	Kim Erskine
Subject:	NO on Order 68
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 1:50:49 PM

Dear City Council,

We am writing in response to the proposed changes to Order 68. Amending Order 68 to allow those who are unhoused to loiter and camp on city property presents health, hygiene and safety risks for all people of the City. Citizens who are housed and abiding by current laws and regulations are prohibited from loitering and camping on public property. Living outside is not safe for anyone. Promoting and encouraging access to housing will improve the lives of the unhoused and maintain health and safety for all who chose to live, work and play in Portland.

Thank you,

Leslie Henry and Kim Erskine
125 York Street, Unit C Portland ME o4101

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Ericca Williams <ericcalynn78@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Order 68
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 1:49:49 PM

NO NO NO this is not a solution and I'm appalled that I live in a city with a council that is even voting on this!!
What's wrong with our city?
What is happening to Portland?

Vote NO and come up with a real solution and do right by the people of this city!
We've had enough!!
Ericca

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Jeyn Levison <jeyn.levison@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphilips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov; dwest@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Order 68 - public comment
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 1:45:18 PM

Dear Portland City Council, Mayor Snyder, and City Manager West,

I am writing to urge you not to pass Order 68.

If the order had simply been to stop the sweeps, I would have urged you to pass it. I believe that moving people's homes - especially as winter approaches - is inhumane and disruptive to people who have no other place to live. If it had been to stop the sweeps and make a substantial investment in permanent housing, temporary shelter, safe injection sites, and a full round of services needed by people who are currently unhoused, then I would have enthusiastically supported it.

But Order 68, as written, would make it much harder for people to access warming shelters and much harder for outreach workers to find and support unhoused people. It also could lead to backlash towards our unhoused neighbors and towards efforts to support people into secure housing.

I appreciate that you are trying to solve for a situation that — as it is now — is not tenable for anyone. Not unhoused people, not our downtown residents, not our downtown small businesses, not our school kids.

I want an end to the encampment sweeps along with urgent attention to solve all of our short term and long term housing needs in Portland.

Thank you,
Jeyn Levison
39 George Street

—
Jeyn Levison (they/them)
718-974-3394
jeyn.levison@gmail.com
www.jeynlevison.com

From: "Lena Shevchenko" via Public Comment on behalf of "Lena Shevchenko" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 1:41:39 PM

Portland Public Comment,

I'm a student in Portland, and I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Going to school in an area with so many unhoused people has let me see firsthand how they are being affected by these sweeps, having so many important belongings being displaced and being pushed farther from helpful resources.

Lena Shevchenko
lenashevchenko516@gmail.com
59 Shaker Road
Gray, Maine 04039

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Austin Dugas <austin@mougalianrugs.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Encampments in Portland Maine
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 1:30:42 PM

To those responsible and obligated,

As an individual who resides and works in Portland the decisions that have been made over the last several months regarding the "un-homed" population of this city have made me question whether those responsible care for this town or it's residents in the slightest. Working in East Bayside neighborhood, only a couple streets away from the Marginal Way encampment, gave me a front row seat to what can only be described as an infestation of lawlessness, drugs and unsanitary conditions that will plague this city if we do not stop it here.

Over the last several years Portland, and our neighborhood in East Bayside, have grown into a wonderful place to spend time as a local, and an important draw for out of state tourism that helps keep this city on a trend of growth. Over the last few months that has changed to a general concern for my and my loved ones safety, unsanitary and completely unacceptable conditions like stepping over piles of human feces and needles as we walk across and down the street, and a general dissatisfaction of the direction that this city is heading. It is to the point where I am seeing familiar, possibly dangerous or unfriendly faces, all the way up in deering where I live, resulting in a heightened sense of alertness and possible danger that could be mitigated with only a shred of common sense.

Portland is an integral part of the ecosystem of Maine. This is an amazing place. If we hesitate to stop this ordinance that would allow camping in the interest of being "politically correct" we will rapidly lose this city and everything we've built to people who contribute nothing and take everything. I have friends and family who have spent time in some of the larger west coast cities who have tried to take a stance of understanding, flexibility and compassion for this group of people only to lose their city to them entirely.

It is YOUR responsibility to not let that happen to myself and the rest of us that do contribute. If you allow this, you are promoting the destruction of our city.

Have some common sense, and maybe some compassion for those of us that are building this city, as opposed to those destroying it, and do not allow this nonsense of lawless camps and communities to continue.

--
Best,

Austin Dugas
Resident and Employee of Portland Maine

From: council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Rosalee Lamm <nosasaurus@hotmail.com>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@PortlandMaine.gov
Subject: Order 68
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 1:26:24 PM

I live on Fox Street in Portland, and I support order 68. It is not a crime to be poor or unhoused. People need a place to be. They have a right to life. The camp on Marginal Way had its issues, but we should develop solutions that support people, not just try to clear them out so it's not our problem anymore. The temporary amendment to the ban on camping is a good start. I hope to see systems developed to support the camping communities, like garbage pickup and bathroom access.

Thank you
Rosalee Lamm
13 Fox Street
Portland Maine 04101

From: "Jan Meierer" via Public Comment on behalf of "Jan Meierer" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the sweeps. Protect our homeless.
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 1:26:23 PM

Portland Public Comment,

The sweeps must stop. The crowding of our homeless in one encampment, creating dangerous conditions for all who live there, must also stop.

That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

Because of that, this amendment is supported by groups like Preble Street, the ACLU, the Portland Housing Coalition, Homeless Voices for Justice, STRIVE, Grace Street Ministries, and so many others who work directly with or care so deeply about this population.
Forcing people to move constantly is not a solution. Giving them the space to build community and trust is. Please vote yes on Order 68 on Monday.

Jan Meierer
janfmeierer@gmail.com
156 Massachusetts Avenue
Portland, Maine 04102

From: "Sam Segal" via Public Comment on behalf of "Sam Segal" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 1:19:33 PM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

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This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

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Sam Segal
samsegal36@gmail.com
32 Fall Lane
Portland, Maine 04103

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Todd Ricker <tricker@nationalnursesunited.org>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Without any other plan, it is inhumane to continue the sweeps.
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 1:17:32 PM

Portland Public Comment,

Dear Councilors,

I know this is a sticky issue, and there are no quick fixes to a systemic problem like this. But unless you have somewhere for people to go, we can't just "sweep" people (and their few precious belongings) away because their homelessness is an inconvenience for our city.

That's why, a Portland resident, voter, and property owner, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

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Todd Ricker
tricker@nationalnursesunited.org
171 WHITNEY AV
PORTLAND, Maine 04102

From: council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Todd Ricker <tricker@nationalnursesunited.org>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Without any other plan, it is inhumane to continue the sweeps.
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 1:17:12 PM

Portland City Council,

Dear Councilors,

I know this is a sticky issue, and there are no quick fixes to a systemic problem like this. But unless you have somewhere for people to go, we can't just "sweep" people (and their few precious belongings) away because their homelessness is an inconvenience for our city.

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Todd Ricker
tricker@nationalnursesunited.org
171 WHITNEY AV
PORTLAND, Maine 04102

From: "Dylan Ginn" via Public Comment on behalf of "Dylan Ginn" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 1:16:05 PM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

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Dylan Ginn
ginndylan16@gmail.com
62 Marion Jordan Road
Scarborough, Maine 04074

From: "Sienna Zuco" via Public Comment on behalf of "Sienna Zuco" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 1:12:07 PM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

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Sienna Zuco
siennazuco@gmail.com
96 Clark St, Apt 2
Portland, Maine 04102

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Pat Fullen <pcf8@msn.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Vote No- order 68 23/24
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 1:11:48 PM

We have learned of of the upcoming vote on the :
Order 68-23/24
-Ordinance Legalizing Citywide
Camping in Portland. Monday 11/20 at 5PM

As residents of this city who have grown increasingly uncomfortable and unsafe in Portland as the homeless population increases, occupies more and more city space and changes the landscape of this once beautiful city; We implore you to vote against this ordinance and find a real solution to this epidemic.
Mental health needs to be addressed, crime, drug and loitering laws need to be enforced. Compassion to homeless does not mean allowing them to set up camp wherever they so choose and threaten the livelihood and safety of Portland residents.

Please vote against order 68 23/24

Patrice Fullen
David Fullen
60 Parris Street
Portland, Maine 04101

Sent from my iPhone

From:	"Anne Read" via Public Comment on behalf of "Anne Read" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the sweeps. Protect our homeless.
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 1:10:24 PM

Portland Public Comment,

The sweeps must stop. The crowding of our homeless in one encampment, creating dangerous conditions for all who live there, must also stop.

That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

Because of that, this amendment is supported by groups like Preble Street, the ACLU, the Portland Housing Coalition, Homeless Voices for Justice, STRIVE, Grace Street Ministries, and so many others who work directly with or care so deeply about this population.
Forcing people to move constantly is not a solution. Giving them the space to build community and trust is. Please vote yes on Order 68 on Monday.

Anne Read
annebaxterread@gmail.com
37 tyng street
Portland , Maine 04102

From: "Landis Hackett" via Public Comment on behalf of "Landis Hackett" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the sweeps. Protect our neighbors experiencing homelessness.
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 1:08:31 PM

Portland Public Comment,

The sweeps must stop. The crowding of our homeless in one encampment, creating dangerous conditions for all who live there, must also stop.

That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

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Landis Hackett
hackett.landis@gmail.com
76 Spruce Street, APT 1
Porltand, Maine 04102

From: "Natalie Pelletier" via Public Comment on behalf of "Natalie Pelletier" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 1:08:16 PM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

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This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

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Natalie Pelletier
525600noots@gmail.com
66 Sherman St
Portland, Maine 04101

From: "Rose Fitzgerald" via Public Comment on behalf of "Rose Fitzgerald" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Our unhoused neighbors aren't hurting us
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 1:06:25 PM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

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Rose Fitzgerald
rfitzgerald13@gmail.com
78 Spruce Street, Apartment 3
Portland , Maine 04102

From: "Maggie Barron" via Public Comment on behalf of "Maggie Barron" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 1:05:05 PM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

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Maggie Barron
maggiebarron4@gmail.com
173 Beacon St
Portland, Maine 04103

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Emily <emewright88@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Order 68
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 1:04:01 PM

I am writing to advocate for the passage of order 68. Our unhoused population endures so much hardship. They deserve to have camps that won't be displaced this winter.

Thank you,
Emily

Sent from my iPhone

From: "Abigail Nelson" via Public Comment on behalf of "Abigail Nelson" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 12:58:37 PM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

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Abigail Nelson
abigail.nelson08@gmail.com
154 York St
Portland, Maine 04101

From: "Janet Duncan" via Public Comment on behalf of "Janet Duncan" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the sweeps. Protect our homeless.
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 12:58:16 PM

Portland Public Comment,

Having just listened to the book Rough Sleepers - which I highly recommend, I know sweeping encampments is not an answer, not humane. The sweeps must stop.
I favor an interim solution of a site where some could camp, have portable toilets & trash pick up. Ultimately I hope for small shelters to preserve a sense of community and where case workers might help with mental & physical health issues & humane treatment for all.
That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

Because of that, this amendment is supported by groups like Preble Street, the ACLU, the Portland Housing Coalition, Homeless Voices for Justice, STRIVE, Grace Street Ministries, and so many others who work directly with or care so deeply about this population.
Forcing people to move constantly is not a solution. Giving them the space to build community and trust is. Please vote yes on Order 68 on Monday.

Janet Duncan
swiss80@gmail.com
96 Starbird Rd
Portland, Maine 04102

From: "Bridget Hoke" via Public Comment on behalf of "Bridget Hoke" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the sweeps. Protect our homeless.
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 12:50:31 PM

Portland Public Comment,

The sweeps must stop. The crowding of our homeless in one encampment, creating dangerous conditions for all who live there, must also stop.

That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

Because of that, this amendment is supported by groups like Preble Street, the ACLU, the Portland Housing Coalition, Homeless Voices for Justice, STRIVE, Grace Street Ministries, and so many others who work directly with or care so deeply about this population.
Forcing people to move constantly is not a solution. Giving them the space to build community and trust is. Please vote yes on Order 68 on Monday.

Bridget Hoke
bridget.hoke@gmail.com
60 Noyes St
Portland, Maine 04103

From: "Sacha Kiesman" via Public Comment on behalf of "Sacha Kiesman" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Winter is not the time for sweeps
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 12:50:23 PM

Portland Public Comment,

The sweeps are hurting our people. The crowding of our homeless in one encampment, creating dangerous conditions for all who live there, must also stop.

That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

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Sacha Kiesman
sacha.kiesman@gmail.com
31 Bates St, apartment 2
Portland, Maine 04103

From:	"Eben Smith" via Public Comment on behalf of "Eben Smith" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the sweeps. Protect our homeless.
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 12:50:06 PM

Portland Public Comment,

The sweeps must stop. The crowding of our homeless in one encampment, creating dangerous conditions for all who live there, must also stop.

That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

Because of that, this amendment is supported by groups like Preble Street, the ACLU, the Portland Housing Coalition, Homeless Voices for Justice, STRIVE, Grace Street Ministries, and so many others who work directly with or care so deeply about this population.
Forcing people to move constantly is not a solution. Giving them the space to build community and trust is. Please vote yes on Order 68 on Monday.

Eben Smith
ebencardinal@gmail.com
14 Grove st
Portland , Maine 04103

From: "Lara Rosen" via Public Comment on behalf of "Lara Rosen" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 12:48:36 PM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Lara Rosen
lara.k.rosen@gmail.com
59 Edwards Street
Portland, Maine 04103

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Lori Uhland <loriuhland@stagerightlori.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 12:44:25 PM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

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This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Lori Uhland
loriuhland@stagerightlori.com
199 Edwards St
Portland, Maine 04102

From: council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Lori Uhland <loriuhland@stagerightlori.com>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 12:44:22 PM

Portland City Council,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

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This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Lori Uhland
loriuhland@stagerightlori.com
199 Edwards St
Portland, Maine 04102

From: "Liz Prentice" via Public Comment on behalf of "Liz Prentice" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 12:43:23 PM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

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Liz Prentice
elizabethpuris@gmail.com
183 brackett st
Portland, Maine 04102

From: "Joan Andrew" via Public Comment on behalf of "Joan Andrew" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 12:43:16 PM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

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Joan Andrew
joantoyota@aol.com
457 Cumberland ave apt 12
Portland , Maine 04101

From: "Nancy Cartonio" via Public Comment on behalf of "Nancy Cartonio" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the sweeps. Protect our homeless.
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 12:41:02 PM

Portland Public Comment,

The sweeps must stop. The crowding of our homeless in one encampment, creating dangerous conditions for all who live there, must also stop.

That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

Because of that, this amendment is supported by groups like Preble Street, the ACLU, the Portland Housing Coalition, Homeless Voices for Justice, STRIVE, Grace Street Ministries, and so many others who work directly with or care so deeply about this population.
Forcing people to move constantly is not a solution. Giving them the space to build community and trust is. Please vote yes on Order 68 on Monday.

Nancy Cartonio
nancycartonio@gmail.com
40 Sawyer street
Portland , Maine 04103

From: "Cyrus Shahan" via Public Comment on behalf of "Cyrus Shahan" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the sweeps. Protect our homeless.
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 12:33:40 PM

Portland Public Comment,

The sweeps must stop. The crowding of our homeless in one encampment, creating dangerous conditions for all who live there, must also stop.

That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

Because of that, this amendment is supported by groups like Preble Street, the ACLU, the Portland Housing Coalition, Homeless Voices for Justice, STRIVE, Grace Street Ministries, and so many others who work directly with or care so deeply about this population.
Forcing people to move constantly is not a solution. Giving them the space to build community and trust is. Please vote yes on Order 68 on Monday.

Cyrus Shahan
cyrus.shahan@gmail.com
19 Merrill St
Portland, Maine 04101-3212

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Maggy W <mswnola@gmail.com>
To:	Anna Trevorrow; Roberto Rodriguez
Cc:	Andrew Zarro; mdion@portlandmaine.gov; Pious Ali; Kate Snyder; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Opposed to Order #68
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 12:30:58 PM

The email I sent on Nov 7 below in opposition to Order 68 does not appear in the public comment, nor did I receive any response from any member of the Council, so please consider it before Monday's meeting.

Maggy Wolf
28 Saint Lawrence St
Portland
District 1

>
>
> Dear members of the City Council and Mayor Snyder,
>
> As somebody who has several decades of experience in addiction recovery rooms, I have a great deal of compassion for people less fortunate than myself who are suffering from addiction and mental health issues. However your proposed amendments to city ordinances prohibiting camping in public spaces are not going to help anybody transition out of homelessness. In my opinion, the encampment problem is mostly unrelated to Portland's housing crisis. When people arrive every week from all over to take advantage of Portland's services and tolerance, no number of shelters and no amount of new housing will be enough. These amendments seem largely performative in nature; they may make some people feel good about not being punitive or judgmental but they do nothing at all to help the people they are supposedly designed to protect. Many people who are addicted will not seek recovery until they hit rock bottom; tough love does not play well to the cameras, but in my experience, it saves more lives than Bandaid solutions.
>
> In your minds, is there any limit to the number of people in need of mental health and addiction services we can accommodate in our public spaces? Portland's health and human services and tax dollars are being stretched too thin and are unable to be used for the existing residents who need them.
>
> Maggy Wolf
> District 1
>
>
>
>
>
>
>

From: "Ethan Strimling" via Public Comment on behalf of "Ethan Strimling" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 12:18:35 PM

Portland Public Comment,

Dear Members of the Portland City Council,

The crowding of our homeless in one encampment, creating dangerous conditions for all who live there, must stop. Please stop the sweeps and allow those camped under the bridge to create smaller communities around the city.

Please support Order 68 sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

I stand with groups like Preble Street, the ACLU, the Portland Housing Coalition, Homeless Voices for Justice, Grace Street Ministries, and so many others who work directly with or care so deeply about this population.

Forcing people to move constantly is not a solution. Giving them the space to build community and trust is.

Please vote yes on Order 68 on Monday.

Ethan Strimling
655 Congress Street

Ethan Strimling
ethanstrimling@gmail.com
655 Congress Street, #618
Portland, Maine 04101

From: "Isa Burke" via Public Comment on behalf of "Isa Burke" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the sweeps. Protect our homeless.
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 12:17:02 PM

Portland Public Comment,

The sweeps must stop. The crowding of our homeless neighbors in one encampment, creating dangerous conditions for all who live there, must also stop.

That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people work towards more stable housing situations. If you want to end homelessness, this will help get us there — and what will NOT get us there is flushing our taxpayer dollars down the toilet by shuffling these people around the city.

This amendment is supported by groups like Preble Street, the ACLU, the Portland Housing Coalition, Homeless Voices for Justice, STRIVE, Grace Street Ministries, and so many others who work directly with or care so deeply about this population.
Forcing people to move constantly is not a solution. Giving them the space to build community and trust is. Please vote yes on Order 68 on Monday. Thank you for your time.

Isa Burke
burke.isa@gmail.com
72 Pine St, #7
Portland, Maine 04102

From: "Don Marietta" via Public Comment on behalf of "Don Marietta" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 12:11:23 PM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

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Don Marietta
dmarietta56@gmail.com
78 Gilman St, Apt 2
Portland, Maine 04102

From: "Shelly Gibson" via Public Comment on behalf of "Shelly Gibson" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 12:10:39 PM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

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Shelly Gibson
shellybgibson@gmail.com
106 Sheridan St #2
Portland , Maine 04101

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Mack Morris <mack.devin.morris@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Re: Support for Order 68
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 12:06:05 PM

Correction - typo
My address until 11/13 was:
85 **Morning** st apt 3
Portland 04101

On Fri, Nov 17, 2023 at 12:00 PM Mack Morris <mack.devin.morris@gmail.com> wrote:

> To the Portland City Council,
>
> I am writing in strong support of Order 68. As leaders and stewards of this city, you have a responsibility to protect those most vulnerable. Encampment sweeps are not the way.
>
> Having lived in Portland for over a decade, I relocated to midcoast shortly after this month's election, casting my last ballot in the city I love so much and that will always feel like home. I owned a public-facing business here for eight years, my friends and family are here, and I continue to work in town.
>
> Especially during the past month, there have been countless reasons to feel helpless, hopeless, and angry. From the genocide of Palestinian people to the deadly shooting in our home state, these killings need to end. I count encampment sweeps among the many causes of unnecessary deaths and human suffering.
>
> Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.
>
> First and foremost, I support Order 68 because it will save lives this winter. Encampment sweeps and camping bans significantly increase morbidity and mortality, overdoses, hospitalizations, and serious infections among unhoused people.
>
> In 2023, the Portland City Council adopted the goal of "[a]lways using a lens that prioritizes racial, social, and justice equity." But laws and policies that criminalize homelessness and forcibly displace unhoused people are inherently racist. Moreover, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have a racist impact: the vast majority of unsheltered Black people and people of color live in downtown Portland.
>
> As a business owner, I too often found myself in settings where my unhoused neighbors were treated as nuisances rather than human beings. It's about time we stop prioritizing the comfort of tourists and the so-called needs of businesses over the lives of our own community members. Encampment sweeps are nothing but an excuse to erase the visual reminder of our deep housing crisis.
>
> I am grateful to have enough resources and support that it's very unlikely I'll ever be

unhoused. Still, the challenge of finding affordable housing in Portland (and even securing unaffordable housing) has been a large part of why I moved away. So much of our community has been forced out of Portland and/or onto the street.

It's hard to feel hopeful that anything will change for the better, but Order 68 is a great start. Order 68 will stop the city from wasting public resources in the ineffective encampment seeps, so Portland can invest in proven solutions to homelessness: dignified and adequate housing and shelter! Cities waste hundreds of thousands of dollars to clear encampments. But these sweeps do nothing to help unhoused individuals access needed resources or translation towards permanent housing; instead, sweeps destroy whatever stability people living in encampments worked hard to create—I have seen this first hand!

Leaders from HUD and homeless policy centers recognize that providing unhoused people dignified, individualized services that connect them to permanent housing is more effective than clearing encampments. Sweeps also destroy unhoused people's trust in service providers and the city, making it harder to connect them with shelter and permanent housing. I urge you to pass Order 68 to stop the sweeps and maintain trust with unsheltered people. This trust is critical for connecting in-house people to services, shelter, and, ultimately, permanent housing.

I hope to see Portland evolve to treat ALL of our community members with humanity and dignity, not just those who already have the resources they need (or more). Order 68 is an opportunity for you to help build that kind of city, to work against human suffering near and far.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mack Morris

(formerly of)
85 Monument st
Portland 04101

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mack morris
[they // them]

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mack morris
[they // them]

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mack morris
[they // them]

From: council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Mack Morris <mack.devin.morris@gmail.com>
To: COUNCIL@PORTLANDMAINE.GOV
Subject: Re: Support for Order 68
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 12:05:41 PM

Correction - typo
My address until 11/13 was:
85 **Morning** st apt 3
Portland 04101

On Fri, Nov 17, 2023 at 11:52 AM Mack Morris <mack.devin.morris@gmail.com> wrote:

> Dear Portland City Council,
>
> I am writing in strong support of Order 68. As leaders and stewards of this city, you have a responsibility to protect those most vulnerable. Encampment sweeps are not the way.
>
> Having lived in Portland for over a decade, I relocated to midcoast shortly after this month's election, casting my last ballot in the city I love so much and that will always feel like home. I owned a public-facing business here for eight years, my friends and family are here, and I continue to work in town.
>
> Especially during the past month, there have been countless reasons to feel helpless, hopeless, and angry. From the genocide of Palestinian people to the deadly shooting in our home state, these killings need to end. I count encampment sweeps among the many causes of unnecessary deaths and human suffering.
>
> Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.
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> First and foremost, I support Order 68 because it will save lives this winter. Encampment sweeps and camping bans significantly increase morbidity and mortality, overdoses, hospitalizations, and serious infections among unhoused people.
>
> In 2023, the Portland City Council adopted the goal of "[a]lways using a lens that prioritizes racial, social, and justice equity." But laws and policies that criminalize homelessness and forcibly displace unhoused people are inherently racist. Moreover, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have a racist impact: the vast majority of unsheltered Black people and people of color live in downtown Portland.
>
> As a business owner, I too often found myself in settings where my unhoused neighbors were treated as nuisances rather than human beings. It's about time we stop prioritizing the comfort of tourists and the so-called needs of businesses over the lives of our own community members. Encampment sweeps are nothing but an excuse to erase the visual reminder of our deep housing crisis.
>
> I am grateful to have enough resources and support that it's very unlikely I'll ever be

unhoused. Still, the challenge of finding affordable housing in Portland (and even securing unaffordable housing) has been a large part of why I moved away. So much of our community has been forced out of Portland and/or onto the street.

It's hard to feel hopeful that anything will change for the better, but Order 68 is a great start. Order 68 will stop the city from wasting public resources in the ineffective encampment seeps, so Portland can invest in proven solutions to homelessness: dignified and adequate housing and shelter! Cities waste hundreds of thousands of dollars to clear encampments. But these sweeps do nothing to help unhoused individuals access needed resources or translation towards permanent housing; instead, sweeps destroy whatever stability people living in encampments worked hard to create—I have seen this first hand!

Leaders from HUD and homeless policy centers recognize that providing unhoused people dignified, individualized services that connect them to permanent housing is more effective than clearing encampments. Sweeps also destroy unhoused people's trust in service providers and the city, making it harder to connect them with shelter and permanent housing. I urge you to pass Order 68 to stop the sweeps and maintain trust with unsheltered people. This trust is critical for connecting in-house people to services, shelter, and, ultimately, permanent housing.

I hope to see Portland evolve to treat ALL of our community members with humanity and dignity, not just those who already have the resources they need (or more). Order 68 is an opportunity for you to help build that kind of city, to work against human suffering near and far.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mack Morris

(formerly of)
85 Monument st
Portland 04101

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mack morris
[they // them]

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mack morris
[they // them]

From: "James Mullen" via Public Comment on behalf of "James Mullen" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 12:02:51 PM

Portland Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

James Mullen
spurwinksurveying@gmail.com
20 Saint Lawrence St, 1
Portland, Maine 04101

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Mack Morris <mack.devin.morris@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Fwd: Support for Order 68
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 12:01:03 PM

To the Portland City Council,

I am writing in strong support of Order 68. As leaders and stewards of this city, you have a responsibility to protect those most vulnerable. Encampment sweeps are not the way.

Having lived in Portland for over a decade, I relocated to midcoast shortly after this month's election, casting my last ballot in the city I love so much and that will always feel like home. I owned a public-facing business here for eight years, my friends and family are here, and I continue to work in town.

Especially during the past month, there have been countless reasons to feel helpless, hopeless, and angry. From the genocide of Palestinian people to the deadly shooting in our home state, these killings need to end. I count encampment sweeps among the many causes of unnecessary deaths and human suffering.

Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

First and foremost, I support Order 68 because it will save lives this winter. Encampment sweeps and camping bans significantly increase morbidity and mortality, overdoses, hospitalizations, and serious infections among unhoused people.

In 2023, the Portland City Council adopted the goal of "[a]lways using a lens that prioritizes racial, social, and justice equity." But laws and policies that criminalize homelessness and forcibly displace unhoused people are inherently racist. Moreover, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have a racist impact: the vast majority of unsheltered Black people and people of color live in downtown Portland.

As a business owner, I too often found myself in settings where my unhoused neighbors were treated as nuisances rather than human beings. It's about time we stop prioritizing the comfort of tourists and the so-called needs of businesses over the lives of our own community members. Encampment sweeps are nothing but an excuse to erase the visual reminder of our deep housing crisis.

I am grateful to have enough resources and support that it's very unlikely I'll ever be unhoused. Still, the challenge of finding affordable housing in Portland (and even securing unaffordable housing) has been a large part of why I moved away. So much of our community has been forced out of Portland and/or onto the street.

It's hard to feel hopeful that anything will change for the better, but Order 68 is a great start. Order 68 will stop the city from wasting public resources in the ineffective encampment seeps,

so Portland can invest in proven solutions to homelessness: dignified and adequate housing and shelter! Cities waste hundreds of thousands of dollars to clear encampments. But these sweeps do nothing to help unhoused individuals access needed resources or translation towards permanent housing; instead, sweeps destroy whatever stability people living in encampments worked hard to create—I have seen this first hand!

Leaders from HUD and homeless policy centers recognize that providing unhoused people dignified, individualized services that connect them to permanent housing is more effective than clearing encampments. Sweeps also destroy unhoused people's trust in service providers and the city, making it harder to connect them with shelter and permanent housing. I urge you to pass Order 68 to stop the sweeps and maintain trust with unsheltered people. This trust is critical for connecting in-house people to services, shelter, and, ultimately, permanent housing.

I hope to see Portland evolve to treat ALL of our community members with humanity and dignity, not just those who already have the resources they need (or more). Order 68 is an opportunity for you to help build that kind of city, to work against human suffering near and far.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mack Morris

(formerly of)
85 Monument st
Portland 04101

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mack morris
[they // them]

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mack morris
[they // them]

From: council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Mack Morris <mack.devin.morris@gmail.com>
To: COUNCIL@PORTLANDMAINE.GOV
Subject: Support for Order 68
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 11:53:11 AM

Dear Portland City Council,

I am writing in strong support of Order 68. As leaders and stewards of this city, you have a responsibility to protect those most vulnerable. Encampment sweeps are not the way.

Having lived in Portland for over a decade, I relocated to midcoast shortly after this month's election, casting my last ballot in the city I love so much and that will always feel like home. I owned a public-facing business here for eight years, my friends and family are here, and I continue to work in town.

Especially during the past month, there have been countless reasons to feel helpless, hopeless, and angry. From the genocide of Palestinian people to the deadly shooting in our home state, these killings need to end. I count encampment sweeps among the many causes of unnecessary deaths and human suffering.

Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mack Morris

(formerly of)
85 Monument st
Portland 04101

--
mack morris
[they // them]

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Elizabeth Salamone <elizabethdsalamone@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: STRONGLY Opposed to Order 68
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 11:34:14 AM

As a true Mainer I strongly oppose Order 68. Leave our parks SAFE AND CLEAN for our children and families to use. This order will destroy not only the parks but the environment causing HUGE public health problems. Fix the problem don't just move it.

Elizabeth Blaisdell

Sent from my iPhone

From:	"Stephanie Salamone" via Public Comment on behalf of "Stephanie Salamone" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Extreme Opposition to Order 68
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 11:27:02 AM

Good Morning,

I am writing as a resident of Portland to oppose Order 68. Allowing camping throughout the city is not the answer and places the wants and needs of a small group above the safety and public health of ALL residents of Portland.

Allowing camping in Portland Parks would only further the current problem in Portland. Look to our sister city in Portland, Oregon, who are now trying to reverse the public camping ordinance and you will see how flawed this “plan” is.

Our children deserve to play safely in Portland Parks without the threat of human waste, drugs paraphernalia, nudity, drug use, profanity, etc.

Our youngest resident of Portland, our children, should be able to wait safely at school bus stops and ride their bikes through Portland Parks without the threat this Order would present.

Thank you,

Stephanie

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Corina Hankowski <corina@hkcor.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: We Oppose Council Order 68
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 11:25:44 AM

> Dear Mayor Snyder and City Councilors,
>
> We are residents of Portland residing in the West End, at 83 Vaughan Street, and we are writing to oppose Council Order 68 proposed by Rodriguez and Trevorrow. We appreciate that this is a very complex situation with no clear cut answers; however, we believe that allowing legalized camping in Portland parks will further compromise the safety of our city, is unsafe for the unhoused population that will be living outside in sub-zero temperatures, and will attract more unhoused residents from out of state who feel that Maine is the place to be as we are supportive of encampments, creating an even greater problem.
>
> As newer residents of Portland, one of the reasons our family relocated to Portland from rural Massachusetts was to allow our children to gain exposure to life in a more urban setting, and to live in a place that was safe enough for them to have some independence walking in their neighborhood to school and to see friends, to exercise, and to explore the city by walking to the Old Port, for example. Since the presence of tents on the Western Prom close to our home in the West End, we are no longer comfortable allowing our teen aged daughters to go near the Prom unsupervised, and their school has had to adjust running routes for their sports practices so that kids are not running directly near the encampments on the Prom and down near the Casco Bay Bridge where they would run over the bridge into South Portland.
>
> Please oppose Council Order 68 on November 20 and focus instead on a more humane plan that would move the unhoused population inside and closer to vital services and resources.
>
> Thank you,

> Erica Corina & Mark Hankowski
> 83 Vaughan Street, Portland

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Katie Irwin <katie.irwin.31@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Submitting public comment.
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 11:20:54 AM

My name is Katie Irwin and I am a resident of Libbytown. I would like to urge all of you to **pass Order 68**. Please stop encampment sweeps and enforcement of the city's public camping and loitering bans against unhoused people.

There is not a practical and reasonable alternative to the encampments at the moment -- 50 additional temporary beds at the Homeless Services Center is not enough, and so to permit further encampment sweeps is to push unhoused people further out of the city where they can access basic services and necessities, at the start of a cold winter -- this isn't considerate of people's humanity and I encourage you all to consider this when making your vote.

Thank you,

Katie Irwin

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Kim Sutton <ksutton@benchmarkmaine.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Public comment on changing 3 ordinances to allow encampments in the City of Portland
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 11:13:40 AM

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the proposal to allow camping in tents in public parks within our city. While I understand the importance of addressing homelessness and providing support to those in need, I believe that allowing camping in public parks may not be the most effective or sustainable solution.

Firstly, public parks serve as shared spaces for the entire community, offering a place for recreation, relaxation, and community events. Allowing camping in tents could compromise the safety and enjoyment of these spaces for other residents, including families and children. It may lead to increased litter, sanitation issues, and potential conflicts between campers and other park users.

Moreover, the proposal may inadvertently contribute to the deterioration of the park environment, as prolonged camping can result in wear and tear on the landscape, damage to facilities, and an overall decline in the aesthetic quality of our public spaces. This could negatively impact property values and deter individuals from utilizing the parks for their intended purposes.

Additionally, there is the concern of public safety. Allowing camping in public parks could pose risks to both campers and other residents. Issues such as fire hazards, inadequate waste disposal, and the potential for criminal activities may arise, creating an unsafe environment for everyone.

Instead of permitting camping in public parks, I urge the City Council to explore alternative solutions to address homelessness. Investing in affordable housing, providing support services, and collaborating with local organizations can be more effective in addressing the root causes of homelessness and helping individuals regain stability.

I appreciate the City Council's dedication to finding solutions to pressing issues like homelessness, and I trust that alternative strategies can be developed to meet the needs of those experiencing homelessness without compromising the integrity and safety of our public parks.

Thank you for considering my concerns. I hope that, together, we can work towards a solution that benefits the entire community.

Sincerely,

Kim Sutton
Associate Broker
Benchmark Real Estate

photo

(207) 329-9224 | ksutton@benchmarkmaine.com
benchmarkmaine.com
72 Pine Street #16 | Portland, ME

IMPORTANT: The contents of this email and any attachments are confidential. They are intended for the named recipient(s) only. If you have received this email by mistake, please notify the sender immediately and do not disclose the contents to anyone or make copies thereof.

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Steven Moody <s.p.moody12@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Order 68-23/24 Camping and Loitering on Public Property
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 11:10:21 AM

Dear Mayor and Portland City Council,

I am writing this as a Maine citizen born and raised in Portland, now living in South Portland. I am also a nurse and worked for many years at a local hospital taking care of the homeless population of Portland. Your recent proposal to allow homeless encampments lacks a true acceptance of your failure to govern efficiently, effectively, and to govern with vision.

For years you have squandered opportunity to seriously bring to your constituency, the growing problem of homelessness in the Portland area along side some balloted real responses.

It is under your nose, on the sidewalks and alleyways, and very well known to residents of Portland. It is a mixed bag of reasons of course. But YOU have a responsibility to the homeless that you've squandered. You cared more about business growth in some aspects (turning the working waterfront into a tourist spot) and cared less about business in other aspects (your misguided action on rent control for small business landlords). Again, misguided and not in alignment.

Your recent proposal to allow homeless encampment in Portlands beautiful parks and open spaces is also misguided. It also states your ineptitude with dealing effectively with problems. You intend to not deal with the problem and push the problem on to the plates of Portland residents and families that live in our great city, in part, due to its beauty. Now we'll have to have your ineptitude shoved further in our face. Thank you for this.

I would advise you to take your blinders off and pay more attention to the problems that need real solutions, do your job. Stop filling a seat if you can't.

Respectfully,

Steven Moody

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Arthur Duncanson <adunk1964@gmail.com>
To:	rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.go; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.go; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Homeless Expansion Plan
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 11:07:13 AM

Dear Councilman Rodriguez,

I have lived in Portland most of my adult life and I now reside on Commercial St with my wife and son - and not in a tent. I encounter the homeless problem everyday and now you wish only to expand on that problem with your altruistic proposal. My daily routine starts with an early morning workout along Commercial St. I make sure I have water and appropriate attire. Sadly, also part of my routine is to make sure I have secured means to defend myself. With increasing frequency, I have ongoing confrontations with the homeless population as they insist I provide for them or they threaten me with drug induced violence. I have also had the privilege, on multiple occasions, to witness them defecate, urinate, inject needles, and vomit in front of my home.

Portland is a beautiful place and I have seen the city at its best and its worst. Portland has come a long way since I grew up on Munjoy Hill. If this proposal were to pass, my family would be further restricted to where we can go to safely enjoy what the City has to offer. As a law abiding citizen of this City, I would be expected to concede the parks and all the beautiful open spaces to the homeless population. For what purpose, exactly? The initiative that is being proposed is not designed to enhance our City's appeal; rather, it would continue us on a path of politically induced destruction and lawlessness.

I have friends that have had their businesses devastated because of the encampments. Who speaks for them as they're trying to take care of their families? How long do you think this will work with regards to the tourism industry that this city relies upon? This proposal does not take into consideration the safety, health and well-being of the citizens of Portland - not to mention the financial impact if you continue to create an attractive haven for the homeless population. How many examples do you need to see the outcome of this endeavor? This is only self serving for those who have proposed or endorse this plan. Please reveal what will be the end game for this proposal other than more dependency on the government and the city's demise.

"Altruism is incompatible with freedom, with capitalism and the individual rights. One cannot combine the pursuit of happiness with the moral status of a sacrificial animal." - Ayn Rand

Sincerely,
Arthur E. Duncanson, Jr.

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Phyllis Leeke <phyllisleeke@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: public parks
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 10:58:41 AM

Our family is absolutely opposed to any use of the city parks or sidewalks or any city property for camping.
John Leeke
Phyllis Leeke
Mary Leeke

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Tammy Volock <tvolock@gmail.com>
To:	ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov
Cc:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Fwd: No on Order 68
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 10:54:17 AM

Sorry if you are receiving a duplicate email, but it appears I mistyped many email addresses on my first attempt.

Thank you.

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Tammy Volock <tvolock@gmail.com>
> **Date:** November 17, 2023 at 10:48:06 AM EST
> **To:** ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov, mdion@portlandmsine.gov, azarro@portlandmsine.gov, rphillips@portlandmsine.gov, vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov, atrevorrow@portlandmsine.gov, rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov, afournier@portlandmsine.gov, pali@portlandmaine.gov
> **Cc:** publiccomment@portlandmsine.gov
> **Subject: Fwd: No on Order 68**
>
> Good morning,
>
> I will be traveling next week and unable to attend Monday night's meeting. However, I would like it on record that we oppose this change, and do not want to see public camping allowed in Portland Maine's city parks. I am a female who runs for fitness and making this change will jeopardize my safety and limit my access to the many park's throughout the city that I often run through. This proposal is completely unsafe for everyone involved, including the homeless population. We must do better.
>
> Kenneth and Tammy Volock
> 120 Abby Lane - 04103
>
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** Portland Downtown <cary@portlandmaine.com>
> > **Date:** November 17, 2023 at 9:09:31 AM EST
> > **To:** tvolock@gmail.com
> > **Subject: No on Order 68 Tammy**
> > **Reply-To:** cary@portlandmaine.com
> >
> > Monday night, Portland's City Council will vote on **Order 68**,

a radical proposal to change three sections of the city code and allow encampments to spread throughout our community. Order 68 would:

- Permit camping in nearly all city parks
- Permit sleeping and loitering on most sidewalks, in public spaces, and on private spaces that abut walkways, like storefronts
- Permit the building of structures using wooden pallets, tarps, carts, and boxes

This is not housing-first.
This is not humane.
This is not safe in Maine winter.

If you find this proposal alarming, you are not alone. Did you know that:

- **Every City Department head is against this proposal**
- Many of our most respected social service agencies are against this proposal? *Read more **HERE** and **HERE** (pages 306 & 308, et al)*.
- Order 68 is being fast-tracked and did not go through the normal committee process
- This is **expected to cost the City an additional $1.2M** (pg 318)

The sweeps are traumatic. So are the encampments. The answer is to bring everyone inside.

We can “Stop the Sweeps” without turning our parks and sidewalks into sprawling encampments.

Come to the City Council meeting on Monday night and **MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD**!

—

A thorough analysis of Order 68 can be found **HERE**
City Council meetings begin at 5 pm, City Hall, 389 Congress Street. The full agenda will be found **HERE** There will **NOT** be an option for Zoom comments

Our organization’s core principles compel us to create and maintain a clean, safe, and vibrant district. This order is in direct opposition to that and the potential unintended consequences of its enactment threaten to undo

our 30+ years of work toward making this downtown the unparalleled destination it is today. We owe it to our stakeholders to speak up and represent the situation for what it is.

Portland Downtown | 22 Free Street, Suite 201, Portland, ME 04101

Unsubscribe tvolock@gmail.com

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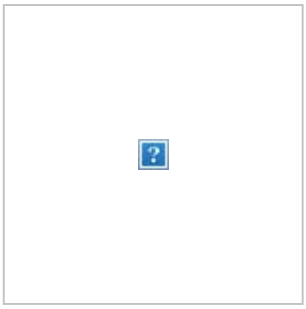

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From:	"Vinnie Salamone" via Public Comment on behalf of "Vinnie Salamone" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	** HIGH PRIORITY** Encampments
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 10:42:51 AM

“Nothing changes if nothing changes”

The above statement is short but contains a lot of impact. I STRONGLY oppose the action before you to stop the encampment sweeps and opening areas of encampments on public land, particularly Baxter Woods. Time and time again we have heard from officials and individuals of the lawlessness that encampments bring such as criminal activity, theft and addiction as well as public health concerns to name a few. Baxter Woods is in very close proximity to schools (Lincoln, Longfellow and Deering), daycares and senior living.

It’s time that the council listens to the people that elected them and honor their wishes. You are there to represent US, not a select few.

Thank you
Anne Salamone

Sent from my iPhone

From: council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Jeromy Proulx <jeromy.proulx95@gmail.com>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Portland Parks / Homeless Camps
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 10:23:14 AM

Hello,
As a family that uses Portland parks for a number of reasons, the legislature to allow sleeping in the majority of public land is baffling. This would create a high degree of safety risk and further push our children of this city indoors and in front of screens. I would highly suggest another solution to this problem.

Thank you,
Jeromy Proulx
37 Kent st, Portland, ME

Sent from my iPhone

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Jeromy Proulx <jeromy.proulx95@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Portland Parks / Homeless Camps
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 10:21:05 AM

Hello,
As a family that uses your parks for a number of reasons, the legislature to allow sleeping in the majority of public land is baffling. This would create a high degree of safety risk and further push our children of this city indoors and in front of screens. I would highly suggest another solution to this problem.

Thank you,
Jeromy Proulx
37 Kent st, Portland, ME

Sent from my iPhone

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Lionel Derriey <derriey@msn.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Cc: menierman@gmail.com; Pamela Fish; Amy Yasko
Subject: Order 68
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 10:20:11 AM

This is a terrible idea. It will exacerbate the public safety and health risks for both inhabitants and neighbors. It's effectively an abrogation of the Council's responsibility to its citizens, both unhoused and housed. It's kicking the worsening problem into the future: let some other elected official deal with this - after my term expires. In the interim, everyone, EVERYONE, will be increasingly worse off.

Public land is for the use of the public, not for expropriation as a dumping ground for people whose tragic circumstances demand more considered and effective action than this.

Do your job, please.

Lionel Derriey, a concerned neighbor

_____

Lionel Derriey
+44 (0) 208 123 2825
+1 (646) 233 7736

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Meryl <menierman@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Order 68 - NO
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 10:19:28 AM

I strongly object to the passing of this ordinance. It will perpetuate what has already become an untenable, unsafe and horrendous environment in Portland. The impact it will have on our town, business, safety of residents, violence, etc., is immeasurable. How can we expect our police force to monitor and respond on a timely basis to violence. We've already seen the impact it had on Marginal Way. Now the encampment on Commercial Street is making downtown Portland (close to my home and other businesses) the same. This is NOT a solution.

Vote NO

Meryl Nierman
383 Commercial Street, Unit 509
Portland, ME

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Susan Robbins <robbinsvt@comcast.net>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Encampments order 68
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 10:15:38 AM

Dear community,
I believe it is both unsafe, unhealthy unsanitary, and without respect for human life to allow anybody to camp outside in Maine year-round, we need to bring these people inside and provide housing, healthcare and drug addiction/ Alcohol treatment. Please do not pass order 68.
Sincerely,
Susan Robbins
44 Turner Street
Portland, ME 04101
802-249-1304

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Talcott Franklin <tal@tfpc.me>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Opposition to Order 68
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 10:02:49 AM

I want to thank the candidates this election cycle for a respectful and informative campaign. Your example should be followed nationally. I have traveled the US extensively, and Portland is the best city in North America. Portland is a city that leads, and should not follow the failed policies of other cities. We need to house people, not leave them outside in tents, and Portland should not accept that tents are even a temporary solution. In addition:

- The uniform opposition of city staff makes it obvious that Order 68 is bad policy.
- No one can name a single city in which this policy has worked to help the unhoused, and multiple examples exist of unhoused people that have been harmed and cities that have been ruined as a result of similar policies.
- Portland has not budgeted for the problems that will result from this policy.
- This will lead to more arrests when police need to move someone off a sidewalk and cannot otherwise do so as a result of this policy. Jail exacerbates problems for nonviolent people experiencing mental health issues.

I have won multiple awards for my pro bono work related to issues that render people homeless over my 30 year career, and Order 68 is terrible policy that will render a solvable problem unsolvable. **Please vote against Order 68.**

Talcott Franklin
181 Western Promenade
Portland, ME 04102
214-642-9191 c

From:	citymanager@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Douglas Dempsey <douglas.dempsey@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov; citymanager@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Order 68 - Vote NO!
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 10:01:26 AM

Good morning,

I am writing to ask that you vote “NO” on Order 68 which would allow for long-term camping in public spaces over the winter. This proposal is terrible and it will (1) not solve the housing crisis and (2) infuriate the residents of the affected neighborhoods. It is incredibly shady that this proposal has received zero press and stands to be approved under the cover of darkness. Any proposal should go through a rigorous review process and ultimately be put in front of Portland residents for a vote. If the city can put mundane ballot questions up for a vote, they can certainly do it for this proposal which is arguably the most important for all involved.

For residents, parks would be totally unusable even though their tax dollars fund park upkeep and maintenance. Neighborhoods would be less safe and residents’ quality of life would deteriorate. Portland residents want a solution to this crisis that is both compassionate and long lasting, not something that spreads the suffering for everyone.

If you vote “yes” on this order, I will vote “NO” on you in the next election. And I will ensure others do the same. Please vote "NO” on Order 68.

Regards,

Douglas Dempsey
25 Benjamin Way, Portland ME 04102
District 3

Sent from Mail for Windows

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of liz mcghee <lizmcghee@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Order 68
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 9:59:39 AM

To the Portland City Council,
I urge you to support order 68 to stop the sweep of encampments in Portland. The act of removing people from one space when there is not another place to go is cruel and shortsighted. There must be a solid plan to support the unhoused before forcing them from the only place they have to be.

Thank you
Liz

--
Liz McGhee
lizmcghee.com

“The cure for anything is salt water: sweat, tears or the sea.”- Isak Dinesen

From:	citymanager@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Barbara Vestal <b.vestal@munjoyhill.org>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Cc:	citymanager@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Opposition to #68-23/24
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 9:50:50 AM

Mayor Snyder and City Councilors:

I write on behalf of the Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization to express its opposition to proposed order #68-23/24. While homelessness is no doubt a dire situation, the proposal to allow homeless encampments this winter in public parks and other public places should not be accepted as part of a serious solution to this complex problem. It is unlikely to benefit either the unhoused population or the City of Portland as a whole.

The proposal might grow out of the best of intentions, but as outlined by memoranda from multiple city staff, it is likely to have an array of serious negative consequences. It may also have the effect of attracting even more unhoused people to Portland. Instead, the focus should be on getting the unhoused population inside for the winter and connecting them with needed services.

The policy question of whether and under what conditions the City will engage in encampment sweeps is a separate issue and deserves its own very thorough discussion by the City Council. However, proposed order #68/23-24 would make a much broader change. It essentially proposes to abdicate all governmental control over overnight occupancy of almost all parks and public spaces until April 30, 2024. We believe that it is overly-broad, counterproductive, and unwise.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Vestal, President
Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization
92 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04101

From:	"susanne newman" via City Council on behalf of "susanne newman" via City Council <Council@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Order 68
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 9:48:15 AM

Council members:

It is imperative for Portland's long and short term survival that you vote NO on Order 68. Every department head is against it. It is not humane or safe, and would cost over $1.2 million.

Susanne Newman
383 Commercial St.

Sent from my iPad

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Alex Kee <alexwkee@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Encampment Issues
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 9:39:16 AM

Good morning,

I am writing with heavy concern about the latest proposal to allow homeless encampments on public property. Homeless encampments on public property often lack proper sanitation facilities, leading to unsanitary conditions and increased health risks for both the homeless individuals and the surrounding community. In addition these camps cause:

1. **Fire Hazards**: Encampments, especially those with makeshift structures and open flames, pose a significant fire hazard to both the homeless individuals and nearby properties.
2. **Environmental Impact**: Encampments can result in environmental degradation, including littering, pollution, and damage to natural habitats, harming the local ecosystem.
3. **Public Nuisance**: Homeless encampments can create disruptions in public spaces, impacting the quality of life for nearby residents and businesses through increased noise, loitering, and illegal activities.
4. **Decreased Property Values:** The presence of homeless encampments can negatively affect property values in the surrounding area, making it harder for homeowners to sell their properties or attract potential buyers.
5. **Legal and Regulatory Issues:** Encampments on public property often violate local ordinances and regulations, leading to legal challenges and conflicts between local authorities and the homeless population.
6. **Increased Crime Rates:** Encampments can become hotspots for criminal activities such as drug dealing, theft, and violence, leading to a rise in crime rates in the surrounding area.
7. **Strain on Public Resources:** The presence of homeless encampments can strain public resources, including law enforcement, emergency services, and sanitation departments, diverting resources away from other critical community needs.
8. **Lack of Stability and Support:** Encampments offer limited stability and support for homeless individuals, making it challenging for them to transition out of homelessness and access the necessary resources for rehabilitation and self-sufficiency.

I am sure the City of Portland, myself included as a resident (165 Hartley Street), does not want to be recognized as allowing these issues to persist. As someone who pays high property taxes, pays for city permits (e.g., decks like they have built at these encampments), pays for stormwater run off, etc. I would think our City would enforce removing these encampments for the regulatory and safety issues they are causing everyone.

Thank you,
--

Alex Kee, AICP

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Amber Veilleux <amberveilleux2001@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: STOP THE ENCAMPMENT SWEEPS - ORDER 68
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 9:35:12 AM

Dear Portland City Council,

As a resident of the Greater Portland area and concerned citizen, I hope to appeal to you today in this email. I've been lucky to be in and around Portland for the past few years. I recently graduated from the University of Southern Maine and have been working in downtown Portland since 2021. I have the privilege of enjoying the luxuries of our city - the wonderful local businesses, restaurants, and vibrant art community. I leisure the Eastern Prom on sunny days or enjoy nightlife with friends. Our city and its people are beautiful. All of its people. So it deeply concerns me that people experiencing homelessness in our community are treated inhumanely. These encampment sweeps do more harm than good and are not a long-term solution.

I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May of this year, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

Furthermore, I support Order 68 to prioritize cultivating racial justice and equity by temporarily stopping encampment sweeps and camping bans that are inherently racist and disproportionately harm unsheltered Black people and people of color. In 2023, the Portland City Council adopted the goal of "[a]lways using a lens that prioritizes racial, social and justice equity." But laws and policies that criminalize homelessness and forcibly displace unhoused people are inherently racist. Actions must back up words, otherwise your words are meaningless. Moreover, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have a racist impact: the vast majority of unsheltered Black people and people of color live in downtown Portland. The city tends to focus its sweeps and enforcement of its camping ban on these same downtown locations. As a result, Black people and people of color have been disproportionately harmed by the violence of the city's sweeps and forced displacement. To cultivate racial justice and equity in Portland, we must abolish the laws, policies, and practices rooted in the violence of colonialism, slavery, and white supremacy. I urge you to pass Order 68 because pausing encampment sweeps and camping bans this winter is an important first step.

My wish is that the City Council will pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024. To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view. To be better than yesterday we must change our actions of today.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do right by our city.

Sincerely,
Amber Veilleux
106 Ocean Avenue
Old Orchard Beach, ME

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Linda Shary <lindashary3@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Moratorium on sweeping campsites
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 9:34:57 AM

Dear Council,

While I truly appreciate your efforts to understand the complex solutions to the homeless crisis, I hope you will include the idea that sweeps cause more harm than good. The public health issues that you hope to address by sweeping campsites will be outweighed by the coming winter dangers of losing people, human beings, as they face the elements while we play whack a mole with their survival.

Thank you for your service and your compassionate response.

Linda Shary
138 Frances St
Portland, ME 04102

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Elizabeth BelBruno <elizabeth.belbruno@gmail.com>
To:	ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov
Cc:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Ordinance Legalizing CItywide Camping in Portland
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 9:34:34 AM

Hello all,

I am writing as a concerned citizen and employee in the Portland area regarding this new proposal. While this proposal may seem like a logical solution to this city's housing issues, it is not the right solution for this city.

Allowing these encampments poses public health and safety threats to the unhoused individuals who live there. As a healthcare worker who works in an area near a previously cleared encampment, there were unhoused individuals seeking help from these encampments for issues like infectious diseases, violent crimes including rape, stabbings, other forms of assault, and burns from fires started by the heating methods they use. Now as we approach winter, there becomes a great threat of cold injury if these encampments are allowed to continue.

Additionally, the encampments near my workplace created an unsafe environment for both the employees and the patients seeking our care. The members of these encampments would sometimes throw rocks at employees, they would leave used syringes in and around public walkways, they would make threats to employees and patients as they walked in the door, they would sleep under our cars or in our truck beds, they would use side view mirrors to inject IV drugs leaving blood and other human bodily fluids on our vehicles. It became such an issue that still to this day, several months after the encampment near my workplace was cleared, we have patients who will call ahead of time to ask if it is safe to come in to be seen for urgent medical needs.

I really urge you all to consider the repercussions that passing this ordinance could have on the safety of our beautiful city. Please consider the burden this will place on many local, small businesses who might struggle to keep their doors open if people do not think it is safe to go there or the danger that children could face if the use of their parks becomes mixed with the housing of these encampments. I strongly urge you to vote against this ordinance. I do not know what the better solution is, I'm not claiming to, but what I do know is that this proposed solution is not the one and that is because it is something that is already failing both the needs of this city and the unhoused individuals.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider this.

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Baxter Miatke <baxterm419@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Cc: council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Opposition to Order No. 68-23/24 Allowing Camping and Loitering on Public Property
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 9:28:52 AM

Opposition to Order No. 68-23/24 Allowing Camping and Loitering on Public Property

Dear Portland City Councilors,

I am in opposition to Order No. 68-23/24 Allowing Camping and Loitering on Public Property and urge the council to vote down this order. I recognize there is no easy answer to solve Portland's homelessness crisis, but we have a responsibility to the environment and to the public to provide access to safe, clean, and welcoming parks and land.

I have been a Portland Land Bank Commissioner since 2020 and while the comments presented here do not speak for the entire commission, I wanted to provide my personal perspective as a resident of Portland who volunteers their time on this commission. "The Land Bank Commission is responsible for identifying and protecting open space resources within the City of Portland. The Commission seeks to preserve a balance between development and conservation of open space important for wildlife, ecological, environmental, scenic, or outdoor recreational values." City Code Chapter 2 Sec 2-44 lists the specific properties dedicated as land bank property interests, several of which are parks in Portland and are impacted by this proposed order.

The proposed order No. 68-23/24 does not take into account land bank ordinances in City Code Chapter 2 Sec 2-42 (b) Maintenance of land section copied below for reference:

"The Commission and the City government shall retain any Land Bank property interest acquired pursuant to this article and maintained in the Land Bank predominantly in ***its natural, scenic or open condition, except as otherwise provided in this article****. Except upon the approval, in accordance with section 2-43(c), of the commission, the City Council, and, where applicable, the voters in a municipal election, or where required by state or federal law, and where appropriate, subject to the Constitution of Maine or state law,* ***the commission or the City government shall not allow:***

1) Construction or placing of buildings….(etc.)

2) Dumping or placing of trash, waste or unsightly or offensive material

3) Removal or destruction of trees, shrubs or other vegetation, except where necessary for management purposes and to enhance natural systems or open-space uses;

4) Excavation, dredging or removal of loam, peat, gravel, soil, rock or other mineral substance in such manner as to affect the surface, except limited grading to enhance the open-space uses of the land;

5) Surface use except for purposes permitting the land or water area to remain predominantly in its natural, scenic or open condition; or to permit the land to continue to support the cultural or recreational values for which it was acquired;

6) Activities detrimental to drainage, flood control, water conservation, erosion control or soil conservation, except as may be necessary or convenient in urban open public spaces described in section 2-43(a)(12); or

7) Other acts or uses detrimental to the cultural, natural, scenic or open condition of the land or water areas."

I find the proposed order No. 68-23/24 to be in direct conflict with the above items in the Land Bank Ordinance. Allowing camps to exist on these land bank and park properties violate items presented above in the land bank ordinance. Allowing camping on public park land is detrimental to the natural and scenic condition of the land that we are tasked to preserve. The camps often include makeshift structures that go beyond tents. There is a significant amount of trash and waste associated with

these camps on this land that can enter our environment and waterways. There is evidence from areas where camps have been (Fore River Parkway for example) where the land and vegetation has been significantly impacted causing soil erosion due to loss of grass and plants. I firmly believe that this proposed Order No. 68-23/24 will have broad unintended consequences if passed. This proposed order creates a use on Land Bank property interests in a manner otherwise prohibited by the land bank ordinance in which case "it requires review and recommendation thereon by the land bank commission and the approval of six (6) members of the City Council" (See *section 2-43(c)).* I would request Portland corporation counsel to investigate the potential violation of the city code of ordinances Chapter 2 Sec 2-42 (b) if this order passes.

Furthermore, councilors often reference the One Climate Future plan created by Portland and South Portland when discussing and debating orders. It should be clear that the proposed Order No. 68-23/24 is not in line with One Climate Future goals and would allow continued long-term harm on open space and natural resources. These goals include:

- CR 1.3 Resilient Open Space Planning
    - Establishing open space climate resilience goals and protocols for monitoring progress towards those goals in Portland and South Portland's open space planning.
    - Preserve and expand protected open space, public parks, and tree cover. The Cities commit to protecting our existing natural resources, and expanding the tree canopy and public green space throughout our cities.
    - Protect and expand city open space and conservation land
- CR 5 Ecosystem Resilience
    - Includes strategies to build the health of marine, freshwater, and land ecosystems, as well as soil health.
    - Build back the health of our soils for ecological vitality, water infiltration, and carbon sequestration.

While we must certainly find a solution to our city's homelessness crisis, this proposed order to change our city ordinances is not the solution and will cause more harm than good both for the environment as well as our community.

Respectfully,

Baxter Miatke

12 Pinebrook Lane,

Portland, ME, 04102

From:	"LYNN DAVEY" via Public Comment on behalf of "LYNN DAVEY" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	Anna Trevorrow
Cc:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Order 68
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 9:26:29 AM

Councilor Trevorrow -
I appreciate the humanitarian motives of stopping the sweeps of encampments. But I admit to being flummoxed by your proposed Order, which would arguably increase the risk of harm for everyone involved.
I can't see how anyone in the city who lives here, housed or not, will benefit from this proposal. With few exceptions, people would have legal standing to camp in any public space or park?
This sounds like the intentional creation of something altogether unmanageable, unsafe, and disruptive to our City.
I would encourage the Council to put its energy into figuring out how to create safe, transitional housing in a single or few areas, so that the unhoused are safe through the winter, and the connections to resources and services that they need
are more easily provided.
Regards,

Lynn Davey
9 Ponce St

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Jenny Anastasoff <jennyanastasoff@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: November 20 re: Order 68 on Encampments
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 8:50:13 AM

Dear Council,

As a long time citizen of Portland who lives and works downtown, I oppose Council Order 68.

Thank you,
Jenny Anastasoff
Portland, Maine

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of steve dacey <stevedacey@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Support Order 68
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 8:37:50 AM

Good morning,

My name is Steve, and I'm a social worker here in Portland. I've worked with people who have been unhoused, and with city workers whose job it is to interact with and support them. While of course I would prefer the city to be able to provide stable indoor housing for everyone, the reality is that at this moment, and through this winter, people are going to be living outside. In that reality, I implore you to please support order 68, and stop encampment sweeps.

These sweeps are traumatizing, and do nothing to support our unhoused neighbors get to better, safer homes. The mental health toll of not knowing where you'll be able to stay is a cruelty on top of the stress unhoused people are already experiencing. Policing and criminalizing our way through this with sweeps isn't solving the problem - it's creating new ones.

Please support Order 68, as a stopgap measure until the city is able to do more to support, not penalize, people who are living outside.

In gratitude,
Steve

--
steve dacey (he/him)

From:	"Chrystal Wing" via Public Comment on behalf of "Chrystal Wing" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Order 68
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 8:31:50 AM

I strongly oppose the passage to permit encampments on public properties and sidewalks. This proposal is not a solution - on the contrary, it will only prolong and exacerbate the mayhem that already exists as seen at the current encampments. Please consider the long term effects of such an ill-advised idea. Research, reflect, be wise!

Thank you,
Chrystal Wing
36 Winter St.
Portland

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Vinnie Veligor <vinnie@maine.rr.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
Subject:	Camping
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 7:59:30 AM

Hello, my name is Vincent Veligorand live in Portland in District one. I am writing to ask that you NOT APPROVE the Proposed Ordinance Change that Councilors Trevorrow & Rodriguez have compiled. I feel strongly that this is being rushed and is not the right solution for our housing crisis.

The three items being proposed in this change should NOT be lumped into one vote. They should be separate and should go through proper channels to be considered by experts, the public, and the council.

I agree that sweeps are not the answer, but neither is this ordinance change. I am aware that the City will meet its capacity for beds for the unhoused in the next couple weeks so that will begin to address the problem.

I DO NOT SUPPORT the proposed idea to allow camping in public spaces and parks. I know that this will not help the unhoused, it will only harm them further. It will also harm Portland, turning the entire city in an encampment and encourage unhoused people from other parts of the Northeast and Country to take up residence here. We do not want to be a destination for the unhoused. Our resources are already bursting with asylum seekers and we need to be aware of our stretched resources. I am a strong supporter of Housing First and I understand that if this passes, it will disincentivize people from getting Housing and the support they need.

PLEASE VOTE NO on Order 68 and if councilors want to make a proposed change through proper channels for elements of this proposal, as a city, we will consider them. But this is rushed and not the right solution. PLEASE VOTE NO.

Sincerely,

Vincent Veligor
1 Ponce St

V

From:	council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Andy Forgit <aforgit@necnc.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	NO to Public Camping
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 7:55:37 AM

Please DO NOT approve: Order 68 (*Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18 and 25 re:*
Camping and Loitering on Public Property).
Please do NOT allow this activity to continue in our beautiful city and above all do NOT make this a sanctioned legal event.
Our city has become a magnet for so many benefit seekers and troubled individuals looking for services, creating an immense burden on our services and citizenry.
The tough question that I am not hearing asked: Who are these people?
Let's look at the stats: Increased calls to Police, assault, violence with weapons, criminal use and distribution of drugs, alcohol abuse and vandalism, public defecation.
Look at the disruption to businesses affected and compromised by the campers on Marginal way. Do you want lawsuits from bona fide businesses seeking recourse to losses?
Is this the gateway view we want visitors to see when they arrive via Commercial St., and the harbor?
Allowing camping will create similar chaos throughout the city where ever this is allowed.
Our residents do not want this nor do they feel safe!
It is also a false sense of safety and security for the campers due to our harsh winters.
I get it, people are in need, there are also many residents in housing that are also in need.
These are the city taxpayers that have their own burdens and needs, and increased costs/taxes will not help.

It's a BAD idea to a problem that needs to be addressed differently.

STOP THE NONSENSE
STOP PROMOTING PORTLAND AS A SANCTUARY CITY WELCOMING PEOPLE IN NEED
If you approve it, more will come.

Thanks

Andy Forgit
43 Rosedale St
Portland, ME

This email is confidential and is intended solely for the addressee. If you are not the intended recipient, any disclosure, copying, distribution is prohibited and may be unlawful. If you are not the intended
addressee please contact the sender and dispose of this email.

From:	citymanager@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Allie Gill <alliemeyer4@gmail.com>
To:	ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov; Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Order 68: Please Vote No
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 7:37:49 AM

Hello, my name is Alexandra Meyer.

I am writing to ask that you NOT APPROVE the Proposed Ordinance Change that Councilors Trevorrow & Rodriguez have compiled. I feel strongly that this is being rushed and is not the right solution for our housing crisis.

The three items being proposed in this change should NOT be lumped into one vote. They should be separate and should go through proper channels to be considered by experts, the public, and the council.

I agree that sweeps are not the answer, but neither is this ordinance change. I am aware that the City will meet its capacity for beds for the unhoused in the next couple weeks so that will begin to address the problem.

I DO NOT SUPPORT the proposed idea to allow camping in public spaces and parks. I know that this will not help the unhoused, it will only harm them further. It will also harm Portland, turning the entire city into an encampment and encourage unhoused people from other parts of the Northeast and Country to take up residence here. We do not want to be a destination for the unhoused. Our resources are already bursting with asylum seekers and we need to be aware of our stretched resources. I am a strong supporter of Housing First and I understand that if this passes, it will disincentivize people from getting Housing and the support they need.

PLEASE VOTE NO on Order 68 and if councilors want to make a proposed change through proper channels for elements of this proposal, as a city, we will consider them. But this is rushed and not the right solution. PLEASE VOTE NO.

Sincerely,
Alexandra Meyer

Allie Meyer
M: 203 434 2138

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Jo Coyne <jocoyne@gwi.net>
To:	Publiccomment
Subject:	Order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 7:04:32 AM

I am sending these comments a second time because I failed to include my name and legal address on the first submission. Thank you.

-------- Original Message --------

Subject: Order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25
Date: 2023-11-17 03:08
From: Jo Coyne <jocoyne@gwi.net>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

On Monday, the City Council will vote on **Order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25** to amend three city ordinances. Passage would permit encampments on most public properties and sidewalks throughout the city through April 2024, with the exception of City Hall Plaza, Monument Square, public schools, playgrounds and downtown sidewalks.

Much has been said recently about the suffering experienced by the homeless when their encampments are "swept," or closed by authorities. Some advocate for improving encampment conditions by providing portable toilets, washing stations and more outreach workers. Many worry about campers' ability to survive the upcoming winter. The two councilors sponsoring **Order 68** believe campers will be safer spread out across the city rather than concentrated in areas like Harbor View Park which now has more than 120 tents. The councilors are wrong.

Their concerns may be well-intended but they ignore or minimize the very real dangers inherent in these lawless environments, dangers posed not only to police officers, park rangers, local businesses, residents and the general public but also to the campers themselves. It's all been well documented: open use and dealing of drugs, terrorizing with weapons such as machetes and knives, theft, fights, bizarre behaviors stemming from mental illness and drug highs...the list goes on.

While it's true winter will bring new challenges, this is not a seasonal issue. It is also not just Portland's problem. The city's homeless population apparently breaks down by thirds, with one-third being Portland residents, another coming from other Maine communities and another from out-of-state. With an increased number of beds becoming available soon, councilors can best keep campers safe by getting them into shelter, by returning those without strong Portland connections to their own communities and by disallowing all encampments rather than encouraging new ones. **Order 68** must be defeated.

Jo Coyne
36 Salem Street
Portland ME 04102

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of luisa martinez <martinez.luisa1730@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Order 68-23/24
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 6:51:09 AM

To Portland City Council:
My name is Luisa Martinez, and I am a former teacher at and now dedicated building substitute teacher at King Middle School. I'm blessed to live with my daughter in Cape Elizabeth, so every day I drive into the City of Portland, and I see tents under trees and tents under bridges and people asking for help at almost every street corner.

From that introduction you probably expect me to encourage you to keep up the "sweep" of unhoused, unemployed people in Portland: But the opposite is true. **I want you to pass Order 68-23/24 and STOP treating people like litter to be tidied up.**

I used to live in Portland, and I owned 2 properties--1 on Peaks Island and the other on Brackett Street. I sold both in the early 2000's and moved away. I got caught up in the crash in 2008--no work, no money, and no way to move back to the city I love and my family which lives here. I could so easily have ended up living in a tent under a bridge during that time. Even now, if my husband with Alzheimer's were to require hospitalization, if one of us got sick--it wouldn't take long for us to be flat broke. I'm 73 and he's 77.

Any of us could be under a bridge in a flash if the fates decree it. **And so I ask for leniency, a generous heart, and the patient resolve to work to solve this problem rather than sweep it away.**

When you break encampments and literally throw away the meager belongings people have scrounged up to help them survive, they are back in a hole with nothing. When people with *no* resources are scattered to the winds, social and medical resources can't find them and the support they need is gone and again they are right back in the original trauma of having nothing and no-one. Please, please don't do this again. It is cruel.

City government needs to think outside the box on this one, and perhaps sacrifice some juicy development project in favor of investing in our collective future. We are all in this together. Please, let us do the right thing.

Sincerely,
Luisa Martinez
(216)-327-8717

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Jo Coyne <jocoyne@gwi.net>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 3:08:21 AM

On Monday, the City Council will vote on **Order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25** to amend three city ordinances. Passage would permit encampments on most public properties and sidewalks throughout the city through April 2024, with the exception of City Hall Plaza, Monument Square, public schools, playgrounds and downtown sidewalks.

Much has been said recently about the suffering experienced by the homeless when their encampments are "swept," or closed by authorities. Some advocate for improving encampment conditions by providing portable toilets, washing stations and more outreach workers. Many worry about campers' ability to survive the upcoming winter. The two councilors sponsoring **Order 68** believe campers will be safer spread out across the city rather than concentrated in areas like Harbor View Park which now has more than 120 tents. The councilors are wrong.

Their concerns may be well-intended but they ignore or minimize the very real dangers inherent in these lawless environments, dangers posed not only to police officers, park rangers, local businesses, residents and the general public but also to the campers themselves. It's all been well documented: open use and dealing of drugs, terrorizing with weapons such as machetes and knives, theft, fights, bizarre behaviors stemming from mental illness and drug highs...the list goes on.

While it's true winter will bring new challenges, this is not a seasonal issue. It is also not just Portland's problem. The city's homeless population apparently breaks down by thirds, with one-third being Portland residents, another coming from other Maine communities and another from out-of-state. With an increased number of beds becoming available soon, councilors can best keep campers safe by getting them into shelter, by returning those without strong Portland connections to their own communities and by disallowing all encampments rather than encouraging new ones. **Order 68** must be defeated.

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Nicholas Urbanek <nicholas.urbanek@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 8:59:14 PM

Dear Portland City Councilors,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to express my strong opposition to Order 68. While I understand the complex issues surrounding homelessness and the need for compassionate solutions, the current situation with encampments around the city poses challenges that need urgent attention.

The encampments contribute to safety concerns for both the individuals living in them and the surrounding community. There is a need for a comprehensive approach that addresses the root causes of homelessness while ensuring public safety and community well-being. I urge you to consider alternative solutions that provide support and resources to those experiencing homelessness without compromising the safety and livability of the city.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Urbanek
West End Resident

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Evan Swinerton <evanswinerton@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 8:55:36 PM

Dear City of Portland Councilors,

I am writing to ask the councilors of Portland to stop the encampment sweeps. The councilors have the opportunity to do so by passing Order 68-23/24 put forward by Councilors Ann Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez. Clearing encampments directly interferes with work being done by the social service providers in Portland. It is cruel and unjust for any part of our city government to enable or pursue the displacement of any person, especially the houseless, who are the most vulnerable. I ask that all councilors vote in favor of passing Order 68. I intend to actively campaign against the re-election of any councilor who votes against Order 68, or who enables the continued displacement of Portland's unhoused.

Sincerely,

Evan Swinerton

Portland Resident

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Robert Pantel <robert.pantel@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Order 68
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 8:36:17 PM

Honorable Mayor and City Councilors:

We are writing to express our strong opposition to Order 68.
Please do not pass this - It is not humane and is contrary to the interests and health of people without housing as well as City residents and neighborhoods adjacent or near to public lands (and thanks to our fine system of parks and open space, that is all of us).

Thank you for your service on behalf of Portland.

Robert and Gail Pantel
408 Auburn Street
Portland, ME 04103

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Al Ghanekar <al.ghanekar@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Grow Some Fucking Ballls And Take Control of your City - Do Not Let People Set Up Tents AnyWhere
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 8:17:43 PM

Hi City of Portland,

If you are sensitive to my subject line, or find it "shocking or inappropriate or not respectful" then grow some skin and stop being so fragile.

I've lived in Portland for a decade. Many parts of Portland are already an embarrassing, disgusting, and make me question why I still live here.

The members of society that contribute need to be protected.
Those who are on drugs or having mental health issues, living in tents should be Helped not Enabled.

I'm Very sympathetic to the horrors of addiction and have personal experience with it. So I understand the addict mentality.

Decisions like this are the first step in The City of Portland failing its citizens. If more insane people to start causing problems in the Portland neighborhoods, and there aren't cops around to protect and serve due to the sheer volume of problems, oh trust me you will find more people taking matters into their own hands.
Growing up, through movies I was falsely shown that there are just good guys and bad guys. But the world is not that simple.
Mafias form because governments fail their people. It looks y'all are gettin' started...
If the drug world to spills over into our nice neighborhoods you can bet there will be people taking matters into their own hands.

I wish you the best of luck your efforts to ruin this city.

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Matt Lemon <lemonmatt@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 8:11:28 PM

Dear Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the above proposed ordinance to allow homeless encampments in Portland public parks.

I am a resident and owner of a multiunit house on Gray Street in Portland's West end. I moved to the neighborhood 6 years ago, after completely falling in love with this urban residential community. My neighbors and I are proud of this city, and I am happy to be able to provide affordable long term rental units in my house.

Over the past year, I have seen my neighborhood transformed by the encampment in Harbor View Memorial Park. The park used to be a place where locals in our densely populated neighborhood could go to get some fresh air and enjoy views of our beautiful city. It is now a place that I avoid at all costs, as it is unsafe and unsanitary. In the past few months as the encampment has grown into a massive sprawling tent city, I have been screamed at by people on drugs numerous times while walking my dogs, been harassed and called "faggot" repeatedly by the same individual inhabiting the park and wandering the surrounding streets, had my patio furniture and other property stolen, my house vandalized, called the police about a man trying to break into my neighbor's basement, and called the police to remove an unconscious man from my front steps who was blocking my tenants from leaving the house on their way to work.

The idea that the Council may vote to allow this type of transition to proliferate all over our city is both terrifying and extremely sad. As someone who deals with my own mental health issues, and who has had direct family members and friends struggling with substance abuse, I do have empathy for the people who have been forced to live in tents across our city. But allowing encampments to continue growing and establishing in all of our public places will not help these people— it will only make the problem much worse, and will do so quickly. The tent city in Harbor View is filthy, violent and exposed. Allowing it to continue growing is inhumane to its inhabitants and unfair to its neighbors. I feel that Portland is at a tipping point, and if our representatives decide to pass this ordinance, it could become unrecognizably dangerous and frightening in the near future.

Sincerely,

Matthew Lemon
81 Gray Street, Portland

From: council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Colleen Cosgriff <cm.cosgriff@gmail.com>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Support for Order 68
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 8:03:43 PM

Good evening,

I write to you as a proud Portland resident and a former outreach worker with people experiencing homelessness. I urge the city to stop sweeping encampments, to stop enforcing public camping and loitering bans against unhoused individuals, and to pass Order 68.

Encampment sweeps cause trauma, displace communities, and cause residents to lose important items such as: IDs, medicine, winter coats, and irreplaceable sentimental belongings. In my work, I have seen this directly time and time again first hand, and it is devastating.

Displacing encampments does nothing to end homelessness- rather doing so just shuffles people out of sight and further away from vital resources. It also costs an enormous amount of money to sweep encampments and enforce these bans, money that could be used to create the affordable housing our city so desperately needs.

I strongly urge the city to explore expanding shelter and permanent housing programs. Encampment residents deserve the dignity of housing that meets their individual needs and is created *with their input*. Until that housing is created, they should have the option of safe, accessible, and low barrier shelter that is created *with their input*. Until such shelters exist, the very least the city could do is not displace people from their tents- especially during the cold. Where are people supposed to go? Conducting sweeps in the winter is egregious and dangerous.

Displacing encampments causes physical harm but also sends the message of: *we don't want you here, we don't value you, we don't want to look at you*. That is so unbelievably harmful to a person's soul, especially someone who is already going through the extreme hardship of not having a home. I know these are not the values of the Portland I know and love. That is not my idea of community. We have to look out for each other, and I believe the success of a city is reflected on how it treats its most vulnerable residents. I urge you to stand up for the most vulnerable in Portland, and pass Order 68.

Thank you for your time,

Colleen Cosgriff

(she / her / hers)

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Rob Somerville <rsomerville315@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Camping
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 8:02:43 PM

I would like to suggest that the City approve temporary camping at Hadlock Field for Portland's homeless folks.
Perhaps this has been considered already but I think Hadlock has the following advantages:

1. Single location -- making it easier for the City and the Public to see if the population is growing or shrinking
2. Services - in-town, near health services
3. Sanitary services - bathrooms and water (usable in winter?)
4. Impact - less impact on surrounding neighborhoods and businesses
5. Temporary - until March, giving a few more months to find housing, or another camping location

Sincerely,
Rob Somerville
Fernald Terrace, Portland

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Jim Hall <mtjimhall@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Reject order 68-23/24 and table indefinitely (for 11/20/23 council agenda packet)
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 7:56:38 PM

Dear Councilors,

Please reject Order 68 and table it indefinitely.

1 - Order 68 would actively harm the very people it seeks to help

Order 68 creates what city staff have rightly called a dangerous alternative to housing during the coldest months. As staff have testified, it would prolong inhumane and dangerous living conditions, exacerbating health and safety issues like the spread of disease, coercion and violence, inability to connect to services, unsafe structures, fire hazards, overdose in isolation, even human trafficking.

2 - Order 68 does not meet the needs of *any* stakeholders

Beyond the increased dangers for the unhoused order 68 would create, beyond promoting isolation and making crisis outreach harder — it also provides *no consideration* for the needs of any secondarily impacted constituents, such as abutting residents, business employers & employees & patrons, and social service staff & partner providers, and the general public.

3 - Removing safety ordinance with no vetting process is the wrong tool

The council has a communication from the professionals in our municipal executive branch describing how they're already implementing relaxed standards in the case of encampment ordinance, *in conjunction* with the crisis response model that this order would jeopardize. Their correct and balanced approach is proactively offering support within reasonable boundaries, such as weeks or sometimes months of warning when an attractive safety hazard needs to disperse.

If a majority of councilors do feel that staff got that crisis model model wrong,

or that they've set the wrong thresholds for balancing public safety with allowances for people experiencing homelessness— that should become a policy guidance resolution, not wholesale ordinance change removing all safety laws.

For example you recently passed similar policy guidance deprioritizing enforcement of psychedelics, or better yet, look to the 2018 resolution guiding staff how to design the service center. Please don't entirely remove the tools protecting health and safety within encampments — at least please use an appropriate mechanism to adjust the existing policy.

If the council does wish to propose a change of use for public parks, there's an established *process* for that, requiring approval of the land bank commission *before* going to committee, and I don't believe that *bypassing* all committee vetting and public process excuses that requirement.

Putting something as impactful as this directly to council agenda is a breech of trust of the public, staff, the commission, and your fellow councilors.

4 - You would be going against literally *all* expert advice

Everyone from USICH to Maine's Statewide Homeless Council to the directors of every involved City department, to local providers like Milestone & CHOM, have warned *against* sanctioning outdoor living.

The DA of Cumberland County has been speaking publicly recently about the need to sunset covid-era decisions that enabled lawlessness in encampment, in order to better utilize tools like mental health evaluations, and Maine's treatment & recovery courts, which only make certain resources available from *within* the Justice system, i.e. after a documentable offense -- which would not be possible if you hobble safety ordinance.

Passing order 68 would utterly isolate Portland as a maverick actor, when we should be seeking regional partnerships.

5 - The cost of order 68 should be *better allocated*

Spending *over a million dollars* of not yet collected or apportioned tax base to *prevent* public safety, while *worsening* the crisis response team's ability to help, is simply not the best use of resources.

If the intention is to divert funds from another funded city responsibility to invest more in solutions to homelessness — *much better options exist.*

Allocate that same amount directly into city outreach staff, specific services for co-occurring conditions, new housing or shelter or treatment or transitional options, new partnerships, even contract a *managed* encampment with valid facilities and security for residents… literally *anything that's an actual solution.*

Portland OR has already proven sanctioned encampment didn't work, and recently walked back that failed policy. Please don't take our Portland down the same path *we already know doesn't help*.

Please reject order 68 and table it indefinitely.

Sincerely,
Jim Hall
Cedar St / District 1

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Alex Barbour <aweeksbarbour@gmail.com>
To: PUBLICCOMMENT@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Pass Order 68-23/24
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 7:52:30 PM

Dear Portland City Council,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This are people in our community and we need to take care of them! Sweeps are harmful.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alex Barbour

25 Granite St. Apt. 4 Portland, ME 04102

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Thomas Julian <tjulian119@gmail.com>
To:	ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov; Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	PLEASE VOTE NO on the Proposed Change in Ordinance (Order 68)
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 7:12:39 PM

Hello,

My name is Thomas Julian and live in Portland in District 5. I am writing to ask that you NOT APPROVE the Proposed Ordinance Change that Councilors Trevorrow & Rodriguez have compiled. I feel strongly that this is being rushed and is not the right solution for our housing crisis.

The three items being proposed in this change should NOT be lumped into one vote. They should be separate and should go through proper channels to be considered by experts, the public, and the council.

I agree that sweeps are not the answer, but neither is this ordinance change. I am aware that the City will meet its capacity for beds for the unhoused in the next couple weeks so that will begin to address the problem.

I DO NOT SUPPORT the proposed idea to allow camping in public spaces and parks. I know that this will not help the unhoused, it will only harm them further. It will also harm Portland, turning the entire city in an encampment and encourage unhoused people from other parts of the Northeast and Country to take up residence here. We do not want to be a destination for the unhoused. Our resources are already bursting with asylum seekers and we need to be aware of our stretched resources. I am a strong supporter of Housing First and I understand that if this passes, it will disincentivize people from getting Housing and the support they need.

PLEASE VOTE NO on Order 68 and if councilors want to make a proposed change through proper channels for elements of this proposal, as a city, we will consider them. But this is rushed and not the right solution. PLEASE VOTE NO.

Sincerely,

Tom Julian

From:	sarahestandiford@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Sarah Standiford <sarahestandiford@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 6:56:16 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sarah Standiford
28 Edgewood Rd South Portland, ME 04106-4930
sarahestandiford@gmail.com

From: "Helena Lane" via City Council on behalf of "Helena Lane" via City Council <Council@portlandmaine.gov>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the sweeps. Protect our homeless.
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 6:43:11 PM

Portland City Council,

The sweeps must stop. The crowding of our homeless in one encampment, creating dangerous conditions for all who live there, must also stop.

That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

Because of that, this amendment is supported by groups like Preble Street, the ACLU, the Portland Housing Coalition, Homeless Voices for Justice, STRIVE, Grace Street Ministries, and so many others who work directly with or care so deeply about this population.
Forcing people to move constantly is not a solution. Giving them the space to build community and trust is. Please vote yes on Order 68 on Monday.

Helena Lane
lane.helena@gmail.com
1591 Washington Ave
Portland, Maine 04103-2021

From: council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Sabrina Marshall <skmarshall93@gmail.com>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Please pass order 68
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 5:49:44 PM

To whom it may concern,

Please pass order 68 and stop the encampment sweeps. The houseless community needs time to transition and 50 beds opening is simply not enough. Please come up with an adequate solution before displacing more people. Sweeps are not the solution.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Sabrina Marshall

From: Aaron Geyer on behalf of Aaron Geyer <aeg@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Danielle West-Chuhta; Dena Libner; Dow, Kristen
Subject: Fwd: MIRC Announcement on Food Programming
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 5:33:23 PM

FYI

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Madeleine R. Saucier** <msaucier@maineimmigrantrights.org>
Date: Thu, Nov 16, 2023 at 10:31 AM
Subject: MIRC Announcement on Food Programming
To: Madeleine R. Saucier <msaucier@maineimmigrantrights.org>

Hello Partners & Providers,

We are writing to inform you of the sunsetting of our dinner meal program to Motel 6 in Portland, Howard Johnson in South Portland, and Comfort Inn in Saco, effective November 29. All of our organization's food efforts are being redirected to the opening of 166 Riverside Portland singles shelter for asylum-seeking adults, and we will not be sending any meals to the above listed hotels after the opening of 166 Riverside.

In anticipation of questions about alternative food sources for residents of the hotel, we wanted to include a share-able document that captures nutrition support-related resources that are available to the residents of Motel 6. We adapted this content from the Cumberland County Food Resources Coalition and are appreciative of their sharing of information.

Click Here to View & Share

Please take a look at the document for a summary of resources on federal and state nutrition programs, charitable food resources, nutrition education, maternal child health and lactation supports, and food pantries. If you notice any information that is out of date or that is missing, please let us know.

In addition, we can confirm that the Locker Project will continue to deliver bread, fruit and other pantry items to Motel 6 every Friday. Families have access to area pantries, including Sagamore Food Pantry (Tuesdays 9-10 AM) within walking distance of Motel 6, and MaineHeath Food Pantry (Thursdays 10 AM-3 PM) on Congress St. Families at Motel 6 also receive SNAP and General Assistance, and receive bus passes on a monthly basis from the City of Portland's Resettlement Team.

We are hopeful that other providers can continue to join together in support of the families at Motel 6, Howard Johnson and the Comfort Inn. If you have any clarifying

questions regarding case management and supports for Motel 6, you can reach out to Larissa Gahimbare with the City of Portland's Resettlement Team at lgahim@portlandmaine.gov; for Howard Johnson and Comfort Inn, you can reach out to Charles Mugabe (cmugabe@ccmaine.org) and Joanna Testa (jtesta@ccmaine.org) at Catholic Charities Maine.

Gratefully,

The Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition

--
Madeleine R. Saucier
she/her
Program and Community Engagement Manager
Cell: 207.350.9799
msaucier@maineimmigrantrights.org

Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition (MIRC)
1 Marginal Way | FL 2 | Portland, ME 04101
https://maineimmigrantrights.org

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From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Sara Hutchison Brown <sara@davidwood.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Fwd: Public Camping - vote against!
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 5:32:06 PM

To Whom it may concern,

Please see my message below regard the public camping amendment.

Thank you,
Sara

Begin forwarded message:

From: Sara Hutchison Brown <sara@davidwood.com>
Date: November 15, 2023 at 1:23:03 PM EST
To: council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Public Camping - vote against!

Dear Portland City Council members,

I am a business owner and homeowner in Portland, and I greatly disagree with the proposed measure to allow public camping throughout the City of Portland. I am not only concerned about the safety of my family, staff, and customers – but also for the logistical concerns of running a successful business in the Old Port.

The current encampment located at Harbor View Memorial Park has affected my personal safety, and my customers have expressed concern regarding visiting the shop when they are harassed on the sidewalks. Its location also affects the overall impression of visitors from away. We are now planning on locking the shop's front door after dark (a measure that hasn't been taken in 45 years) for the safety of staff and to help avoid shoplifters. I can't even imagine what we would do if tents were allowed on the sidewalk in front of the shop. We need to provide proper shelter for people experiencing homelessness, and public camping during a Maine winter is not the answer.

We have an amazing city – and my family and I are planning on working and living here for many years. We need to be extremely cautious as Portland could be greatly affected due to the recklessness of a few council members supporting an extremely dangerous proposition.

I appreciate your consideration, and I do hope you all vote down the proposed measure.

Regards,
Sara Brown

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of rfw144v@maine.rr.com
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Cc: anne.pringle.me@gmail.com
Subject: Order 68
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 5:29:43 PM

Dear City Council,
My name is Roger F Woodman Jr. I am a 50+ year resident of the West End. I well understand the complexity of the tent community issue and have been watching it unfold throughout the city. I strongly believe Order 68 allowing camping basically everywhere will exacerbate the problem not help. The unintended consequences of this Order would be negative for the campers and city residents. Please do not approve this measure.
Sincerely, Roger F Woodman Jr.

From: "Stacia Brezinski" via City Council on behalf of "Stacia Brezinski" via City Council <Council@portlandmaine.gov>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the sweeps. Protect our homeless.
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 5:26:35 PM

Portland City Council,

The sweeps must stop. The crowding of our homeless in one encampment, creating dangerous conditions for all who live there, must also stop.

That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

Because of that, this amendment is supported by groups like Preble Street, the ACLU, the Portland Housing Coalition, Homeless Voices for Justice, STRIVE, Grace Street Ministries, and so many others who work directly with or care so deeply about this population.
Forcing people to move constantly is not a solution. Giving them the space to build community and trust is. Please vote yes on Order 68 on Monday.

Stacia Brezinski
xsbrezx@gmail.com
42 High St. Apt. 4
Portland, Maine 04101

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Peter Monro <stewardswesterncemetery@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Winter camping proposal
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 5:19:30 PM

On behalf of the Stewards of the Western Cemetery, we wish to express our opposition the plan to temporarily allow homeless people to live in our city parks and other public lands until April of 2024. We are not opposed to providing services to the homeless, but believe the proposal is the wrong way to go.

If adopted, we believe this proposal will directly impact the use of parks and cemeteries by its citizens. The presence of tents and homeless persons will have a negative effect because individuals and families will avoid areas where they are located, thereby restricting access to the parks. In our area, the Western Prom park is narrow and long and there will be no way to segregate the use. In addition, the Western Cemetery is nearby and has relatively level ground that may be attractive for camping. Both the Western Prom and the cemetery have a lot of pedestrian traffic that would be adversely affected by the tents and the presence of the homeless. In addition, because their shelters are tents without normal facilities, it is inevitable that there will be trash and health risks, further impacting use by resident populations.

The city must find other temporary housing for the homeless while it comes up with a long-term solution. It should identify areas that are away from residential areas, retail businesses and parks and then provide services (toilets, trash pickup, transportation, etc.). The comments from the City's various departments in opposition to the proposal detail the risks and harms from its implementation.

We are working hard to restore the cemetery, and it would be a major setback if homeless people are allowed to shelter there.

This is a very difficult problem, but the proposal will only make it worst and needlessly impact our citizens and businesses.

John Funk, President
Sam Wilson, Treasurer
Peter Monro, Clerk

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Janet Joyce <jjoyce1246@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Camping in public parks
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 5:07:38 PM

Re the idea of allowing "camping" in the parks, one letter to the Portland Press Herald stated it well. Our parks were created and preserved--sometimes at great effort and expense, such as the Baxter family's gifts--to provide outdoor life for people who don't have backyards or front yards, and for community gatherings and exercise, and to provide breathing room and clean air for the people. These are worth saving. We feel sorry for the people in the tents, and we contribute a good deal of money to help them. But to lose our parks and green spaces --no. Please use your brains and our help and come up with a better way. "Housing first" is indeed difficult and expensive--but it's better than spoiling the people's public spaces.

Janet Joyce
27 Grafton St.
Portland, Maine 04103

From:	jessjeanmacdonald@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jessica Macdonald <jessjeanmacdonald@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 4:59:17 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jessica Macdonald
1363 Congress St Apt 1 Portland, ME 04102-2158
jessjeanmacdonald@gmail.com

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Chelsea Bartlett <chelseadgbartlett@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Support Portland"s Houseless Population
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 4:54:20 PM

I support Order 68 because it will save lives this winter. Encampment sweeps and camping bans significantly increase morbidity and mortality, overdoses, hospitalizations, and serious infections among unhoused people. In April 2023, the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) published a study showing that sweeps, camping bans, and move-along orders forcibly displace unhoused people and are the wrong approach to homelessness because these laws and policies lead to substantial increases in deaths, hospitalizations, and life-threatening infections. Moreover, while sweeps are always dangerous, it is particularly important to stop encampment sweeps during the winter and in extreme weather when survival outside is the most challenging. This is why public health experts support banning winter encampment sweeps. Please pass Order 68 to protect public health and safety!

Chelsea Bartlett
989 Spring St
Westbrook, ME 04092

From: council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Chelsea Bartlett <chelseadgbartlett@gmail.com>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Support Portland"s Houseless Population
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 4:53:02 PM

Dear Portland City Council,

As someone who lives in the Portland area and spends a lot of time in Portland, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

I support Order 68 because it recognizes that regardless of the structures our unhoused neighbors live in, the U.S. Constitution applies to all of us. Laws and policies that ban camping and use encampment sweeps to push unhoused people out of public view have been found to violate constitutional rights. First, during an encampment sweep, the city typically collects and destroys large amounts of unhoused people's property like tents, sleeping bags, blankets, medication, medical equipment, and identification and legal documents. Courts across the country have held that the seizure and destruction of unhoused people's property during sweeps is unconstitutional, both because the unreasonable seizure of property violates people's Fourth Amendment rights and the summary destruction of property without providing a meaningful opportunity to challenge such wreckage violates people's Fourteenth Amendment rights. Second, when encampment sweeps force unhoused people to abandon their makeshift shelters in high-traffic public places to relocate to isolated and secluded areas, it can constitute unlawful state-created danger in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment. In Portland, frequent, large encampment sweeps and the designation of "emphasis areas" have left unhoused people with almost nowhere to go. The situation is made worse by continuing to conduct sweeps even as harsh winter weather rapidly approaches. I urge you to pass Order 68 to temporarily stop encampment sweeps and the forcible displacement of unhoused people during the winter.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Bartlett
989 Spring St.
Westbrook, ME 04092

From:	citymanager@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Davi Smitti <smitti79@gmail.com>
To:	Kate Snyder; Pious Ali; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; Victoria Pelletier; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov; Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Encampments
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 4:50:32 PM

The irony of you allowing camping throughout the city but excluding City Hall Plaza is not lost on many of us!

Sincerely,

David Smith
24 Bracket Street
Portland 04102

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Sandy Comstock <sandycomstock3@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	City of Portland Encampments
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 4:37:57 PM

We are strongly opposed to the proposed ordinance change by City Councilors Roberto Rodriguez and Anna Trevorrow which would allow encampments in public spaces and parks until April 30, 2024. We are sympathetic to the unhoused population who have found themselves in Portland, but to encourage the option of living in tents throughout the winter is not only dangerous with the threat of fires and freezing to death in the winter months, but is also dangerous to the citizens of Portland, especially those with children, who can no longer feel safe enjoying public parks for recreation like sledding and other winter activities, but who may may also even find they have encampments along with the accompanying drug use right outside their doors.

Please do not allow this to happen to the citizens of Portland.

Thank you,
Sandy Comstock and James Maxner
District 4

From: "Andrew Michaelson" via City Council on behalf of "Andrew Michaelson" via City Council <Council@portlandmaine.gov>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the sweeps. Protect our homeless.
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 4:28:48 PM

Portland City Council,

The sweeps must stop. The crowding of our homeless in one encampment, creating dangerous conditions for all who live there, must also stop.

That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

Because of that, this amendment is supported by groups like Preble Street, the ACLU, the Portland Housing Coalition, Homeless Voices for Justice, STRIVE, Grace Street Ministries, and so many others who work directly with or care so deeply about this population.
Forcing people to move constantly is not a solution. Giving them the space to build community and trust is. Please vote yes on Order 68 on Monday.

Andrew Michaelson
andrew.morris.michaelson@gmail.com
59 Codman St.
Portland, Maine 04103

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Eric Altholz <ealtholz@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE VOTE NO ON ORDER 68
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 4:15:25 PM

Dear Mayor Snyder and Councilor Members,

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on the deeply troubling proposal to authorize, and effectively invite, camping in the City's parks. I describe Order 68 in this way, regardless of the formal wording of the proposal, because that will surely be the effect of the order if it were to pass. It will normalize and promote behavior that is deeply antisocial and damaging to our community.

Reasonable minds differ about how to address the tragedy of homelessness that has risen to crisis proportions here and in cities across the country. The scope of the problem has exploded over the past couple of years, but the crisis did not develop overnight. The problem is complex and it will take a long time - and a lot of political will - to address the varying needs of the homeless population in a deliberate and compassionate way. Shame on us as a society for letting things get so bad for so many people. But Order 68 does nothing to address the root causes of homelessness or even lay the groundwork for a sustained effort to mitigate the crisis. It will simply exacerbate the problem by validating the behavior of the tent dwellers (including their resistance to the City's shelters) and by inviting more homeless people to pitch their tents in our parks. Having made matters worse, the Council will then have to decide at some later date when or whether to restore the prohibition against camping. How will a Council member who votes in favor of Order 68 know when will be the right time to restore the prohibition? What conditions will have to change and by how much before the "temporary suspension" can be lifted? (Including a hard expiration date in the order will not have the effect of making the suspension temporary - deadlines can be extended by those who set them and they often are.) In the meantime, the interests of your friends, neighbors, and constituents will have been subverted by a misguided act of political theater that some people are mistaking for an act of compassion.

I truly believe that we are at an inflection point in our City. If Order 68 is approved, it will make already horrible conditions worse for everyone (including those choosing to live in tents) and potentially propel us into a dangerous place from which it will be very difficult to escape. Please, please, please vote NO on Order 68.

Eric

Eric Altholz
147 Pine Street
Portland, ME 04102
207.232.9363

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Jon Petruschke <jonpetruschke@gmail.com>
To:	ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov; Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Proposed Change in Ordinance 68- Please Vote NO
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 4:15:23 PM

Dear City Council Members,
Please vote no on the Proposed Change in Ordinance 68.
As an MSW -- as former head of Shalom House's housing-first case management team -- I can tell you that having a central, safe location for assisting people to gain access to services is absolutely key. When people are encamped, they have a much greater chance of further falling through the cracks.
The Proposed Change in Ordinance 68 undermines the housing first model of providing services.
With the city's new beds opening, I am in favor of encouraging housing first by all means.
Thank you,
Jon Petruschke
Professional Therapy Services

Learn more about me and my practice
or call to schedule an appointment
www.jonpetruschke.com
207.216.5257

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From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Liza Folsom <lizafolsom@gmail.com>
To: PUBLICCOMMENT@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the Sweeps
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 3:27:30 PM

Dear Portland City Council,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

In 2023, the Portland City Council adopted the goal of "[a]lways using a lens that prioritizes racial, social and justice equity." But laws and policies that criminalize homelessness and forcibly displace unhoused people are inherently racist. Moreover, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have a racist impact: the vast majority of unsheltered Black people and people of color live in downtown Portland. The city tends to focus its sweeps and enforcement of its camping ban on these same downtown locations. As a result, Black people and people of color have been disproportionately harmed by the violence of the city's sweeps and forced displacement. To cultivate racial justice and equity in Portland, we must abolish the laws, policies, and practices rooted in the violence of colonialism, slavery, and white supremacy. I urge you to pass Order 68 because pausing encampment sweeps and camping bans this winter is an important first step.

Additionally, Order 68 will stop the city from wasting public resources on ineffective encampment sweeps, so Portland can invest in proven solutions to homelessness: dignified and adequate housing and shelter! Cities waste hundreds of thousands of dollars to clear encampments. But these sweeps do nothing to help unhoused individuals access needed resources or transition towards permanent housing; instead, sweeps destroy whatever stability people living in encampments worked hard to create. Leaders from HUD and homelessness policy centers recognize that providing unhoused people dignified, individualized services that connect them to permanent housing is more effective than clearing encampments. Second, sweeps destroy unhoused people's trust in service providers and the city, making it harder to connect them with shelter and permanent housing. I urge you to pass Order 68 to stop the sweeps and help city staff and service providers build and maintain trust with unsheltered people; this trust is critical for connecting unhoused people to services, shelter, and, ultimately, permanent housing.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Liza Folsom

From: council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Liza Folsom <lizafolsom@gmail.com>
To: COUNCIL@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the Sweeps
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 3:26:38 PM

Dear Portland City Council,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

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This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Liza Folsom

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Stacy Scott <stacy.l.scott5@gmail.com>
To:	ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov; Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Camping Vote
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 3:21:11 PM

Hello, my name is Stacy Scott and live in Portland in District 1. I am writing to ask that you NOT APPROVE the Proposed Ordinance Change that Councilors Trevorrow & Rodriguez have compiled. I feel strongly that this is being rushed and is not the right solution for our housing crisis.

The three items being proposed in this change should NOT be lumped into one vote. They should be separate and should go through proper channels to be considered by experts, the public, and the council.

I agree that sweeps are not the answer, but neither is this ordinance change. I am aware that the City will meet its capacity for beds for the unhoused in the next couple weeks so that will begin to address the problem.

I DO NOT SUPPORT the proposed idea to allow camping in public spaces and parks. I know that this will not help the unhoused, it will only harm them further. It will also harm Portland, turning the entire city into an encampment and encourage unhoused people from other parts of the Northeast and Country to take up residence here. We do not want to be a destination for the unhoused. Our resources are already bursting with asylum seekers and we need to be aware of our stretched resources. I am a strong supporter of Housing First and I understand that if this passes, it will disincentivize people from getting Housing and the support they need.

PLEASE VOTE NO on Order 68 and if councilors want to make a proposed change through proper channels for elements of this proposal, as a city, we will consider them. But this is rushed and not the right solution. PLEASE VOTE NO.

Sincerely,

Stacy Scott

From: "Adrian Counter-Griffis" via City Council on behalf of "Adrian Counter-Griffis" via City Council <Council@portlandmaine.gov>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 3:12:05 PM

Portland City Council,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Sweeps are temporary solutions to hide your guilt from the public eye but these people need somewhere to live, safe from the elements. Shelters are at max capacity, so what else can they do?? Have some empathy, some compassion, and pass Order 68, please.

Adrian Counter-Griffis
griffisap@gmail.com
401 Cumberland Ave
Portland, Maine 04101

From: "Glynis O"Meara" via City Council on behalf of "Glynis O"Meara" via City Council <Council@portlandmaine.gov>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the sweeps. Protect our homeless.
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 3:11:21 PM

Portland City Council,

I'm writing as a taxpayer and voter in the city of Portland, but more importantly, I'm writing as someone who loves someone who has experienced homelessness on the streets of Portland, Maine. Too much of our discussion around homelessness and the encampments dehumanizes and silences the voices of the folks who actually live on the street--but they are our neighbors, our loved ones, and, in my case, a member of my family who has no where else to turn.

That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

Because of that, this amendment is supported by groups like Preble Street, the ACLU, the Portland Housing Coalition, Homeless Voices for Justice, STRIVE, Grace Street Ministries, and so many others who work directly with or care so deeply about this population.

Forcing people to move constantly is not a solution; giving them the space to build community and trust is. Please vote yes on Order 68 on Monday.

Glynis O'Meara
glynisomeara@gmail.com
29 Lawn Ave
Portland, Maine 04103

From: "Byron Marshall" via City Council on behalf of "Byron Marshall" via City Council <Council@portlandmaine.gov>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the sweeps. Protect our homeless.
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 3:04:17 PM

Portland City Council,

The sweeps must stop. The crowding of our homeless in one encampment, creating dangerous conditions for all who live there, must also stop.

That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

Because of that, this amendment is supported by groups like Preble Street, the ACLU, the Portland Housing Coalition, Homeless Voices for Justice, STRIVE, Grace Street Ministries, and so many others who work directly with or care so deeply about this population.
Forcing people to move constantly is not a solution. Giving them the space to build community and trust is. Please vote yes on Order 68 on Monday.

Byron Marshall
byronlaurencemarshall@gmail.com
101 Ray St
Portland , Maine 04103

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Eric Dupere <eric@ipaymentfla.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	STOP ORDER 68
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 3:03:24 PM
Importance:	High

I am writing to express my concern and staunch disagreement with Order 68, the proposed amendments to the Portland City Code chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property sponsored by Councilors Roberto Rodriguez and Anna Trevorrow, which would create a temporary exception to the City's prohibition of camping and loitering on City property, which would allow unhoused people to camp on certain public properties from the effective date of the amendments to April 30, 2024.

Officially sanctioning public camping over the winter would be a lazy, cruel and unacceptable response to a vulnerable group of people. Whether they have anywhere to go or not, there is no humanity or compassion in allowing troubled people to live in their own filth, exposed to the elements and all kinds of dangers. It's not compassionate or helpful to simply leave people to their own devices when they're in the throes of addiction or a severe mental health crisis. This council voted against expanding capacity in the new shelter but thankfully came around and realized that was a step in the right direction. We need to get these people into shelters and off the streets and certainly out of public parks. Aside from the obvious problems associated with having every single public park become a potential pile of frozen bodies this coming winter, I object to this proposal largely in part because of the city's recent leniency regarding drug abuse and criminal activity within these encampments. We should not be turning a blind eye to these activities just because they are perpetrated by the homeless. If I got caught doing drugs downtown or committing crimes no doubt I would be prosecuted – as I should be. Further, as a business owner and law abiding, tax paying citizen we simply cannot allow businesses to be negatively impacted by this short sighted decision. Have you done your homework? This type of action has had devastating effects in Seattle, Denver and San Francisco. Not to mention this Order is opposed by almost all of the cities own departments. It's time to wake up and see this is NOT the answer. These public areas are areas designated for citizens to use for their children and themselves and they should be able to without fearing for their safety. The health risks and threat of disease alone are enough to show this Order is a terrible idea. It shouldn't have been allowed to go on for this long and it needs to end now. City government needs to take responsibility for guiding people with substance abuse disorder into recovery, or if they refuse, removing them from our community.

Thank you,
Eric Dupere
65 Riggs St
Portland 04102

From:	"patty skerritt" via Public Comment on behalf of "patty skerritt" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Fwd: Encampments
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 2:52:37 PM

Typos corrected!!

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** patty skerritt <pattyskerritt27@yahoo.com>
> **Date:** November 16, 2023 at 2:12:56 PM EST
> **To:** publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
> **Subject: Encampments**
>
> As a long time resident and a taxpayer in the City of Portland I am delighted that Mark Dion is our Mayor elect.
>
> I am not delighted by the subterfuge by councilors Rodriguez and Trevorrow to craft a “temporary “ measure to allow encampments to continue in the city through April. That is absolutely unthinkable and frankly disgusting. The council rightly approved opening up 50 additional beds at the shelters.
> In the city Mayor elect Dion won 40% of the vote and even won the totally screwed up farce we call rank choice voting. Thankfully!! One of his most visible campaign causes is to manage the encampments through sweeps and trying to place the homeless in a shelter or temporary housing. The residents voted Mr. Dion as the new mayor. Please connect the dots!! When small business owners have to deal with the homeless on their doorsteps, runners, walkers, residents and visitors are scared and unsettled by such a large presence in what world does it make sense to allow this to continue.
>
> Please do the right thing and do NOT cast a vote in favor of legalizing the encampments.
>
> Thank you
> Patty Skerritt
> Portland resident
> North Deering
>
> Sent from my iPhone

From: council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Joy Zanghi <jzanghi10@gmail.com>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 2:49:32 PM

Dear Portland City Council,

As a long time resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations. This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Joy Zanghi

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Ruth Roemer <roemerr29@gmail.com>
To:	ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov; Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	PLEASE VOTE NO on the Proposed Change in Ordinance (Order 68)
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 2:49:08 PM
Importance:	High

Hello, my name is Ruth Roemer, I own a condo and live in Portland in District 2, very near the South Portland Bridge where a very large encampment is located. I am writing to ask that you NOT APPROVE the Proposed Ordinance Change that Councilors Trevorrow & Rodriguez have compiled. I feel strongly that this is being rushed and is not the right solution for our housing crisis. This is also an issue of safety, theft, cleanliness/sanitation as well as tourism and workforce attraction. I have had to install a ring camera to enable increased safety after multiple thefts from units in my condo, I have watched individuals not from our or the neighboring condos wandering through the parking lots, urinating, pushing through fences to enter other areas, ringing doorbells and trying doorknobs to see if anyone is home and then running off when caught. Police repot that they can do nothing if no burglary occurred.

The three items being proposed in this change should NOT be lumped into one vote. They should be separate and should go through proper channels to be considered by experts, the public, and the council.

I agree that sweeps are not the answer, but neither is this ordinance change. I am aware that the City will meet its capacity for beds for the unhoused in the next couple weeks so that will begin to address the problem.

I DO NOT SUPPORT the proposed idea to allow camping in public spaces and parks. I know that this will not help the unhoused, it will only harm them further. It will also harm Portland, turning the entire city in an encampment and encourage unhoused people from other parts of the Northeast and Country to take up residence here. We do not want to be a destination for the unhoused. Our resources are already bursting with asylum seekers and we need to be aware of our stretched resources. I am a strong supporter of Housing First and I understand that if this passes, it will disincentivize people from getting Housing and the support they need.

PLEASE VOTE NO on Order 68 and if councilors want to make a proposed change through proper channels for elements of this proposal, as a city, we will consider them. But this is rushed and not the right solution. PLEASE VOTE NO.

Sincerely,

Ruth Roemer
Portland concerned citizen
Mobile: 973-901-0345

From:	council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Jasa Porciello <jasamaryporciello@gmail.com>
To:	council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Proposed Change in Ordinance 68 - Please Vote NO
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 2:48:11 PM

Dear City Council Members,
Please vote no on the Proposed Change in Ordinance 68.
It undermines the housing first model of providing services.
With new beds opening, I am in favor of encouraging housing first by all means.
Thank you,
Jasa

--
Jasa Porciello
207-774-9667

Portland, Maine

Machegony, Abenaki Territory

From: "Crow Norlander" via City Council on behalf of "Crow Norlander" via City Council <Council@portlandmaine.gov>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the sweeps. Protect our homeless.
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 2:36:39 PM

Portland City Council,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the ongoing sweeps affecting our homeless population. I urge you to lend your support to Order 68 to facilitate the relocation of those currently residing at Harbor View Park to smaller, safer camps.

Thank you for your time.

Crow Norlander
crowjonah@gmail.com
64 Mabel St Apt 2
Portland, Maine 04103

From: "William Slavick" via City Council on behalf of "William Slavick" via City Council <Council@portlandmaine.gov>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 2:25:41 PM

Portland City Council,

As a Portland resident who had a lettrin the PPH arguing for assisting, not outing, homeless campers, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

William Slavick
whslavick@gmail.com
242 Ludlow
Portland, Maine 04102

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Alicia Harding <aliciadharding@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	allowing camping in city parks
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 2:23:19 PM

I am very much against allowing camping in city parks. Look at the encampment under the Casco Bay Bridge, there is no sanitation, there are piles of trash everywhere, the place is filthy, every corner and bush becomes a toilet. The parks are supposed to be places of enjoyment for all residents of Portland, not just the few who live in filth and degradation. Portland has claimed a goal of no park will be more than a 10 minute walk from anyone's home. This goal implies that no homeless person, whether on drugs, or criminal or mentally ill will be no more than a 10 minute walk from anyone's home and family.

I live downtown near City Hall. A few years ago the homeless protested by camping out not just in front of City Hall but throughout the neighborhood. Very quickly the area became uninhabitable, the detritus of human living began to litter the streets, old clothes, one shoe, empty take out containers and food packaging, fly encrusted scraps of food. The garden for my building became untenable and cost several thousand dollars to be cleaned of human waste. Every corner or less exposed space began to be used as a convenient toilet.

Is this the scenario you envision for our city parks? You have not taken steps to help the homeless population, nor to alleviate it, but have only acted to encourage and enable it. You are encouraging not just those who are unhoused but those who prey on them, sell drugs, and steal from a vulnerable population.

Alicia Harding
21 Chestnut St.
Portland, ME 04101
831-4155

From: "Nicholas Moll" via City Council on behalf of "Nicholas Moll" via City Council <Council@portlandmaine.gov>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the sweeps. Protect our homeless.
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 2:18:13 PM

Portland City Council,

The sweeps must stop. The crowding of our homeless in one encampment, creating dangerous conditions for all who live there, must also stop.

That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

Because of that, this amendment is supported by groups like Preble Street, the ACLU, the Portland Housing Coalition, Homeless Voices for Justice, STRIVE, Grace Street Ministries, and so many others who work directly with or care so deeply about this population.
Forcing people to move constantly is not a solution. Giving them the space to build community and trust is. Please vote yes on Order 68 on Monday.

Nicholas Moll
nicholas.moll42@gmail.com
143 Wolcott st
Portland, Maine 04102

From:	"patty skerritt" via Public Comment on behalf of "patty skerritt" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Encampments
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 2:13:17 PM

As a long time resident and a taxpayer in the City of Portland I am delighted that Mark Sion is our Mayor elect.

I am not delighted by the subterfuge by councilors Rodriguez and Trevorrow to craft a “temporary “ measure to allow encampments to continue in the city through April. That is absolutely unthinkable and frankly disgusting. The council rightly approved opening up 59 additional beds at the shelters.
In the city Mayor elect Dion won 40% of the vote and even won out totally screwed up farce we call rank choice. Thankfully!! One of his most visible campaign causes is to manage the encampments through sweeps and trying to place the homeless in a shelter or temporary housing. The residents voted Mr. Dion as the new mayor. Please connect the dots!! When small business owners have to deal with them on their doorsteps, runners, walkers, residents and visitors are scared and unsettled by such a large presence in what world does it make sense to allow this to continue.

Please do the right thing and do NOT cast a vote in favor of legalizing the encampments.

Thank you
Patty Skerritt
Portland resident
North Deering

Sent from my iPhone

From: "Victoria Wood" via City Council on behalf of "Victoria Wood" via City Council <Council@portlandmaine.gov>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the sweeps. Protect our homeless.
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 2:04:38 PM

Portland City Council,

The sweeps must stop. The crowding of our homeless in one encampment, creating dangerous conditions for all who live there, must also stop.

That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

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Forcing people to move constantly is not a solution. Giving them the space to build community and trust is. Please vote yes on Order 68 on Monday.

Victoria Wood
vwood17@hotmail.com
1115 , Washington Ave
Portland, Maine 04103

From: council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Seth Berner <sberner@gwi.net>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the sweeps. Protect our homeless.
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 2:00:54 PM

Portland City Council,

The sweeps must stop. The crowding of our homeless in one encampment, creating dangerous conditions for all who live there, must also stop.

That's why I am asking you to support Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez. Their measure, if passed, will allow for those currently encamped at Harbor View Park to find safer refuge in smaller camps. In turn, this will give social workers a better opportunity to build relationships and help people get in a more stable situation in the long run.

Because of that, this amendment is supported by groups like Preble Street, the ACLU, the Portland Housing Coalition, Homeless Voices for Justice, STRIVE, Grace Street Ministries, and so many others who work directly with or care so deeply about this population.
Forcing people to move constantly is not a solution. Giving them the space to build community and trust is. Please vote yes on Order 68 on Monday.

Seth Berner
sberner@gwi.net
38 Roberts St.
Portland, Maine 04102-2832

From: "Michael LeComte" via City Council on behalf of "Michael LeComte" via City Council <Council@portlandmaine.gov>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 1:54:46 PM

Portland City Council,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Michael LeComte
icanfixtech@gmail.com
1115 Washington Ave
Portland, Maine 04103

From: "Emily Croot" via City Council on behalf of "Emily Croot" via City Council <Council@portlandmaine.gov>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 1:54:25 PM

Portland City Council,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

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Emily Croot
ea.croot@gmail.com
143 Wolcott Street
Portland, Maine 04102

From:	citymanager@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Devin Green <devin.green@gmail.com>
To:	ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; Andrew Zarro; mdion@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov; Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	PLEASE Vote NO on Monday Order 68
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 1:51:57 PM

Hello Mayor Snyder, Councilors, and City Staff,

I am writing to share my adamant request that you VOTE NO to Monday's Order 68 Proposed Change to Ordinances.

I have done as much research as I could with such little time and all of it points to this being a TERRIBLE idea. It is not going to solve the problem and it is also not going to help the people you're trying to help.

I believe that Councilors Trevorrow and Rodrigues have good intentions, but this is not the right solution and it is not going to help. I am outlining my concerns below but the bottom line is that you MUST VOTE NO on Monday.

The need for change is obviously necessary and the unhoused need support and care, but this is not going to help them. In fact, it may harm them. What we need is to get people inside, not encourage them to stay outside and camp.

I have minor concerns with Items 1 & 2:

Item 1: **Ban all sweeps.** I know that the sweeps most often happen because of safety concerns, drugs, violence and trafficking. The sweeps are traumatic, but so are the encampments. As one expert providing support to the unhoused in Portland has shared: “they are places of misery, violence and exploitation” and not meant to be romanticized. I know, as I think most people do, that Sweeps do not resolve the issue here. They are not the answer, but I understand the need for them in some situations and I personally believe they should be addressed on a case-by-case basis and require a review and vote by the City Council based on proposals by the City Staff with reasoning for the sweep.

Item 2: **Get rid of "emphasis" areas.** Without emphasis areas, encampments that are unsafe or a problem for the City in specific locations (as they once were on Chestnut Street near the shelters) will be able to remain in those problem areas without any recourse. I think this could be treated similarly to Item 1, on a case-by-case basis with the Council.

Unlike Items 1 and 2, I have MAJOR CONCERNS with Item 3:

Item 3: **Allow camping in Public Spaces and Public Parks.**

My first major concern is that this is **NOT NECESSARY**. ***by the end of November, there finally will be enough capacity and camping will no longer be necessary.*** This is exactly what YOU have been working towards on track with the Housing First approach, and camping will not be necessary, but this is still being proposed.

THIS WILL NOT HELP THOSE IN NEED.
This proposed change does not address the problem. In fact, **it will make the problem worse**. People need to be inside.

Earlier this year, I did a 6-month civic leadership training program called Leadership Portland that included 9 full days of learning about the city, how it's run, and what challenges it faces. In case you are unaware, we learned about government, culture, DEI, housing, healthcare, mental health, immigration, education, law enforcement, sustainability, etc. EVERY SINGLE DAY, THE DISCUSSIONS CAME BACK TO HOUSING. This is obviously, BY FAR the biggest issue that the city faces.

I learned over and over again that the **Housing First model** is the real answer, and really the only way to go. I also learned that people who are unhoused need to choose to seek help. If they do not want help, they can remain unhoused. But it doesn't serve them. Gaining shelter, housing and support services is by far the most effective way to help those in need.

If this Order passes, **it will completely disincentivize people from getting the help they need**. It will undercut the work of the Encampment Crisis Response Team and service providers by making it almost impossible to find their clients and provide a continuum of care. It will also encourage unhoused people from all over the Northeast (and beyond?) to move to Portland and take up residence in our public spaces, which will put even more strain on our city services which are already completely over-stretched and under-staffed.

Also of note: there would be NO requirements (as there are now) for people to go into warming shelters in the cold weather. This has been allowed in Anchorage, Alaska and 43 people have died this year alone because of the cold. People have died in the cold here previously, and many more will die this winter if this ordinance is passed. That will happen and the Council will be responsible for this vote.

RESOURCES

If this passes, camps will be scattered everywhere throughout the city and the city is already short-staffed with services. During my training, we met with case managers from Preble Street that worked directly with the unhoused, all of whom were largely located in and around the Preble Street Resources Center, the encampments that were on the bike path in Bayside, and then in the Marginal Way encampment. They knew where their clients were and they were able to access and connect with them. Imagine them being scattered all over the city?!

We are already wildly under-staffed as a city, which is putting a HUGE strain on the existing First Responders (required overtime, struggles to fill shifts) and the City Staff is completely bare bones and burning out. *NOT ONE SINGLE CITY DEPARTMENT SUPPORTS THIS.* I believe more staff (police, city staff, resource officers, etc.) will resign and we will be left even more under-resourced. This puts a massive strain on the resources we have, but it also costs a HUGE amount of money that could be going instead to helping people and building housing (for all the overtime required of existing staff, the city is paying that much more money to them).

We need our money, time and resources to go towards building housing for people, getting them into housing and helping them. And we definitely do not need to attract more people who need help.

What we really need to do is push Housing First. If we encourage people to camp, they will not end up in Housing, which really is what helps people get on the road to a better life.

PUBLIC SAFETY & ACCESS TO NATURE

It goes without saying that should camping be allowed in this way, at least some of our public spaces would markedly change. I recently met a Portland Park Ranger who shared that if this passed, it would rewind all the work that has been done to ensure safe access to public spaces, and the work that's been done to keep parks and public spaces clean and usable. Access to nature should not be at the expense of the safety and wellbeing others, but if there are options for people to be housed and to get the help they need, then that should be the priority and the path forward, and allow public spaces to remain open, safe and accessible spaces for all of the public. It should not be an Either/Or situation when we have the option for Both/And, which we do.

MY FINAL CONCERN = PROCESS

These items **should not all be addressed as one order** - they should be separated and

addressed as individual issues that the council can vote on. The sweeps are the big issue that Portlanders have been concerned about, so let's address that first, with discussion and due process and allow the council to make a good, informed decision.

I'm alarmed that a proposal this significant did not go through the channels it normally would (and should) to get to this point. Councilors were shown this for the first time maybe a couple weeks ago and it was first brought to the public THIS Monday (the 13th). There have been no district or city meetings to discuss, it has not gone through any of the committees, the city staff was not consulted (and they all have MAJOR issues with it). Especially of note: shouldn't this come through or at least be reviewed and endorsed by the Health & Human Services Subcommittee???

If passed, this would be without real consideration or communication with Portlanders. Monday will be the ONE AND ONLY agendaed public engagement around this. Proposals with much less significance have taken months to get to the council, and something this big should have many public meetings, workshops, and input from all relevant experts, stakeholders and members of the community.

OTHER SOLUTIONS?

I have not found a single situation in the limited research I've been able to do (given I too just found out about this), in which a change like this - allowing people to camp anywhere on public parks and land, has been effective.

There have been changes made recently in Boston by Mayor Michelle Wu, to remove Sweeps and implement new policies that have resulted in good change without violence. Perhaps we could learn from them.

I believe a temporary encampment with infrastructure and services could be a smart temporary solution. Even better if it could be close to the shelters, so that the services could be nearby and there could be easier access for people to get inside and receive the shelter and support that is available to them.

Of course I don't know a long-term solution because I'm not an expert, but I know this is NOT the solution. There are experts who can weigh in on this and committees that are formed to consider all the implications of something like this. This should not be rushed, and I also think we should at least see what happens now that we have capacity in the shelters.

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE **VOTE NO** ON MONDAY. If you want to help those in need, have a

thriving city that DOES support people, and do what is best, **PLEASE VOTE NO**.

Devin Green

From: "Barbara Hersey-Powers" via City Council on behalf of "Barbara Hersey-Powers" via City Council <Council@portlandmaine.gov>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 1:40:03 PM

Portland City Council,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Barbara Hersey-Powers
peepshp@gmail.com
17 Slemons Rd
Portland, Maine 04103

From: "Bill Reid" via City Council on behalf of "Bill Reid" via City Council <Council@portlandmaine.gov>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 1:31:18 PM

No camping in city parks, please

From: "Michael Fletcher" via City Council on behalf of "Michael Fletcher" via City Council <Council@portlandmaine.gov>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 1:27:58 PM

Portland City Council,

As a Portland resident and a service provider, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Michael Fletcher
skihard41398@gmail.com
44 Melbourne st
Portland , Maine 04101

From: "Amanda Petrozzini" via City Council on behalf of "Amanda Petrozzini" via City Council <Council@portlandmaine.gov>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Please protect unhoused people
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 1:24:34 PM

Portland City Council,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Amanda Petrozzini
apetrozzini@gmail.com
173 Pleasant Ave
Portland, Maine 04103

From: "Dana Colihan" via City Council on behalf of "Dana Colihan" via City Council <Council@portlandmaine.gov>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Protect our houseless neighbors!
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 1:23:50 PM

Portland City Council,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Dana Colihan
dcolihan@gmail.com
19 Powsland
Portland, Maine 04102

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Hannah Wolken <hwolken1@gmail.com>
To:	ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov; Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Against Proposed Change in Ordinance (Order 68)
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 1:00:46 PM

Hello, my name is Hannah Wolken and I live in Portland in District Four. I am writing to ask that you NOT APPROVE the Proposed Ordinance Change that Councilors Trevorrow & Rodriguez have compiled. I feel strongly that this is being rushed and is not the right solution for our housing crisis.

The three items being proposed in this change should NOT be lumped into one vote. They should be separate and should go through proper channels to be considered by experts, the public, and the council.

I agree that sweeps are not the answer, but neither is this ordinance change. I am aware that the City will meet its capacity for beds for the unhoused in the next couple weeks so that will begin to address the problem.

I DO NOT SUPPORT the proposed idea to allow camping in public spaces and parks. I know that this will not help the unhoused, it will only harm them further. It will also harm Portland, turning the entire city in an encampment and encourage unhoused people from other parts of the Northeast and Country to take up residence here. We do not want to be a destination for the unhoused. Our resources are already bursting with asylum seekers and we need to be aware of our stretched resources. I am a strong supporter of Housing First and I understand that if this passes, it will disincentivize people from getting Housing and the support they need.

PLEASE VOTE NO on Order 68 and if councilors want to make a proposed change through proper channels for elements of this proposal, as a city, we will consider them. But this is rushed and not the right solution. PLEASE VOTE NO.

Sincerely,
Hannah Wolken

From:	council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Claire Cowan <mclairecowan@gmail.com>
To:	council@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	PLEASE VOTE NO on the Proposed Change in Ordinance (Order 68)
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 12:56:06 PM

Hello, my name is Claire Cowan and I live in Portland District 2. I am writing to ask that you NOT APPROVE the Proposed Ordinance Change that Councilors Trevorrow & Rodriguez have compiled. I feel strongly that this is being rushed and is not the right solution for our housing crisis.

The three items being proposed in this change should NOT be lumped into one vote. They should be separate and should go through proper channels to be considered by experts, the public, and the council.

I agree that sweeps are not the answer, but neither is this ordinance change. I am aware that the City will meet its capacity for beds for the unhoused in the next couple weeks so that will begin to address the problem.

I DO NOT SUPPORT the proposed idea to allow camping in public spaces and parks. I know that this will not help the unhoused, it will only harm them further. It will also harm Portland, turning the entire city into an encampment and encourage more unhoused people to take up residence here. We do not want to be a destination for the unhoused. Our resources are already bursting with asylum seekers and we need to be aware of our stretched resources. I am a strong supporter of Housing First and I understand that if this passes, it will disincentivize people from getting housing and the support they need.

PLEASE VOTE NO on Order 68 and if councilors want to make a proposed change through proper channels for elements of this proposal, as a city, we will consider them. But this is rushed and not the right solution. PLEASE VOTE NO.

Sincerely,

M Claire Cowan
199 Vaughan St Unit 2
Portland, ME 04102

From:	"Bethany Jack" via Public Comment on behalf of "Bethany Jack" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov; citymanager@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Please vote NO on 68
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 12:54:11 PM

Hello all,

I am asking you all to Vote No on order 68. I have lived in Portland for many years and I am located in district 5. I've seen the changes for the good and the detriment to this city. This has major harmful implications for both the unhoused community and the city at large. I am compassionate for our unhoused population and have worked with this population providing social services in years past. I want the best for a population that needs so much to pull themselves out of where they are. This option of camping around the city and now sanctioning it is not good for them. Unfortunately I know the issues are so complex and each individual; however, the idea that we are ok with saying to people it's ok to live in a tent anywhere in Portland does not push them or us to find a better solution. I know this is happening no matter what whether sanctioned or not; however, the sheer matter of now saying it's ok does not force anyone to find something different. I know those considering voting yes perhaps think this is a more compassionate stance but if you compare to what other cities have done it's the worst possible "solution" or forward movement to this crisis across the country.

Please, please Vote No. I realize this is complex but this is the wrong direction for our city.

Thank you for listening and considering.

Bethany

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Alex Beal <alex.beal@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 12:50:21 PM

Hello
I live on Danforth St in the West End. We have a homeless encampment 200 yards from us on the Western Prom and the large, ever-expanding encampment below Danforth St under the Casco Bay Bridge.

I am SHOCKED that the City Council is allowing these and considering allowing them to remain. They are a threat to my public safety. The homeless walk our neighborhood, screaming at night and likely a threat to me and my GAY partner. We could be the victim of a hate-crime with such mental health impaired individuals in our neighborhood.

The encampment at the Bridge, that "welcomes" visitors to Portland as many enter the city from the direction, is an embarrassment.

The homeless encampments threaten our public safety, the economic vitality of the city as a tourist attraction and are NOT a safe and healthy living situation for the homeless.

I would like you to vote NO on the order.

Alex Beal
381 Danforth St
Portland, ME 04102

From: council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Izzy Siedman <izz.siedman@gmail.com>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Support Order 68
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 12:38:01 PM

Hello Portland City Council,
I'm writing to urge you to pass Order 68 to temporarily stop encampment sweeps and pause enforcement of camping bans against unhoused people. These people are our neighbors and need our support rather than disruption, destruction and further displacement, especially as temperatures drop. Please protect these Portland citizens while we work to form a better solution to offer shelter to the unhoused community.

Your constituent,
Izzy Siedman

From:	citymanager@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Parks 1970 <parksmckinney@gmail.com>
To:	ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov; Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	PLEASE VOTE NO on the Proposed Change in Ordinance (Order 68)
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 12:36:13 PM

Hello,

My name is Jessica McKinney and live in Portland in District1. I am writing to ask that you NOT APPROVE the Proposed Ordinance Change that Councilors Trevorrow & Rodriguez have compiled. I feel strongly that this is being rushed and is not the right solution for our housing crisis.

The three items being proposed in this change should NOT be lumped into one vote. They should be separate and should go through proper channels to be considered by experts, the public, and the council.

I agree that sweeps are not the answer, but neither is this ordinance change. I am aware that the City will meet its capacity for beds for the unhoused in the next couple weeks so that will begin to address the problem.

I DO NOT SUPPORT the proposed idea to allow camping in public spaces and parks. I know that this will not help the unhoused, it will only harm them further. It will also harm Portland, turning the entire city in an encampment and encourage unhoused people from other parts of the Northeast and Country to take up residence here. We do not want to be a destination for the unhoused. Our resources are already bursting with asylum seekers and we need to be aware of our stretched resources. I am a strong supporter of Housing First and I understand that if this passes, it will disincentivize people from getting Housing and the support they need.

PLEASE VOTE NO on Order 68 and if councilors want to make a proposed change through proper channels for elements of this proposal, as a city, we will consider them. But this is rushed and not the right solution. PLEASE VOTE NO.

Sincerely,

Jessica McKinney
Ponce St.

parksmckinney.com

From:	"Ellen Jennison" via City Council on behalf of "Ellen Jennison" via City Council <Council@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Proposed Ordinance Change Regarding Public Parks
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 12:26:05 PM

Good Afternoon,

I am a taxpayer who resides in Portland, one building away from one of our lovely city parks.

I strongly oppose the proposed ordinance change to allow encampments in our public parks.

Please consider the long term detriment to the city when discussing this.

Respectfully,

Ellen Jennison
North Street
Portland

From:	"Frank Femia" via Public Comment on behalf of "Frank Femia" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov; Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	PLEASE VOTE NO on the Proposed Change in Ordinance (Order 68)
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 12:20:00 PM

Mayor Snyder & Honorable Members of the City Council,

Hello, my name is *Frank J Femia* and live in Portland in *District 2.* I own a condo at 125 York Street, right near where a very large encampment is located. I am writing to ask that you **NOT APPROVE** the Proposed Ordinance Change that Councilors Trevorrow & Rodriguez have compiled. I feel strongly that this is being rushed and is not the right solution for our housing crisis.

The three items being proposed in this change should **NOT** be lumped into one vote. They should be separate and should go through proper channels to be considered by experts, the public, and the council.

I agree that sweeps are not the answer, but neither is this ordinance change.

Separately, the encampment near my condo is a concern for the safety of those who live in my condo building. We have had a significant rise in theft (we've had MULTIPLE issues at the location on York Street), vandalization and drug use on our property (we continue to find the homeless using syringes (insulin syringes) and exposed needles from such syringes on our property and especially in our garbage coral and garbage bins. It is only a matter of time that someone is poked by these exposed needles not being disposed of properly. Our HOA has had to invest in more lighting to deter theft, and we're researching the need for fencing and security cameras to hopefully deter theft and trespassing.

Driving along the end of Commercial Street is disheartening and deeply concerning - for those who live in the encampment and those who drive by. I am worried about sanitation and cleanliness, safety and security (I saw a pregnant woman living in the tents), and most importantly - again - the long term effects on the city.

I DO NOT SUPPORT the proposed idea to allow camping in public spaces and parks. I know that this will not help the unhoused, it will only harm them further. It will also harm Portland, turning the entire city in an encampment and encourage unhoused people from other parts of the Northeast and Country to take up residence here. We do not want to be a destination for the unhoused. Our resources are already bursting with asylum seekers and we need to be aware of our stretched resources. I am a

strong supporter of Housing First and I understand that if this passes, it will disincentivize people from getting Housing and the support they need.

Of course I don't know a long-term solution because I'm not an expert, but I think this is NOT the solution. This should not be rushed, but we need to come up with a solution that doesn't involve people living outside and taking over our public, shared spaces.

PLEASE VOTE NO on Order 68 and if councilors want to make a proposed change through proper channels for elements of this proposal, as a city, we will consider them. But this is rushed and not the right solution. **PLEASE VOTE NO.**

Sincerely,
Dr. Frank J. Femia

Frank J. Femia, PhD | 773-454-5512 | fjfemia@yahoo.com

From:	"Christopher McGee" via City Council on behalf of "Christopher McGee" via City Council <Council@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Vote Down Order 68!!!
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 12:15:03 PM

Dear Portland City Council members,

I am a homeowner and an employee in Portland, and I strongly oppose the measure that is up for vote this Monday that will allow public camping throughout the City of Portland.

Due to the current encampment that is located at Harbor View, not only am I concerned about my safety every morning when I walk my dog – I am also concerned about my neighborhood's safety. Every morning I am having to normalize seeing someone shooting up or getting high, which is NOT OK!! No one should have to witness that, especially children. On my morning walks, I encounter parent after parent walking to school trying to keep their child's attention so they are not witnessing what is happening on the benches or in bushes. I don't understand why on earth the City is allowing this to happen.

Portland is a vibrant city that relies on tourism. Currently working in town, customers have expressed grave concern as to what our lovely city is turning into. They are rethinking their future trips to our wonderful destination. Again, why is this being allowed and normalized here? If this ordinance passes, this town which has grown into a thriving economy will come to a crashing halt. Many businesses have already expressed that they will no longer be able to stay in Portland and will be forced to move to another town – or just go out of business. It is not OK that a couple members of this Council believe this is the answer – and will destroy Portland as we know it.

I greatly appreciate your consideration, and I hope and pray you all vote DOWN on the measure that is up for vote.

Regards,
A VERY CONCERNED CITIZEN.

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Brian Crabtree <bkcrabtree@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Fwd: Harbor View Park
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 12:09:48 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Brian Crabtree <bkcrabtree@gmail.com>
Date: November 15, 2023 at 7:11:55 PM EST
To: council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Harbor View Park

Hello counsel-

My family resides in Back Cove neighborhood in District Four. We have heard that there is a proposal to create a sanctioned encampment area in Harbor View Park that would be legal through May. We are advocating that you not pass this proposal.

Our children had early education years at Love Lab Studio which borders this park and we have been supporters and believers in their mission of community building through children's art. Their business is threatened by this proposal and they do not believe they will survive if this encampment remains. There have been safety threats over the last year with the encampment situation, and this will worsen if this becomes one of the two or three legal and sanctioned areas.

Our friend Christina Bechstein, the founder of this studio, has been doing good work at this location for the past four years adding a great service to the community. Parents depend on this service as an enriching after school and summer environment for their children.

This park does not seem like a sensible location for unhoused people as it's on an exposed hillside and not particularly close to any city services.

Please do not pass this proposal for legal encampments at Harbor View Park.

Thank you,

Brian Crabtree
44 Parsons Rd
Portland

Sent from my iPhone

From:	council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Gabrielle Gilbert <gabbigilbert13@gmail.com>
To:	council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Pass Order 68
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 11:49:44 AM

Dear Portland City Council,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

Since May, Portland's encampment sweeps and camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people in our city. Instead of providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, the City of Portland is wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view.

Sweeps and camping bans are the wrong approach. Encampment sweeps are counterproductive, costly, and harmful. Laws that ban camping and criminalize homelessness are inherently racist, violate constitutional and human rights, and traumatize and negatively impact the physical and mental health of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

As Portland focuses endlessly on expansion, many residents of the city and outside of it, including myself, are concerned with the people already living within the city - that included without condition our unhoused neighbors. Simply, stopping the sweeps saves lives. Protect Portlanders by investing in housing and shelters, in the value of human life.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

G Gilbert
131 Spring St, Westbrook ME

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Dan Tarkinson <dtarkinson@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Order 68: Camping proposal
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 11:43:19 AM

Dear City Council Members,

I would like to voice my strong opposition to the notion of legalizing camping within public places in the Portland City Limits.

I was born and raised in Portland, and attended Portland Public Schools. I returned as an adult to raise my own family here and my children now have attended Portland Public Schools as well. We love this city, and its history, culture, character and its people.

This proposal is a slippery slope and I'd like to see you prioritize other, safer actions towards addressing the current problems, not one that will bring more challenges. A very irresponsible proposal in my view.

Sincerely,
Dan Tarkinson
62 Fessenden St.

From:	council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Asha Tamirisa <ashatamirisa@gmail.com>
To:	council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Urging you to pass Order 68
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 11:40:17 AM

Hello,

I'm writing as a Portland resident at 88 Bolton St 04102 asking you to pass Order 68 to temporarily stop encampment sweeps. Ideally these sweeps would be halted altogether in favor of long term housing solutions for our unhoused neighbors, But in the interim of that, please halt the sweeps which are traumatic and displace people from their communities and lives and puts them in an even more dire state of desperation.

Thank you for your consideration,
Asha Tamirisa

--
- Asha Tamirisa

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Danielle DElia <daniellemdelia@gmail.com>
To:	ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov; citymanager@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Please vote NO on order 68
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 11:36:11 AM

Hello,

My name is Danielle D'Elia - I live in Portland in District 1.

I'm writing to ask you all to please VOTE NO on ORDER 68. I feel very strongly that this proposed ordinance has been rushed and is not the right solution for our housing crisis.

There are three items proposed in this change and they should NOT be lumped into one vote. Instead they should be separate considerations and should go through the proper channels while being considered by experts, public opinion as well as the Council.

While we agree that sweeps may not be the answer, this ordinance change is also not the right answer. Allowing camping throughout the city will only lead to more challenges and pain points for both our unhoused as well as Portland as a whole. The last thing we need is to open up more potential risks and harm to our population as well as those visiting the city. We do not want to turn the entire city into an encampment and encourage unhoused people from all areas of the country to come to Portland. Being a destination for the unhoused should not be our goal. Our resources are already at capacity while we support asylum seekers as well as the unhoused. We need to be honest with ourselves and our already stretched resources.

PLEASE VOTE NO on ORDER 68. I believe that the community would be willing to consider other options but this version is rushed and not the answer for us.

Thank you for your time.
Danielle D'Elia

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Jennifer Packard <jp@pkrealtymgmt.com>
To:	ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; Pious Ali; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov
Cc:	Mary Godfrey; Amy Magida; David Packard; Rich Gill; Kristen Bartlett; ricky reid; Richard Bianculli; Ethan Hipple; Alex Marshall
Subject:	Proposal to Allow Camping City Wide
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 11:31:35 AM

Dear Mayor Snyder,
Dear Council Members,

I am writing on behalf of the tenants we serve in the community of Portland. They include residents and businesses located in Portland.

As landlords and property, we feel particularly responsible for creating safe homes for the residents and businesses (taxpayers!) we care for. A few of our properties are located next door to Housing First Facilities. They are excellent neighbors, and we are very glad to share boundaries with them.

The Police, Business owners, Residents of Portland, City Parks and Rec department, the folks supporting the unhoused community, and the unhoused are all frustrated!

The experiences our tenants and our property management team have had in dealing with encampments close to our business and residential properties is heartbreaking and frustrating for everyone concerned.

Let me name a few real-life experiences our team and tenants have had with encampments.

- Tenants have been **assaulted** on our private property with tire irons for asking drug dealers not to conduct business on our property.
- Members of the encampment community have used **hammers to break into cars** on our property during daylight hours, with guests sitting just feet from the incidents.
- When the encampment abutting our property was active, our team **hauled literally tons of trash, including needles and other drug paraphernalia**. This is dangerous for the health and wellbeing of our staff and tenants. Not to mention children and dogs, as we hold an easement for Portland Trails on this site.
- Businesses have suffered **break-ins, theft, and property damage**.
- Worst of all, **customers are too afraid to conduct business** in neighborhoods affected by encampments.
- These issues have caused avoidable damage to the safety, health, and well-being of our residents, employees, and the businesses themselves.

We need to support the Housing First bill, (LD 2) that creates funding for folks who need help to access stable, long-term shelter first and then get the help they want or need. We need to support people so they can live the life they are capable of and deserve, that goes for everyone, not just the temporarily unhoused. We also need to support the development and construction of this housing, in our neighborhoods.

With great gratitude and respect for the council, Mayor Snyder and everyone on the front lines of this crisis.

Jen

Jennifer Packard - President PKRM LLC - Asset & Property Management, Renovation, Land Use Planning

Yard South

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From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Carla Nixon <cnixon@cumberlandmaine.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Cc:	mdion@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Legalize camping ordinance
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 11:08:44 AM

I am writing to express my strong opposition to this proposed ordinance. It benefits no one, not even the un-housed, to allow this. It is dangerous to them and to everyone who lives in, works in, or visits the City.

Carla Nixon

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Lily Barter <lilybbarter@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps - Order 68 Saves Lives
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 11:03:14 AM

Dear Portland City Council,

As a resident of Portland, I am writing today to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez. As winter arrives, I believe that the council needs to work to support those who are unhoused and are spending their days and nights outside in the cold. Sweeping encampments is NOT a solution for the unhoused community. Sweeps cause additional harm to unhoused individuals by separating them from their life-saving medications, personal items including identification, legal documents, warm clothing/blankets/sleeping bags, and any sense of security or safety they may have. Encampment sweeps make life MORE dangerous for unhoused people by displacing them. It also causes trauma to those who are displaced. These individuals, members of our community, need our support now more than ever. Forcibly displacing them from their encampments is deeply wrong and only serves to destroy personal belongings and further criminalize unhoused individuals who are simply trying to stay alive. Additionally, encampment sweeps are wasting public resources that could be put toward actually solving this issue by providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused individuals.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view. Order 68 will save lives this winter!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lily Barter

85 Vesper Street, Portland 04101

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Kat Duvall <katsduvall@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Pass Order 68
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 10:41:25 AM

Good morning,

I am writing today to urge you all to pass Order 68. I am a Portland resident, a member of this community, and remain unimpressed with the slap-dash nature of the housing “solutions” while folks are being forcibly removed from their homes. Opening 50 more beds is a TEMPORARY solution, and not one based in evidence or grounded in what folks are asking for/needing. All of the evidence/data show thats sweeping encampments, which is why we need to pass Order 68.

I urge you to do what is just, and care for all people in this community. They belong here, they deserve housing, they deserve to CHOOSE.

Sincerely,
Katherine Duvall

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Katie Shorey <katelyn.shorey@gmail.com>
To:	Kate Snyder; pali@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov; Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov
Cc:	Katie Shorey
Subject:	PLEASE VOTE NO on the Proposed Change in Ordinance (Order 68)
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 10:35:35 AM

Mayor Snyder & Honorable Members of the City Council -

My name is Katelyn (Katie) Shorey and I am writing concerning the public encampments and the proposed change in ordinance (order 68). I own a condo right near the South Portland bridge (district 2) where a large encampment is located. I am writing to ask that you NOT APPROVE the Proposed Ordinance Change that Councilors Trevorrow & Rodriguez have compiled. I feel strongly that this is being rushed and is not the right solution for our housing crisis. This is also an issue of safety, theft, cleanliness/sanitation, tourism and workforce attraction. I sit on the Portland Community Chamber Board as well, and the businesses we represent (as well as the citizens) are majority not in favor of the change in ordinance.

The three items being proposed in this change should NOT be lumped into one vote. They should be separate and should go through proper channels to be considered by experts, the public, and the council.

I agree that sweeps are not the answer, but neither is this ordinance change. I am aware that the City will meet its capacity for beds for the unhoused in the next couple weeks so that will begin to address the problem.

I DO NOT SUPPORT the proposed idea to allow camping in public spaces and parks. I know that this will not help the unhoused; it will only harm them further. It will also harm Portland, turning the entire city into potential locations for an encampment and encourage unhoused people from other parts of the Northeast and Country to take up residence here. We do not want to be a destination for the unhoused. Our resources are already bursting with asylum seekers and we need to be aware of our stretched resources. It also harms our tourism industry, as well as workforce attraction. I am a strong supporter of Housing First and I understand that if this passes, it will disincentivize people from getting Housing and the support they need.

Separately, the encampment near my condo is a concern for the safety of those who live in my condo building and my tenant. I've had a difficult time finding a tenant because they don't want to live near the encampment due to the rise of theft (we've had MULTIPLE issues at the location on York Street). So this is now impacting me financially. Our HOA has had to invest in more lighting to deter theft, and we're researching the need for fencing and security cameras to hopefully deter theft and trespassing.

Driving along the end of Commercial Street is disheartening and deeply concerning - for those who live in the encampment and those who drive by. I am worried about sanitation and cleanliness, safety and security (I saw a pregnant woman living in the tents), and most importantly - again - the long term effects on the city.

Of course I don't know a long-term solution because I'm not an expert, but I think this is NOT the solution. This should not be rushed, but we need to come up with a solution that doesn't

involve people living outside and taking over our public, shared spaces.

This proposed change does not address the problem. In fact, it will make the problem worse. People need to be inside. We need our money, time and resources to go towards building housing for people, getting them into housing and helping them. And we definitely do not need to attract more people who need help. What we really need to do is push Housing First. If we encourage people to camp, they will not end up in Housing, which really is what helps people get on the road to a better life.

PLEASE VOTE NO on Order 68, and if councilors want to make a proposed change through proper channels for elements of this proposal, as a city, we will consider them. But this is rushed and not the right solution. PLEASE VOTE NO.

Sincerely,
Katie Shorey
Portlander, Mainer, and concerned citizen

Katie Shorey
Mobile: 207.831.6366

From:	citymanager@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Sarah Delisle <sarahmdelisle@gmail.com>
To:	ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov; Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Please vote NO on 68
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 10:31:38 AM

Hello all,

I am asking you all to Vote No on order 68. I have lived in Portland for 15 years in district 3. I've seen the changes for the good and the harmful. This has major harmful implications. I've been reading and digging in on what other cities across the country have done to help their unhoused community and more camping does not help the people or the city. It leads to more drugs and dangers for the unhoused and more issues within the city. I am compassionate for our unhoused population and want the best for a population that needs more hand holding and support than other community members. To leave them camping in the streets is dangerous anytime of year but what happens in winter? When they are taking drugs and passing out in these tents. It's scary and unsafe. I know those considering voting yes perhaps think this is a more compassionate stance but if you compare to what other cities have done it's the worst possible "solution" or forward movement to this crisis across the country.

Please, please Vote No. I realize this is complex but this is the wrong direction for our city.

Thank you for listening and considering.

Sarah Delisle

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of John Funk <wjohnfunk@hotmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Homeless Proposal
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 10:01:50 AM

We live on Orchard Street and wish to express our opposition the plan to temporarily allow homeless people to live in our city parks and other public lands until April of 2024. We are not opposed to providing services to the homeless, but believe the proposal is the wrong way to go.

First, this will directly impact the use of parks by its citizens. The presence of tents and homeless persons will have a negative effect because individuals and families will avoid areas where they are located, thereby restricting access to the parks. In our area, the Western Prom park is narrow and long and there will be no way to segregate the use. In addition, the Western Cemetery is nearby. Both the Western Prom and the cemetery have a lot of pedestrian traffic that would be adversely affected by the tents and the presence of the homeless. In addition, because their shelters are tents without normal facilities, it is inevitable that there will be trash and health risks, further impacting use by resident populations.

Second, this proposal will cause other homeless people to come to Portland because it will give them a safe harbor, thereby aggravating the problem. And, if you think this is temporary, once access is given to parks, it will continue to be a problem. There are likely to be lawsuits that will prolong the use.

Third, if the proposal is adopted, you will be prioritizing the needs of the homeless over those of taxpaying residents. While highly visible, the homeless represent only a small portion of the population. The city has to come up with a better solution that doesn't put the needs of the homeless in conflict with those of its citizens and businesses. Other cities have suffered when they ignore this conflict.

Fourth, the city has to find other temporary housing for the homeless while it comes up with a long-term solution. It should find areas that are away from residential areas, retail businesses and parks and then provide services (toilets, trash pickup, transportation, etc.). The comments from the City's various departments in opposition to the proposal detail the risks and harms from its implementation.

This is a very difficult problem, but the proposal will only make it worst and needlessly impact our citizens and businesses.

W. John Funk
Deborah F. Chase

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Caitlin Gianniny <cgianniny@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Support for Order 68
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 9:59:16 AM

To whom it may concern,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to urge you to pass Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez.

I don't feel like the camps make Portland any less safe as a city. My main concern is for the safety and well-being of the people who live in the camps. It's not fair to criminalize people who are simply doing all they can to make a home and to survive in the face of rising housing costs and essentials like food and medical care. Ideally, more indoor housing options would be available as temperatures drop. But given that that is not the case, the most humane thing to do is to let people stay in the homes they've created for themselves in the camps.

I urge the city to focus on housing first solutions that prioritize providing adequate shelter and housing options for unhoused people, instead of wasting our public resources on sweeps that criminalize homelessness and push our unsheltered neighbors out of public view. Sweeps and camping bans are particularly dangerous in the winter because unhoused people are forced to abandon makeshift shelters, community, and high-traffic areas to relocate to more isolated and risky locations.

This winter, the city must stop the sweeps to save lives! I urge the City Council to pass Order 68, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez, to pause encampment sweeps and temporarily stop enforcing the city's camping and loitering bans against unhoused people. Order 68 will amend Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code to create a temporary exception to the City's ban on public camping and loitering and allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property until April 30, 2024.

To become a safe, welcoming, and equitable city, Portland must invest our public resources in affordable housing, adequate shelter, and dignified social services—instead of using city ordinances to violently push unhoused people out of public view.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Gianniny

235 Brighton Ave.

Portland, ME 04102

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Michael Mertaugh <michaelmertaugh@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Camping in Public Spaces
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 8:49:13 AM

Dear Mayor Snyder and City Councilors,

The proposal to allow camping by homeless individuals in Portland's public spaces would deny Portland residents safe access to our treasured system of parks and public spaces, and would do nothing to address the root causes of homelessness. It would also attract more homeless individuals to Portland and could expose the city to litigation -- including litigation by cemetery plot owners in Portland's cemeteries.

Respectfully,

Michael Mertaugh

From:	"Julie Bedard" via Public Comment on behalf of "Julie Bedard" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Public comment-Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 7:58:07 AM

I'm writing as a long time Portland tax paying resident in STRONG OPPOSITION to your amendment to allow temporary exception to the City's prohibition on camping and loitering on City property and would allow unhoused people to camp on certain public property from the effective date of the amendments to April 30, 2024.

First, I think it is important that you understand my experiences with the unhoused population;

- My young step-son was assaulted by a homeless individual clearly high on something who was using the restroom in a business on Exchange Street in Portland, several years ago when the homeless problem was half of what it is now. My husband had to physically remove the individual off of his son and from the business. To this day he cannot walk in downtown Portland without having a traumatic response.
- Just this week a generator was stolen from a neighbor (caught on video) and found on the railroad tracks nearby.
- Several weeks ago we found a stolen bike and clothes with the tags still on them in our neighbor's yard.
- Our other neighbor has found homeless individuals in the back of their pickup truck more than once, overnight (they live on Ocean Street next to the school).
- Another individual had a bike, locked and attached to their car, cut off of their car and stolen in Portland. The police would not investigate it so they took it into their own hands and went to the encampment at the park and ride and got the bike back themselves, risking their health and safety.
- We are friends with local businesses near the recent park and ride encampment who catch homeless individuals stealing from them and because they are caught inside the stores, the police say they can't do anything and have let to them go (only to have them return and do it again and again). Homeless encampments that were allowed in these areas **increased crime in these areas**.
- And finally, I have a family member who is homeless in another city, so although I am not unhoused myself, I can speak to my experience with it. We can no longer support assistance to them because they choose addiction, not seeking help with mental health issues and living homeless over improving their situation. None of this is easy when you love a family member, and want to help them, but they are making a choice by not addressing mental and addiction health issues.

In Portland we currently live in fear and frustration that is real due to a large population of these individuals having mental health and addiction disorders. I don't even go out at night to the grocery stores, as I have been accosted outside two grocery stores and, in broad daylight I was accosted outside my bank. These are the real stories of your Portland residents that you should know are occurring.

Second, as a taxpayer, my taxes pay for maintenance of these parks which are meant for individuals to get outside SAFELY in ALL SEASONS with their families (not to live on). You are pushing this issue into residential neighborhoods. I currently live in back cove near Payson Park. A park where children play throughout all four seasons. Winterkids is held here and helps families get outside and enjoy the outdoors. Individuals with disabilities, unable to go to other outdoor venues, can be here without stigma. Other outdoor activities such as ice skating, running, and more occur here. I am in OPPOSITION of this amendment for ANY PUBLIC PARK or TRAIL or even streets in the Portland area. Our children should not have to live in fear and be exposed to the instability of many of the individuals with addiction and mental health disorders in our public parks or going for walks on public trails.

If you approve this measure you are only increasing crime, drugs, and jeopardizing our safety in these

areas and the Portland Police cannot possibly attend to all of these areas. Additionally by allowing this you also ATTRACT more homelessness from other cities that do not allow this (responsibly.) You are also risking that home owners will feel like they have no choice but to take matters into their own hands if the city allows for lawlessness; living on the streets, drug sales and use openly, theft, and more.

I've read many of the letters submitted for comment. Encampments allowed on public property are not the solution. More beds, required services for health and addiction issues, and one other ideas such as a city run encampment outside the city on a designated piece of land provided in trade for work for the city are some of the creative solutions proposed.

Please, do not pass this amendment...you would only be making a bad situation much much worse. Please ban all public encampments, for the health of the individuals in these camps and those who live in these neighborhoods.

Kind Regards,
Julie Grossi

From:	"Shannon Richards" via Public Comment on behalf of "Shannon Richards" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov
Cc:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Please stop the encampment
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 6:27:13 AM

To whom it may concern:
Please stop the encampment(s) in Portland. The degree to which the city is allowing this illegal and dangerous activity continue is, to say the least, disconcerting.

The idea that it could possibly become easier to camp in our public spaces is making me question our leadership. It is scary for my children, who have to walk to school, it is negatively affecting my business, which is located downtown, and it is negatively affecting my home life. I was born here, I pay taxes in this community, I employ staff here, and I volunteer a significant amount of time to this city and state.

Recently, I returned to my car to find a parking ticket, which I paid. Sitting next to my vehicle was a man doing illegal drugs openly. How is it reasonable that I have to pay taxes and parking tickets, but individuals are openly allowed to break the law - often violently - and no recourse is enforced?

The downstream effects are easy to see. Businesses and people that contribute to this community will depart. It's already happening.

This is not the Portland I want. This is very unsafe. Please take action.

Best,
Shannon Richards
44 Howard

Shannon Richards
She / Her
HAY RUNNER
C - 207-650-3285
E - shannon@hayrunner.com
HayRunner.com

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Elspeth Howland <ehowland18@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	order 68
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 10:24:05 PM

Dear Portland City Council,

My name is Elspeth Howland and I am 19 years old. I live in Portland where I was born and raised, and I am currently a student.

I am very concerned about the encampment sweeps that have been happening, as they are not prioritizing the health and needs of the homeless community and the Portland community as a whole. I urge the council to pass order 68 to temporarily stop encampment sweeps and enforcement of the city's public camping and loitering camps.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this email.

Best regards,
Elspeth

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Tom Robinson <thom.robinson@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: City Council Order 68-23/24
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 8:38:24 PM

15 November 2023

Dear Mayor Snyder and City Councilors,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the ongoing encampments and the danger they present to those living in the encampments and the community at large. I applaud the city council for taking action to expand the shelter for the winter and to secure additional housing for asylum seekers. I also encourage the council to do more to address the housing shortfall – even if that means considering modest tax increases to achieve this. However, I am strongly opposed to allowing any encampments in our city parks this winter or at any time.

The challenges we face are not simply an issue of homelessness. We face a serious substance abuse crisis that is at the core of the encampment challenge. None of us should judge those who suffer from addiction and, as a community, we have an obligation to help those afflicted access treatment. But let's not confuse compassion with permissiveness. As a community we have values and rules that we all agree to adhere to. Sometimes we lose sight of basic principles. We provide shelter and services for the vulnerable; we have schools and libraries to foster learning; we have parks to provide safe spaces for recreation and reflection. How is it possible we have mixed these up! We aren't turning our schools into shelters, why are we doing so with our parks and open spaces?

Portland is a wonderful city and our leaders have done a good job fostering a diverse, dynamic and secure community. Other cities, such as Portland, Oregon, could learn a lot from Portland, Maine. We need the council to lead by being both compassionate and firm. Fostering encampments may be an easy solution, but it is the opposite of leadership. Please drop any consideration of proposed order 68.

Respectfully,

Tom Robinson

320 Danforth St

From:	calmaxgirl@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Adrienne Hunter <calmaxgirl@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 8:23:31 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Adrienne Hunter
15 Ryan Rd Saco, ME 04072-9103
calmaxgirl@yahoo.com

From:	shelbygoldsmith@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Shelby Goldsmith <shelbygoldsmith@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 7:55:53 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Shelby Goldsmith
174 Pleasant St Saco, ME 04072-3205
shelbygoldsmith@icloud.com

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Kate Carey <kate@vitalius.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Unhoused camping
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 7:23:58 PM

To Portland City Counselors, I'd like to bring up a few points for you to consider before approving this proposal.
First, not all homeless are the same. Some require moderate help to become housed. Are there no places they can go that will work for a longer term. Some are in need of medical attention that they will not necessarily get living in city parks. How will you make sure the ones with medical issues don't die living in tents in Maine in the winter? What will you say to the citizenry when someone dies of exposure or lack of medical attention? Many of them have substance abuse, which should be addressed not enabled. (Do all citizens have a right to live out an inebriated existence at everyone else's expense?)
This proposal is both a carrot and a stick at once. We can be smarter than that.
The city should in no way enable those who have substance issues to just exist in all its glory where others should have the right to safely enjoy themselves.
No plumbing or proper garbage collection will very quickly make this arrangement untenable and as a result the less generous or patient minded citizens will band together and the ensuing outcry will motivate a response like the bulldozing we saw last summer, at which point we will be back to ground zero, in the middle of winter. No one will be happy. (I'm seeing newspaper images of Portland with grotesque bits of garbage and cloths frozen in our parks for months after the site is cleared. Headlines will read "Who's idea was this?" Tough to live down for many years to come.
Basically this is a well-meaning but completely boneheaded idea. Better to wake up now on this side of the nightmare, while it's still only hypothetical.
Please think this through before trying an experiment like this on the rest of us.
There must be better ways to deal with these issue.
Sincerely, Kate Carey

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Dmkats <dmkats5@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Fwd: proposal to allow use of City Parks for camping
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 7:19:41 PM

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Dmkats <dmkats5@gmail.com>
Date: November 15, 2023 at 1:24:16 PM EST
To: council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: proposal to allow use of City Parks for camping

Dear Councilors,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposal that City Parks be open to camping until Spring. I am a resident of Portland and have lived in Portland more than 40 years. I make use of the parks; my property taxes help support the creation and maintenance of these parks.

The parks are designed for recreation. They are not designed for encampments of people. A park located near my place of work which I and my co-workers frequented during our work day has now become off limits due to homeless encampments. There is trash, furniture, pallets, shelving, tarps etc everywhere, not to mention hypodermic needles on the walking path and the sidewalk. It is no longer safe to use that area. Our parks are not designed, nor are we as a City equipped to handle tent cities in our parks. Our resources are being stretched to the breaking point, and this proposal will only make things worse by encouraging people to remain outdoors without a requirement that they participate in any services; this proposal is bad for everyone and solves nothing.

I respectfully ask that you reject this proposal.

Donna M. Katsiaficas

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Curt Sachs <sachsarch@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: NO to encampment expansion
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 7:09:54 PM

Ignorant, uninformed, counter productive, unsafe.
Dumb and dumber

Curt Sachs
12 Lewis Street

From:	"Stephen Greene" via Public Comment on behalf of "Stephen Greene" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	No camping in Portland
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 7:04:19 PM

Poor solution, put them on a bus to Florida and Texas

Sent from my iPhone

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Ash Salisbury <26Brackett@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Opposed to camping proposal
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 6:22:52 PM

Councilors,

Thank you for your efforts in addressing the complex issue of homelessness in Portland. Adding more beds indoors and providing safe and warm spaces where people can shelter and get services is the humane way to address this crisis. Changing laws to allow camping all over the city and the obstruction of public walkways is not. The disorganized response to the crisis has led to a cruel situation of moving challenged people from one place to another, and disrupts the business and residents adjacent to those areas. Parks are no longer usable, sidewalks are no longer usable. Do not make this problem worse for the tent residents, city, and taxpayers by disorganizing the situation even more and leading to more fires and deaths like the ones that have recently occurred. Make beds available, offer services, and provide safety and consideration to all of your constituents.

Sincerely,
Ashley Salisbury
26 Brackett Street
Portland Maine

From:	etrask22@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Elizabeth Trask <etrask22@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 5:32:51 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Miss Elizabeth Trask
148 Breakwater Dr Unit 704 South Portland, ME 04106-1658
etrask22@gmail.com

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Zoe Grodsky <zoegrodsky@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Public Comment on Order 68
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 4:44:15 PM

Hello,

I am writing as a Portland resident to ask the City Council to pass Order 68-23/24 to stop the encampment sweeps and enforcement of the camping and loitering bans.

These dangerous encampment sweeps only cause more harm to our unhoused neighbors, and therefore the Portland community at large. Stopping the sweeps this winter will save lives.

Portland needs to invest more in affordable housing instead of displacing and evicting our neighbors. Please pass order 68-23/24 as a first step to prioritizing the safety and wellbeing of everyone in this city.

Thank you,
Zoe Grodsky
East End - District 1

From:	"Lauren Caron" via Public Comment on behalf of "Lauren Caron" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Order 68
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 4:42:12 PM

Hello my name is Lauren and I urge you to pass the proposed Order 68 immediately. With winter coming and little resources helping the unhoused, it is immoral and unethical to periodically upheave families and communities in the area that can't afford the rising cost of housing that remains unchecked by the local government. Thank you

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Jasmine Pellerin <jpellerin@kw.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Written public comment For The November 20 Council Agenda Material
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 4:31:34 PM

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposal to allow encampments in public spaces and parks within Portland. While I understand the urgency to address the issue of homelessness, I firmly believe that this approach is not the most effective or compassionate solution. I would like to outline several reasons why I believe allowing such encampments would be detrimental to our community.

Firstly, permitting encampments in public spaces and parks raises significant safety concerns for both homeless individuals and the general public. These areas are intended for recreational activities and serve as a gathering place for families, children, and individuals seeking solace in nature. Allowing encampments in these spaces can lead to an increased presence of drug use, crime, and unsanitary conditions, posing a threat to public safety and discouraging community engagement.

Furthermore, allowing encampments in public spaces can have adverse environmental consequences. Public parks and green spaces play a vital role in maintaining the ecological balance of our city. Encampments often result in littering, improper waste disposal, and damage to natural habitats, which can harm wildlife, disrupt ecosystems, and degrade the overall beauty of our public spaces. Such negative impacts can deter visitors and residents alike from utilizing and appreciating these essential community assets. Moreover, focusing solely on providing encampments neglects the underlying issues contributing to homelessness. Homelessness is a complex societal problem that requires comprehensive solutions, including affordable housing, mental health services, substance abuse programs, and job training initiatives. By merely allowing encampments, we risk diverting valuable resources away from long-term solutions that can truly help individuals transition out of homelessness and into stable housing and employment.

Finally, it is crucial to consider the long-term economic implications of allowing encampments in public spaces. Encampments can negatively impact nearby businesses, reducing foot traffic and deterring customers. Local commerce plays a vital role in our city's economic vitality, and any measure that hampers its growth and sustainability should be carefully evaluated. Allocating resources to address homelessness through comprehensive support programs and affordable housing initiatives would not only benefit those in need but also foster a thriving local economy.

In conclusion, I respectfully urge you to reconsider the proposal to allow encampments for homeless individuals in public spaces and parks. While it is essential to address homelessness with compassion and urgency, we must seek alternative solutions that prioritize public safety, environmental conservation, and long-term social and economic well-being. By investing in comprehensive support systems, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those experiencing homelessness while maintaining the integrity of our public spaces. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that you will give careful consideration to the concerns of your constituents as you make decisions that will shape the future of our community. Should you require any further information or wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to

contact me.

Yours sincerely,
Jasmine Pellerin

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From:	marlenacarney@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Marlena Carney <marlenacarney@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 4:26:06 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Miss Marlena Carney
272 Bridge St Apt 2 Westbrook, ME 04092-3029
marlenacarney@yahoo.com

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Kate Howe <katejhowe@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Cc:	afournier@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	NO camping all over the city - Worst Idea Ever
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 4:20:24 PM

Dear Counsilor,
Please vote AGAINST allowing camping on Portland's public spaces. This would present an unprecedented public safety hazard for all of the regular Portlanders who are trying to live and work peacefully in our city.

I have had encounters with unhoused individuals who are aggressive, territorial, disturbed, and rude. I walk through the city with my kids, and can't imagine having to navigate and watch out for that at every step.

Empathy, paying taxes to provide services, and sound problem solving are all well and good. But ceding the public spaces that we all use and pay for to people who are using them for toilets, trash heaps, drug use, and other unsanitary, unsafe and illegal activities - most of whom come to Portland from elsewhere with their addictions and other issues already entrenched, makes NO sense. It won't do anything to help those individuals, and will make Portland unlivable for everybody else.

I can't even believe that anybody would think that turning our entire city into a sanctioned campground is the way to anything but the pit of hell.

Kate Howe
North St.
Portland, ME

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Michael Barnes <mbarnes18@gmail.com>
Cc:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Re: AMENDMENT TO PORTLAND CITY CODE CHAPTERS 17, 18, AND 25 RE: CAMPING AND LOITERING ON PUBLIC PROPERTY
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 4:14:55 PM

PS. I live at:

8 Eastman Ave
Portland, ME 04103

Michael Barnes
mbarnes18@gmail.com
802.466.4494

On Wed, Nov 15, 2023 at 4:12 PM Michael Barnes <mbarnes18@gmail.com> wrote:

> - This proposal represents grave public health and safety threats to the unhoused individuals living in the encampments. We have already had confirmed outbreaks of infectious diseases, vermin infestations, violent crimes including rape and assault, and fires caused by using unsafe methods to heat and cook in tents. These issues will only grow worse if people are left outside through the winter.
>
> - This proposal is counter to best practices that have been shared with the city by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and local experts like Community Housing of Maine's Cullen Ryan, who are unanimous in stating that the sanctioning of encampments leads to worse outcomes for the unhoused and the communities they camp in.
>
> - This proposal is mistimed, coming right before the city expects to add 150+ beds to the shelter system. Without the incentive of resolving encampments, this proposal would make it much more difficult for outreach workers to convince unhoused individuals to take shelter in advance of winter.
>
> - This proposal is universally condemned by a wide variety of city departments, including Health and Human Services, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Police, and Housing and Economic Development. Read a memo from these department heads below.
>
> - This proposal will deny other residents of Portland peaceful use of city parks and trails, which are supposed to be amenities for the shared use of the entire

public. It will be impossible for activities like sledding at Payson Park, skating at Deering Oaks, or cross-country skiing at Riverside Golf Course to occur if these parks are open for unfettered camping and the unfortunate public safety threats that emanate from congregations of campers.

- This proposal will make it nearly impossible for the city to conduct routine winter snow and ice removal operations if encampments continue to block public ways through the winter.

This proposal is hypocritical, exempting City Hall Plaza from accepting encampments where the City Councilors putting this forward work routinely, while pushing encampments into neighborhoods and near businesses where the vast majority of the city lives and/or works.

Michael Barnes
mbarnes18@gmail.com
802.466.4494

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Michael Barnes <mbarnes18@gmail.com>
Cc: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: AMENDMENT TO PORTLAND CITY CODE CHAPTERS 17, 18, AND 25 RE: CAMPING AND LOITERING ON PUBLIC PROPERTY
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 4:12:45 PM

- This proposal represents grave public health and safety threats to the unhoused individuals living in the encampments. We have already had confirmed outbreaks of infectious diseases, vermin infestations, violent crimes including rape and assault, and fires caused by using unsafe methods to heat and cook in tents. These issues will only grow worse if people are left outside through the winter.

- This proposal is counter to best practices that have been shared with the city by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and local experts like Community Housing of Maine's Cullen Ryan, who are unanimous in stating that the sanctioning of encampments leads to worse outcomes for the unhoused and the communities they camp in.

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This proposal is hypocritical, exempting City Hall Plaza from accepting encampments where the City Councilors putting this forward work routinely, while pushing encampments into neighborhoods and near businesses where the vast majority of the city lives and/or works.

Michael Barnes
mbarnes18@gmail.com
802.466.4494

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Robyn Hammond <rehammond31@hotmail.com>
To:	mdion@portlandmaine.gov
Cc:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; knyder@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Please do NOT legalize citywide camping
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 4:03:28 PM

Dear Councilor Dion,

First - I would like to congratulate you on becoming the next Mayor of Portland! I am so pleased and understand what a tough job you have ahead of you.

Please, please, please do NOT legalize citywide camping in our beautiful city by the sea. I am so saddened by the direction of things and while none of us have the answers this definitely isn't it! The situation is unsafe for both those that are unhoused and living in the encampments and residents and business owners alike. I have compassion for those that are living in these terrible conditions but legalizing camping cannot be the answer. I am hopeful that by adding 150 beds to the shelter system that this will help those that are open to being helped. Certainly - living in a tent outside in a Maine winter isn't appropriate or safe. Using our city sidewalks and parks and trails is just a TERRIBLE idea. In a city that relies on tourism - who in the world wants to visit when they have trouble accessing the sidewalks because there are tents set up near the businesses and restaurants. It just isn't safe not to mention that it isn't right that many of us will no longer feel comfortable using the parks and trails that we all pay for.

I have lived in Portland for many years and am now contemplating selling my home (that I love) and moving to another area before the city is entirely destroyed by misplaced empathy.

I know that you are all faced with a very difficult situation and I do not envy you but am hopeful that you will come to what I believe is the right decision - to save our little city!

Best,

Robyn Hammond-Sala
14 Garsoe Drive
Portland, ME

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Todd Grove <toddgrove6191@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Cc: Mary Grove
Subject: Encampments In Portland
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 3:58:36 PM

To the Committee,

I moved to Portland in 1987.
I can honestly say that I have NEVER in 35 years felt unsafe in this city - until the encampments spread this year. What I saw sickened me. I would not bring my wife or children near Bayside - day or night. It was a terrible blight on our great city.
And now a group wants to permanently allow tent cities in Portland parks? Is this to be taken seriously?
This proposal represents grave public health and safety threats to the unhoused individuals living in the encampments. We have already had confirmed outbreaks of infectious diseases, vermin infestations, violent crimes including rape and assault, and fires caused by using unsafe methods to heat and cook in tents.
Allowing homeless, often mentally ill

individuals to squat wherever they choose will deny other residents of Portland peaceful use of city parks and trails. Our parks are a source of pride and great joy to the residents. Have we learned nothing from our "sister city" in Oregon?

This proposal is counter to best practices that have been shared with the city by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and local experts like Community Housing of Maine's Cullen Ryan, who are unanimous in stating that the sanctioning of encampments leads to worse outcomes for the unhoused and the communities they camp in.

PLEASE - Do NOT consider approval of this. Thank you.
Regards,
Todd Grove
Concerned Citizen, Property Owner

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Saras Yerlig <syerlig@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	stop the sweeps
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 3:50:02 PM

Dear Portland City Council,

Please pass order 68 and stop clearing encampments of unhoused individuals. Sweeping the encampments breaks up communities trying to survive and access basic care. It makes it more challenging for service workers to provide aid to the most vulnerable and ultimately endangers lives.

I urge the city counselors to come with an alternative response to the homelessness crisis. We need more temporary and long term affordable housing, more flexibility in shelter policies, and most importantly a humane, compassionate, collaborative approach towards our must vulnerable citizens.

Stop the sweeps.
Thank you for listening.

Saras

From:	"James Cohen" via Public Comment on behalf of "James Cohen" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Portland City Council Order 68 -- Homeless Encampments -- Please Vote NO
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 3:48:18 PM

Mayor Snyder and Members of the City Council, as I will not be in town on Monday 11/20 when the Council is scheduled to take up Order 68, I am providing written comments to the Council instead.

I am writing to register my strong opposition to Order 68 as I believe it represents one of the most misguided, harmful proposals to ever come before our City Council. It needs to be rejected because, if passed, it has the capacity to destroy the very fabric of our City. And I don't make such a strong statement lightly, as people who have served with me or worked with me know.

Having served for six years on the City Council, and having observed the Council for decades, I have seen proposals come and go. Some have passed, and some have failed. But Order 68 falls in a different classification in terms of its potential for negative consequences. I don't doubt the positive intent, but I also don't doubt that this proposal, if passed, would quickly turn Portland into a tent city that is unsafe for all:

- Tent encampments are not safe for the residents living in the encampments themselves. We know this.
- Tent encampments are not safe for the remaining 65,000 people who live in Portland, including our children. We know this.
- Tent encampments are not safe for visitors who come to Portland, and many may stop coming. We know this.
- Tent encampments are not safe for our local businesses, many of which may not survive or choose to stay in Portland. We know this.

In my professional life, I have represented opioid treatment providers for nearly 30 years, and I am the son of a clinical psychologist. So, I know quite a bit about mental health and substance use disorder. Many of the individuals in these encampments need treatment, and they should get it. But living in tents in our parks should not be an option. Treatment can be provided without allowing camping in parks.

As a final note, the ability of Order 68 to destroy our City is not hypothetical. I have seen first-hand what policies of this nature have done to cities like Portland and San Francisco. Those cities are reeling. We cannot make the same mistakes.

So, I strongly urge you to remain focused on city shelters and treatment, and reject camping as a solution – just as our very able City staff has recommended. Because Order 68 is not a solution. It is the means for destroying our City.

Thank you for your time and attention, and please vote NO on Order 68.

James I. Cohen

This email and any attachment was sent from the law firm Verrill Dana, LLP. It may contain information that is privileged and confidential. If you suspect that you were not intended to receive it, please delete it and notify us as soon as possible. Thank you.

From:	"Jon Dyer" via Public Comment on behalf of "Jon Dyer" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Legalizing camping
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 3:35:37 PM

Hello. My name is Jon Dyer and we are residents of Portland, we live off of outer forest ave near the Talbot school. I am writing to let you know that we can not allow legalizing camping in our city. I am a sales rep, with mostly Portland stores I goto. Seeing all these tents make our city, amongst other things, unattractive to tourist. I see the tents behind Hadlock Field, on commercial street and when they used to be by Mercy Hospital. It looks awful, and they do not take care of there trash. Why should we pay to have dumpsters parked on Commercial St with Portland PD parked across the street all day ? Just today, down by the circle K I saw a man, shirtless, trying to figure out how to go to the bathroom right next to the parking area that is fenced in. Do I want my daughter to see this, or any other child for that matter. No I don't. I am tired of seeing trash everywhere, come take a drive up forest ave across from queen bee or under the overpass and see all the trash they leave behind. It's embarrassing for our city.

Sent from my iPhone 14 Pro

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Sandy Johnson <sjohnson@townandshore.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	camping proposal
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 3:23:31 PM

This is a terrible idea! The camping areas are a blight on the city, a vivid illustration of the lack of solutions, and create unsafe conditions for nearby residents and businesses. Get creative Councilors and enlist help from the state--the campers are by and large not from Portland!

Sandy Johnson

Broker / Owner

207-415-2128 (cell)

sjohnson@townandshore.com

www.townandshore.com

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of John and Sandra Morrissey <jsmmm3@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Order #68-23/24 -Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18,and 25
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 3:00:49 PM

To Portland, ME City Councilors and Mayor Synder,

I am writing to express my growing concern about the current approach the Councilors are taking in addressing the homeless crisis, a matter of extreme importance to many individuals and businesses in our community.

I must question whether the councilors truly appreciate the hardworking individuals in this city who contribute to its prosperity by diligently working, paying taxes, and actively participate in enhancing the community. The current stance on the homeless crisis appears to be riddled with disillusionment, particularly the idea of simply spreading the homeless around Portland as a viable solution. This raises critical questions: how does this approach contribute to solving the homeless problem? And a good citizen would require a permit to use public property, but that permit is waived for a homeless person?

Regrettably, the homeless individuals,especially those allowed to live in encampments, seem to be disconnected from the very principles that make our Portland community thrive. Their lack of engagement in work, absence of tax contributions, and failure to give back to the community create a stark contrast to the efforts of law-abiding citizens who contribute positively to our city. The Council's current homeless policies and that of Order #68-23/24 creates no solutions for the homeless and is a slap in the face to decent Portland citizens and businesses. Is this what the City Councilors want for Portland and its citizens? Isn't this your home too?

It is important that we reassess the current strategies in place. Simply distributing clean needles, towels, and food without requiring anything in return develops an unnecessary cycle of dependency. Instead, there should be a requirement for drug counseling before the distribution of clean needles, showers before receiving towels, and involvement in various city jobs before acquiring food. We, as a community, should hold the homeless to the same standards we expect from all law-abiding citizens. This, of course, may be a work in progress, but we can not continue to throw taxpayers money away without proper, well thought out goals and solutions to end homelessness in Portland.

Respecting public spaces is a responsibility shared by everyone, including the homeless. Just as law-abiding citizens are not allowed to litter or loiter, the homeless should be held to the same standards. Tents littered with collected junk, human waste and rotten trash is a serious safety issue, not to mention an unattractive eyesore. These encampments, where evil can thrive, are not the place for many of the homeless and are a dangerous environment to everyone. Spreading these encampments out throughout the city is most definitely a terrible idea. Most of these homeless need to get out of the encampments and into shelters to receive counseling and drug rehabilitation.

In closing, I strongly believe that handouts without accountability prevent the potential for positive change. Rather than perpetuating a system of dependence, we should empower the homeless to contribute meaningfully to our community, fostering a sense of pride and accomplishments, that can not be done unless the homeless are in shelters, where they can get proper counseling and be away from drug dealers. Without a shift in approach, the homeless crisis in our city will persist, and meaningful change will never happen and our great city will be destroyed. Is that your vision and ultimate goal?

Sincerely,
Sandra Morrissey
Falmouth Maine resident
Friend of Portland, Maine

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Diane Lawton <efinsterwald@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Yes to housing/No to camping!
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 2:41:20 PM

I am a concerned and caring Portland
Citizen and tax payer. I very much want the unhoused to be cared for , supported and housed. I am against the repeated, disruptive sweeps of encampments. And I am opposed to the proposal to allow camping in city parks and other public spaces. That seems unsafe, a compounding of the problem for the unhoused and the community at large. Please No!!
Thanks for your time and efforts.
Diane Lawton
Portland

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Anna Marie Thron <amthron@gmail.com>
To: PublicComment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Camping
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 2:33:18 PM

Our beautiful parks must be available to ALL citizens - children, seniors, residents and tourists - for play, walking, and relaxing. A vote against the proposed moratorium will keep them safe and clean for all of us.

Anna Marie Thron
72 West Street
amthron@gmail.com

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Beth Gilford <bethgilford@sbcglobal.net>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Encampments
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 2:23:34 PM

The issue of unhoused homeless is a complex issue, but what is proposed could lead to many unanticipated consequences, including death. As you might know, there has already been one death in the small encampment on the Prom. The best approach to the current crisis to get people inside. Now.
I am opposed to allowing encampments to continue
Beth Gilford
Sent from my iPhone

From:	"JOAN AMORY" via Public Comment on behalf of "JOAN AMORY" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Councilors Rodriguez and Trevorrow's proposal for a vote Monday.
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 2:05:57 PM

While the proposal to allow camping by homeless people most open places in Portland may be well-meaning, it is fraught with consequences. These consequences are most severe for those with only tents for housing.

Also, other towns will be encouraged to send homeless folks to Portland while not working on their responsibilities to their own citizens.

Portland itself has to do more than permit open space camping. It has its responsibilities to aid the homeless, sick, mentally ill and addicted.

In the short term there are 50 more beds available, and many more available at the end of the month.

Furthermore, Counselors Rodrigues & Treverrow are trying an 'end run' vote before the new council is seated. This is not a good precedent.

Yours sincerely,
Joan Amory

Sent from my iPhone

From: "Wes Pelletier" via Public Comment on behalf of "Wes Pelletier" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Vote Yes on Order 68
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 1:59:01 PM

Portland Public Comment,

Dear Council Members,

Next Monday, you'll be voting on Order 68. I know voting yes on this is going to take some political bravery, given the toxic, borderline sociopathic messaging of some candidates for office, but it's the correct thing to do. It is, of course, the moral thing to do, but that argument seems to be finding less and less purchase these days. I think perhaps the more compelling arguments, put forward by the ACLU, is that forcing people who are already desperate to try to move all of their belongings several times a month with no chance of reprieve is cruel and unusual, and by continuing to allow these sweeps you would be putting the city at great risk of a lawsuit. City council is, I would say, FAR too deferential to the city's legal representation, who loves to imply the vague specter of a lawsuit every time his boss opposes something. The fact that counsel isn't ringing all the alarm bells at what's very clearly a threat from the ACLU is depressingly telling, but it also doesn't mean you shouldn't be prepared for the complete clusterfuck that you'll be living with should you bypass this out and cost the city a whole lot of money. Know that if and when that happens, I'll be doing what I can to make sure folks know who, exactly, didn't have the sense to prevent it.
The housing crisis is obviously a dense and endlessly difficult problem, and addressing it will take some political bravery and imagination, both of which councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez have displayed by bringing this forward. I hope you'll join them, recognize the calls against this as the craven calls for violence that they are, and support Order 68.

Wes Pelletier
wes.pelletier@gmail.com
3 Crescent St Apt 2
Portland, Maine 04102

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Corina Hankowski <corina@hkcor.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Oppose Council Order 68
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 1:49:04 PM

Dear Mayor Snyder and City Councilors,

I am a resident of Portland residing in the West End, and I am writing to oppose Council Order 68 proposed by Rodriguez and Trevorrow. I appreciate that this is a very complex situation with no clear cut answers; however, I believe that allowing legalized camping in Portland parks will further compromise the safety of our city, is unsafe for the unhoused population that will be living outside in sub-zero temperatures, and will attract more unhoused residents from out of state who feel that Maine is the place to be as we are supportive of encampments, creating an even greater problem.

As a newer resident of Portland, one of the reasons my family relocated to Portland from rural Massachusetts was to allow my children to gain exposure to life in a more urban setting, and to live in a place that was safe enough for them to have some independence walking in their neighborhood to school and to see friends, to exercise, and to explore the city by walking to the Old Port, for example. Since the presence of tents on the Western Prom close to our home in the West End, I am no longer comfortable allowing my teen aged daughters to go near the Prom unsupervised, and their school has had to adjust running routes for their sports practices so that kids are not running directly near the encampments on the Prom and down near the Casco Bay Bridge where they would run over the bridge into South Portland.

Please oppose Council Order 68 on November 20 and focus instead on a more humane plan that would move the unhoused population inside and closer to vital services and resources.

Thank you,
Erica Hankowski
Vaughan Street, Portland

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of D Ren <dawnreneau@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Proposed change to allow camping in parks
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 1:41:27 PM

Dear Council members,

I am writing to you today to voice my opposition to the proposed lifting of regulations around camping and loitering in our city parks for our homeless population over the winter months. I genuinely feel empathy for the folks who find themselves homeless in our city. Especially during our extremely cold and long winters. Camping in the neighborhood parks is not the right solution to this growing problem.

I live on Brookside Road which abuts Payson park. Payson Park is utilized by the surrounding community year round. In the winter months children especially enjoy the Payson Hill snow recreation area. There is a brand new playground here that children have been flocking to. My husband and I walk through the park daily on our morning walks with our dog throughout the winter. My own children have friends who live on the other side of the park and we allow them to walk alone through the park due to there being no safe sidewalk on that stretch of Ocean Avenue. I know I would not feel safe doing any of this if the city allowed this park to be used as a homeless camp. In the spring the park will be a minefield of needles and other biohazard for pets and children to discover.

Since the encampment behind Trader Joes was swept this spring we have had a scary encounter with a man along Ocean Avenue who was threatening pedestrians with a long pipe in his hand. Another encounter with an obviously disturbed individual camping along the creek side of Brookside Road in my neighbor's back yards. Our garage and car was broken into along with several of our neighbors. 'Nextdoor' is full of daily posts about thefts and break ins which are becoming more brazen and frequent. This type of activity would only increase if the green light was given to set up a semi permanent winter tent city

I think it's worth mentioning how allowing this would erode the mental health of our children.
My children still don't feel totally safe since our garage and car was broken into while they slept. My eleven year old has to check the locks on the door at night before he goes to bed. Then their school was shut down for two days due to the shooting in Lewiston and we had to tell them that they needed to stay inside. If I have to tell them that the park they play in is no longer a safe place, this would have a profound negative effect on my oldest son especially who has been seeing a therapist for anxiety since the pandemic eroded his feeling of safety in this world. This generation of children are really struggling with anxiety. Taking a space that brings the community joy and recreation and turning it, even temporarily into a place that garners fear will take it's toll. I urge you to find another solution that doesn't erode the safety of our communities.

Sincerely,

Dawn Reneau

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Betty <duggan.betty@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Encampments
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 1:30:00 PM

I am writing as a concerned citizen and physician regarding allowing the encampments to remain through winter into April. This risks the health and safety of both those who are homeless and those who are nearby. As temperatures go down hyperthermia becomes an issue for children, elderly and those with associated illnesses. Sanitation and trash collection were issues in the summer and will only be compounded with snow.
I realize that many prefer remaining independent of services offered. However every effort must be made to shelter those in these encampments and also provide support services for medical and addiction issues.
Mary Duggan

Sent from my iPhone

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of David Bantz <dfbantz@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: encampments
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 1:19:27 PM

As we understand it, on Monday the City Council will be voting on a proposal by Councilors Rodriguez and Trevorrow to allow camping and loitering in all public spaces (parks, cemeteries, streets, etc.) until late April. We strongly oppose this proposal.

This proposal would have the City of Portland abdicate its responsibilities to the homeless and to the citizens of this city. It is likely that adoption of this proposal will lead to unnecessary deaths in the homeless community, citizens who live adjacent to the campsites arming themselves, and would perhaps lead to a regional or even national reputation of Portland, Maine as "the city that just doesn't care."

We do not condone the brutal, forcible clearing of encampments. But just because the City has made bad decisions, or implemented decisions uncaringly, a response such as this proposal is totally unjustifiable. Don't let bad decisions lead to even worse ones.

David & Claudia Bantz
100 Neal St.
Portland, Maine

From: Caitlin Corrigan on behalf of Caitlin Corrigan <cec.msw@gmail.com>
To: Dena Libner
Subject: Re: support for order 68-23/24
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 12:41:20 PM

Thanks, Dena--done!

On Wed, Nov 15, 2023 at 8:45 AM Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov> wrote:
>
> Thank you for your email.
>
> If you intended your email to be included as written public comment in the November 20 Council agenda materials, please make sure to send it to publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov before November 19, 2023 at 12pm.
>
> Sincerely,
>
> Dena Libner
> Chief of Staff
>
>
> On Mon, Nov 13, 2023 at 12:51 PM Caitlin Corrigan <cec.msw@gmail.com> wrote:
>>
>> Dear Mayor Snyder and colleagues,
>>
>> I am writing in support of the amendment to order 68 proposed by
>> Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez to Chapters 17, 18,
>> and 25 of the City Code.
>>
>> I have read through the packet of staff recommendations and understand
>> the objections put forth, however it is unclear to me why these
>> objections are solely placed on encampments as opposed to unsheltered
>> homelessness in general--which will continue to persist without a
>> sustainable, durable answer to this housing and mental health crisis.
>> I agree that it is unacceptable and unsafe for our neighbors to be
>> outside in the harsh Maine winter, but encampment sweeps do nothing to
>> create more affordable housing or trauma-informed shelter.
>>
>> As a mental health professional who previously spent 7 years working
>> in the Bayside community, it is clear to me that the city's "sweeps"
>> of humans and their belongings has an impact not only on the mental
>> health of those being "cleared," but on the housed neighbors who watch
>> and read about these sweeps.
>>
>> Who are we as a community if we continue to criminalize existing?
>>
>> If no shelter beds or additional affordable housing is available, why
>> do we not answer the demand that came directly from the community of
>> people experiencing homelessness back in summer 2020? The amendment to
>> order 68 will allow people to rest where and when they can in public
>> spaces, instead of forcing people into further isolation, which is
>> increasingly dangerous as the winter weather arrives.
>>
>> Thank you for considering my response,
>> Caitlin Corrigan, LMSW-CC
>>

>> --
>> Caitlin E. Corrigan, LMSW-CC
>> she/her/hers
>> Island Institute for Trauma Recovery, LLC
>> 199 Main St., 3rd Floor
>> Saco, ME 04072
>> mailing: PO Box 1189, Saco, ME 04072
>> work cell: 207-808-0951
>>
>> This message is intended for the sole use of the addressee and may
>> contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from
>> disclosure under applicable law. If you have received this message in
>> error, please immediately advise the sender by reply email and delete
>> this message. Although my computer is password protected, my emails
>> are not encrypted. Therefore, I cannot guarantee confidentiality of
>> email communication. If you communicate confidential information with
>> me via email, I will assume that you have made an informed decision
>> and I will view it as your agreement to take the risk that the email
>> may be intercepted.
>
>
> Notice: Under Maine law, documents - including e-mails - in the possession of public officials or city employees about government business may be classified as public records. There are very few exceptions. As a result, please be advised that what is written in an e-mail could be released to the public and/or the media if requested.

--
Caitlin E. Corrigan, LMSW-CC
she/her/hers
Island Institute for Trauma Recovery, LLC
199 Main St., 3rd Floor
Saco, ME 04072
mailing: PO Box 1189, Saco, ME 04072
work cell: 207-808-0951

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email communication. If you communicate confidential information with
me via email, I will assume that you have made an informed decision
and I will view it as your agreement to take the risk that the email
may be intercepted.

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Caitlin Corrigan <cec.msw@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Fwd: support for order 68-23/24
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 12:41:13 PM

Dear Mayor Snyder and colleagues,

I am writing in support of the amendment to order 68 proposed by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez to Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code.

I have read through the packet of staff recommendations and understand the objections put forth, however it is unclear to me why these objections are solely placed on encampments as opposed to unsheltered homelessness in general--which will continue to persist without a sustainable, durable answer to this housing and mental health crisis. I agree that it is unacceptable and unsafe for our neighbors to be outside in the harsh Maine winter, but encampment sweeps do nothing to create more affordable housing or trauma-informed shelter.

As a mental health professional who previously spent 7 years working in the Bayside community, it is clear to me that the city's "sweeps" of humans and their belongings has an impact not only on the mental health of those being "cleared," but on the housed neighbors who watch and read about these sweeps.

Who are we as a community if we continue to criminalize existing?

If no shelter beds or additional affordable housing is available, why do we not answer the demand that came directly from the community of people experiencing homelessness back in summer 2020? The amendment to order 68 will allow people to rest where and when they can in public spaces, instead of forcing people into further isolation, which is increasingly dangerous as the winter weather arrives.

Thank you for considering my response,
Caitlin Corrigan, LMSW-CC

--
Caitlin E. Corrigan, LMSW-CC
she/her/hers
Island Institute for Trauma Recovery, LLC
199 Main St., 3rd Floor
Saco, ME 04072
mailing: PO Box 1189, Saco, ME 04072
work cell: 207-808-0951

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and I will view it as your agreement to take the risk that the email may be intercepted.

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Davi Smitti <smitti79@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Re: Homeless encampment
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 12:31:02 PM

On Wed, Nov 15, 2023 at 8:26 AM Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov> wrote:

> Thank you for your email.
>
> If you intended your email to be included as written public comment in the November 20 Council agenda materials, please make sure to send it to publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov before November 19, 2023 at 12pm.
>
> Sincerely,
>
> Dena Libner
> Chief of Staff
>
> On Tue, Nov 14, 2023 at 9:04 PM Davi Smitti <smitti79@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> > Camping is NOT an acceptable solution. It is not safe for the citizenry, and it is not safe for these campers who are incapable of integrating with society or even caring for themselves in the winter.
> >
> > These people need a whole lot more help than merely a police presence. Those of us who have the misfortune of being abutters can hear fighting and howling deep into the nighttime hours. Our home this past week has hosted two men on our property who were reeling and staggering; one of them hurled himself into our flower bed and removed his clothing on a cold day this last week. The police did respond and got him into an ambulance.
> >
> > The attached complaint (from someone other than myself) highlights a machete-wielding fellow on a bicycle. Really?
> >
> > My observation today was 6 needle caps easily seen on the street in the short block between Tate and Tyng Streets. How many more needle caps may have been in the gutter, on the sidewalk or in the grass is a good question that is probably answered with a much larger number! That also tells us that there are at least six needles somewhere who are missing their caps!
> >
> > Homeless Camp - Issue #15616047 - Portland, ME - SeeClickFix - Web and Mobile Government 311
> >
> > This used to be a quiet and pleasant neighborhood where a neighborhood kid could come alone, safely to Harborview Park and walk the family dog. We taxpayers have been shut out of our park and I do not feel safe even leaving my own house!
> >
> > Please, Stop! Assess--our current strategy is a dismal failure. You have many extremely upset citizens who are not feeling safe in their own neighborhood. We have a new rat infestation in this neighborhood. We have drug abuse galore, which I and my wife have witnessed first hand repeatedly.
> >
> > The current strategy is a failure. Incremental steps are not doing the job!
> >
> > Sincerely,

David and Elizabeth Smith
24 Brackett St
Portland 04102

Notice: Under Maine law, documents - including e-mails - in the possession of public officials or city employees about government business may be classified as public records. There are very few exceptions. As a result, please be advised that what is written in an e-mail could be released to the public and/or the media if requested.

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Althea Turner <turneral@spsdme.org>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Support Order 68-23/24
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 12:20:22 PM

Hello,

As a citizen of Portland, I want to live in a city that is compassionate and just. A speaker at this week's vigil for our unhoused neighbors noted that the greatest measure of a city's strength is how the most marginalized people who live there are doing. Our unhoused community members are those people, and they are being unfairly targeted by the city's sweeps of encampments.

I am a social worker who has worked with many of our unhoused neighbors at Preble Street, Maine Medical Center, and local schools. I have seen first hand how encampments can provide safety, warmth, and a strong sense of community for those who live in them. City sweeps are a cruel way to remove the "unsightliness" of homelessness without actually providing any meaningful care. The city has attempted to cover up its cruelty by encouraging our unhoused neighbors to go to DHHS for housing support during these sweeps. We, the social service providers in the city, know all too well that sending a person to DHHS is an action that has little chance of actually making a difference. The city does not have enough beds for our unhoused community members. Sending folks to wait in a line while potentially missing out on other critical services, just to be reminded that there are not enough beds, is unjust. I think you all know that, too.

I ask that each council member support Order 68-23/24 to allow our unhoused neighbors to be in community with one another. I know that encampments are not a permanent solution, but clearing them is a death sentence to those who suffer most from our housing crisis. Please consider passing this order to support a more compassionate and human Portland for all who live here.

Thank you,

Althea Turner

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Holly Mitchell <hmitchell@kw.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Proposed ordinance regarding encampments.
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 12:19:08 PM

Good afternoon

As a resident, tax payer, and realtor in the city of Portland I strongly oppose an ordnance legalizing encampments on public property.

There needs to be another solution besides making our public spaces camps.

It prioritizes some over everyone and will result in the destruction of public space

Holly

Holly Bentley Mitchell, PhD
Founder, ABODE Real Estate Group
Keller Williams Realty
Portland, Maine 04102
C 207.650.6176
O 207.879.9800

Abodeteam.com
JoinAbode.com

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Damon Yakovleff <damon.yakovleff@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Fwd: Support for Order 68, with Reasonable Amendments
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 11:36:04 AM

Please include this as a public comment for the November 20 Council meeting. Thank you.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Damon Yakovleff** <damon.yakovleff@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Nov 13, 2023 at 1:11 PM
Subject: Support for Order 68, with Reasonable Amendments
To: <council@portlandmaine.gov>
Cc: Danielle West-Chuhta <dwest@portlandmaine.gov>

Honorable Mayor and Councilors,

I am writing in support of the proposed Order 68 that is before you, with reasonable amendments to address issues brought forward by staff and key stakeholders. Sometimes policy questions offer an opportunity for feel-good, win-win outcomes. Unfortunately, I do not believe this is one of those situations, especially in the short term. Hard decisions need to be made, and it is crucial that those decisions do not unjustly affect those least able to accommodate hardships, our unhoused population.

While I understand condoning camping is a very hard political decision to make, the de-facto policy to concentrate large numbers of unhoused people at Harbor View Park is not a just solution. There should be more areas available, both to enhance safety for our unhoused people and lessen the impact on the immediate neighborhood.

That being said, I do think some reasonable restrictions on camping locations can be beneficial and would be in the public interest. It is especially important to ensure that winter sidewalk snow clearing operations are not impacted by camping, to promote safety of the general public and avoid impacts on campers by heavy snow removal equipment.

Crucially, we need time to start addressing the root causes of homelessness and build housing first facilities and supportive shelters. And we need to identify policy changes at existing shelters to remove barriers that have encouraged people to continue preferring to live outdoors. We should do these things as quickly as possible, but they cannot happen instantly. Furthermore, we will have a new Mayor and new Councilors on board shortly. Let us give the unhoused population a chance to find safer spaces, and our new elected officials, with their fresh perspectives, a chance to work with longer-serving Councilors to find solutions.

For all of these reasons, I advocate you to pass Order 68 with reasonable amendments addressing concerns raised.

Sincerely,

Damon Yakovleff
Bolton Street

From: Damon Yakovleff on behalf of Damon Yakovleff <damon.yakovleff@gmail.com>
To: Dena Libner
Subject: Re: Support for Order 68, with Reasonable Amendments
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 11:35:14 AM

Thank you very much, I will do so.

On Wed, Nov 15, 2023 at 8:45 AM Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov> wrote:

> Thank you for your email.
>
> If you intended your email to be included as written public comment in the November 20 Council agenda materials, please make sure to send it to publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov before November 19, 2023 at 12pm.
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> Chief of Staff
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Sincerely,

Damon Yakovleff
Bolton Street

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From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Jeremy Lock <jlock619@hotmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Encampments in Public Spaces and Parks
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 11:20:33 AM

Dear City Council,
I implore you to not legalize encampments in public spaces and parks as it's a major health and safety risk to all, including camp residents. If allowed, this would be a terrible example of city leadership as your constituents clearly do not want this to happen. Please find a more sensible way to deal with the unhoused population. Thank you for your time.

Jeremy Lock
Broker | Partner

Waypoint Brokers Collective
C | (207) 747-7871
O | (207) 804-2012
jeremy@waypointbrokers.com
waypointbrokers.com
85 Exchange St, 3rd Fl | Portland, ME 04101

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Toji Perlman <tojiperlman@hotmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Encampments in Public parks
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 11:02:59 AM

Hello Representatives,

I would like to write to ask you to remember that in our representative democracy, that you represent the will of all of your constituents. While we must be thoughtful and compassionate toward those who are experiencing homelessness, I hope you keep in mind the wellbeing of those who do have housing and who vote in our communities. One of the reasons that Portland is such a wonderful city is its wonderful parks that all can enjoy. Community comes together in these parks and we get to mix with our neighbors in nature. I believe encampments stop this from happening, and degrade the hard work that our city parks service and various nonprofits put into making the parks a welcoming and safe space. Our common areas are just that. A place for all to use, but not abuse. If they are abused then that hurts all Portlanders. City ordinances protect the parks from abuse and should be upheld. The unhoused situation is complicated and much needs to be done. I challenge you to find solutions that protect the safety and well-being of those experiencing homelessness and those who have homes, such as making services more available, building low income and transitional housing, and leveraging development to contribute to creating a better safety net for low income residents.

Thank You,
Toji Perlman

Sent from my iPhone

From:	cgianniny@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Caitlin Gianniny <cgianniny@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 9:56:54 AM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Caitlin Gianniny
235 Brighton Ave Portland, ME 04102-2336
cgianniny@gmail.com

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of bailey100@gwi.net
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	End the sweeps and support public encampents
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 9:42:06 AM

As long time residents of Portland we are writing to support the proposal by Council Members Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriquez to allow public encampments during the winter months. We understand that this is a temporary only solution but at least it would ease the burdens for the homeless population for a time.

We have been distressed by the sweeps and want them to end and this proposal would help. My father was Joe Kreisler, who started the Preble Street Resource Center. He felt that Portland was mostly a caring place that tried to find humane solutions to the problems faced by those without resources. I often think how distressed he would be if he saw what is happening now with the sweeps.

My husband and I understand that this is a difficult problem with no easy solutions but it is important not to continue to do things that clearly don't work and to try to act in a way that recognizes we are all human beings and should all be treated accordingly.

Thank you.

Janice Bailey

Ken Bailey

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Mary Conroy <mary@portsidereg.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Homelessness encampments
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 9:23:27 AM

Hello
I am writing to tell you that I think this is a horrible idea. You are letting this City fall apart. This will impact real estate values and the cities overall tax basis. We need to take our City back, not give into this situation. Portland has never been a city filled with homelessness. Why are you allowing this to happen before our eyes? I urge you to reconsider.
Sincerely
Mary Conroy

From:	erringtontori@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Max Errington <erringtontori@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 9:16:55 AM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Max Errington
105 Rowe Ave Portland, ME 04102-1421
erringtontori@gmail.com

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Fred Andrews <spectrumrealestatellc@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Encampments
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 9:08:57 AM

Hello,

Please do not do anything that would allow encampments in public spaces and parks!!! You are pouring gasoline on a fire instead of water! Embracing these encampments is steadily driving business and homeowners out of the city. Your legacy as city councilors should be the exact opposite of what you are doing.

I feel you are neglecting the rights of the tax payers in Portland to be able to access and feel safe in areas we pay to use and maintain. This needs to end for all involved.

I look forward to seeing you on Monday night!

Thank you,

Fred Andrews
207-233-6699

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Laura Madsen <laura.madsen@exprealty.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Enough is enough.
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 9:04:26 AM

Hello,

As a citizen, resident, and business owner who operates in Portland, it would concern me greatly if the encampments were allowed to continue here.

There have been concerns addressed by a plethora of concerns from physical safety to destruction of property that the city continues to ignore!

Why is this happening?

The last I knew, there were options for finding a safe indoor facility and adding to the current shelters.

Enough is enough. Those people should be in a shelter and not on the streets of Portland.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns,
Laura

upload image

Laura Walker Madsen
MAINE LIVING REAL ESTATE
Client Specialist + Marketing + Team Support
P: 207.401.5333 M: 207.210.7414
A: 510 Main Street (Rte. 25) Gorham, Maine 04038
W: maineliving.me E: laura@maineliving.me

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Jen Hoffer <jenhoffer4@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Support Order 68
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 8:47:04 AM

Hello,

I urge you to support Order 68; the encampment sweeps are inhumane and do not provide any realistic or accessible alternative for people to go. It is unsettling to me how willing the city has been to literally sweep people without permanent housing to the side, when we could easily allocate resources toward sustainable housing solutions. It is truly perturbing to walk around the city I call home, viscerally feeling how its leaders willingly and callously choose to tend to the wealthy, forgetting the rest of the citizens who make up Portland's heart and soul. It's really devastating to feel the dissonance of the wonderful community of people here next to what feels like pure greed coming from the powers that lead us.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hoffer
86 Vesper St, Portland, ME 04101

From:	"Ed Musholt" via Public Comment on behalf of "Ed Musholt" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Camping in public parks
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 8:38:35 AM

Dear Council Members, It has come to my attention that the city council is considering allowing camping in city parks into the Spring. Having had multiple visits to Portland Oregon, where this is permitted I can attest to the disastrous consequences of such a policy not the least of which has been a significant loss of business and tax revenue. Social discord has increased, the police tasked with maintaining public harmony are demoralized and the ability to help those in need degraded. Citizens avoid utilizing parks their tax dollars support. The city council's rationale appears to be based on the unproven idea that smaller encampments are safer. This is a flawed assumption. This policy will disperse crime through the city, hinder the identification and potential treatment of those who are mentally ill, addicted or both, and lead to significant public health risks. Lack of appropriate sanitation and garbage removal risks infestation of animal vermin such as rats and increases the probability that such populations will seek shelter in the homes of nearby home owners. Once the privilege of camping in parks is allowed there is no guarantee that those camps will remain small. A privilege once granted is hard to rescind and enforce. While the assumption seems to be that smaller is safer it ignores the fact that isolated and impaired individuals are more likely to be victimized. There appears to be no consideration of how people who are predatory will be constrained from traveling about and encroaching on the vulnerable in smaller encampments and an increase in such encampments would seem to be harder to police. I am strongly opposed to such a plan Please carefully consider the consequences of implementing such a plan and the unintended consequences which can ensue. Finally I would like to note that my concerns are formed both by my prior work as a forensic psychologist (now retired) tasked with mitigating public risk in Wisconsin and by my current incarnation as a grandfather in the beautiful state of Maine who wants to ensure the safety of his grandchildren. Please carefully consider how you proceed. I am strongly in support of emergency housing/shelter that can be flexed as needed to preclude people who are homeless from freezing to death in a harsh winter. Simply dispersing people is not humane!

Sincerely, Ed Musholt PhD

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Kristine Matteo <klmatteo0108@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Fwd: Homeless encampments
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 8:37:58 AM

Writing to ensure my voice AGAINST allowing encampments in Portland is public record

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Dena Libner** <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Wed, Nov 15, 2023 at 8:28 AM
Subject: Re: Homeless encampments
To: Kristine Matteo <klmatteo0108@gmail.com>

Thank you for your email.

If you intended your email to be included as written public comment in the November 20 Council agenda materials, please make sure to send it to publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov before November 19, 2023 at 12pm.

Sincerely,

Dena Libner
Chief of Staff

On Tue, Nov 14, 2023 at 6:10 PM Kristine Matteo <klmatteo0108@gmail.com> wrote:

> I strongly oppose the homeless encampments on any public property. It's ruining our town

Notice: Under Maine law, documents - including e-mails - in the possession of public officials or city employees about government business may be classified as public records. There are very few exceptions. As a result, please be advised that what is written in an e-mail could be released to the public and/or the media if requested.

From:	julia.irene.10@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Julia Hazel <julia.irene.10@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 6:33:37 AM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Julia Hazel
104 Lexington Ave Portland, ME 04103-1921
julia.irene.10@gmail.com

From:	emilycharest12@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Emily Charest <emilycharest12@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 11:15:49 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Emily Charest
19 Lunt Rd Falmouth, ME 04105-1235
emilycharest12@gmail.com

From:	weezerann@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Louisa Radtke Rowe <weezerann@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 10:30:59 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Louisa Radtke Rowe
53 Monument St Portland, ME 04101-4571
weezerann@gmail.com

From:	megcharest02@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Meg Charest <megcharest02@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 10:23:15 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Meg Charest
19 Lunt Rd Falmouth, ME 04105-1235
megcharest02@gmail.com

From:	nick3caruso@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Nick Caruso <nick3caruso@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 10:12:50 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Nick Caruso
55 A Main St Topsham, ME 04086-1203
nick3caruso@gmail.com

From:	ashatamiriza@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Asha Tamirisa <ashatamiriza@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 10:08:49 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Asha Tamirisa
88 Bolton St Portland, ME 04102-2502
ashatamiriza@gmail.com

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Kyle Zortman <kyle.zortman@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Pine Street Lights
Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 10:00:50 PM

Hello,

Multiple lights on pine street have been flickering for about a week. Multiple requests have been acknowledged by the public works department. When will these repairs be complete?

Cheers,
Kyle

From:	portland-city.4c4kv@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Octavian Neamtu <portland-city.4c4kv@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 9:05:25 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

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There must be some other solution.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Octavian Neamtu
70 Thomas St Apt 2 Portland, ME 04102-3673
portland-city.4c4kv@passmail.net

From:	hayles1122@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Haley Brandt <hayles1122@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 8:00:25 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Miss Haley Brandt
145 Sherman St Portland, ME 04101-2198
hayles1122@gmail.com

From:	ariannamaiasims@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Arianna Sims <ariannamaiasims@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 7:57:31 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Arianna Sims
1040 Wake Towne Dr Raleigh, NC 27609-7469
ariannamaiasims@gmail.com

From:	xt.spencer@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Christina Spencer <xt.spencer@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 7:07:45 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Christina Spencer
35 Taylor St Apt 1 Portland, ME 04102-3973
xt.spencer@gmail.com

From:	reneelulamichaud@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Renee Michaud <reneelulamichaud@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 6:48:17 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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The people who are calling to complain about the encampment do not have the best interest of Portland's houseless community in mind. The best interest of Portland's houseless community can only be understood by listening to them directly. If y'all continue to silence Portland's houseless community, you will see the City of Portland falter as a result. Encampment sweeps kill. The longer that your sweeping efforts continue, the further the City of Portland demonstrates itself as a Center of Dehumanizing Practices. The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Renee Michaud
131 Sherman St Apt 4 Portland, ME 04101-2103
reneelulamichaud@gmail.com

From:	samspadaforeofficial@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Sampson Spadafore <samspadaforeofficial@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 6:46:45 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sampson Spadafore
304 Eastern Promenade Apt 1 Portland, ME 04101-2719
samspadaforeofficial@gmail.com

From:	isabellaostrowski2@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Izzy Ostrowski <isabellaostrowski2@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 6:39:03 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Izzy Ostrowski
655 Congress St Apt 403 Portland, ME 04101-1311
isabellaostrowski2@gmail.com

From:	bookwormtaxicab@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Caroline Beckwith <bookwormtaxicab@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 6:27:17 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Caroline Beckwith
42 Main Rd N Hampden, ME 04444-1307
bookwormtaxicab@gmail.com

From: pella1228@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Abigail Pelletier <pella1228@everyactioncustom.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 6:23:16 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Abigail Pelletier
111 South St Farmington, ME 04938-6823
pella1228@gmail.com

From:	elsafoggvernon@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Elsa Vernon <elsafoggvernon@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 5:53:01 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Elsa Vernon
61 Saint Lawrence St Portland, ME 04101-5282
elsafoggvernon@gmail.com

From:	awashburn@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Alex Washburn <awashburn@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 4:37:45 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Alex Washburn
255 Maine St Brunswick, ME 04011
awashburn@bowdoin.edu

From:	stactran@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Stacey Tran <stactran@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 4:34:41 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Stacey Tran
7 Deerfield Rd Portland, ME 04101-1805
stactran@gmail.com

From:	mimiwswim@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Maria West <mimiwswim@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 4:18:53 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Maria West
398 HIGH St Wiscasset, ME 04578
mimiwswim@gmail.com

From:	ahmjazz@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Ahmad Muhammad <ahmjazz@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 4:06:19 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mr. Ahmad Muhammad
24 May St Portland, ME 04102-3734
ahmjazz@gmail.com

From:	ahmjazz@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Ahmad Muhammad <ahmjazz@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 4:02:31 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

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Sincerely,
Mr. Ahmad Muhammad
24 May St Portland, ME 04102-3734
ahmjazz@gmail.com

From:	"roger zimmerman" via Public Comment on behalf of "roger zimmerman" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	correction to my 11/14/23 E mail to you.
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 3:55:31 PM

In the 7th paragraph there is an error. In the last line of that paragraph the word "unavoidable" appears.
It should be :
"avoidable"

Please read it with the correction.

Thanks

Roger Zimmerman
14 Pleasant Ave.
Portland, Maine

From:	"roger zimmerman" via Public Comment on behalf of "roger zimmerman" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Passing order 68
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 3:46:53 PM

I urge Portland City Council to stop the criminalization of the homeless population. Passage of order 68 would be a needed corrective.

Sweeps of encampments are but one example-albeit a glaring one-of such criminalization. Passing order 68 would at least put a temporary stop to these 'people clearings'.

Marginalized people make up the majority of the unhoused. That's the reality. We neither help, save money, clean up the city, etc. by simply removing swaths of people and destroying what little they have. What we do accomplish is this: further isolation of citizens who happen to be down and out. Being "down and out" should not be a crime. Here's something else we accomplish: a further entrenchment of the "othering process". These folks are real people, not abstractions. They're fellow citizens.

Out-of-sight, out-of mind, seems to have been the unspoken guideline. We should engage our better angels.

Sweeps have a long history tinged with racism. Such acts also violate human rights that are (presumably) constitutionally protected, e.g. 4th amendment. From a physical health perspective they exacerbate ongoing medical problems. The negative impact on mental and emotional health is obvious, and study findings are available and in the public domain.

Marginalized people lack resources, which is how many individuals end up marginalized in the first place. Sweeping away people does little more than deepen distrust in government and officials. Remember: these are people, these are fellow citizens; not abstractions.

Here's something else. Winter is coming on, which means cold, wet, raw conditions. It is a recipe for serious hypothermia amongst many of the unhoused. As a Registered Maine Guide and Wilderness First Responder (WFR) I can tell you that severe hypothermia is a life threatening condition that is difficult to treat even within a formal medical care unit. To boot, it is pretty unavoidable by providing stable, warm, and decent housing.

I think these sweeps are a waste of public funds. Why? Because they are ineffective; they do not solve the problem of homelessness. They worsen the problem. Again: out-of-sight, out-of-mind appears as the guiding light.

Well, here's a way better guiding light. Provide safe, affordable housing along with access to relevant and necessary social services. Hard to do? You bet. But that's part of your job-the job you applied for.

In a nutshell, here's my bottom line. Criminalizing the down and out , along with it's associated 'get rid of 'em idea, is simply, wrong. Way wrong.

Roger Zimmerman, Ph.D.
14 Pleasant Ave.
Portland, Maine

From:	joannajag1@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Joanna Gerber <joannajag1@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 2:40:46 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Joanna Gerber
229 Derwen Road 229 Derwen Rd 229 Derwen Road Merion Station, PA 19066
joannajag1@gmail.com

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Sosanya Pok <sosanyapok@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Support for order 68 - stop the sweeps!
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 2:10:23 PM

Dear Portland City Council,

I am writing in support of the amendment to order 68 proposed by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez to Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code.

Encampment sweeps are dangerous and not a solution to homelessness. Please stop the sweeps, and focus on real solutions, like more affordable housing for Portlanders.

~~Sosanya Pok (she/her/hers)~~

From:	janbindastenney@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jan Bindas-Tenney <janbindastenney@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 12:49:15 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

I live in South Portland. But I wholeheartedly support this. The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jan Bindas-Tenney
39 Mclean St South Portland, ME 04106-6118
janbindastenney@gmail.com

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Eric Brackett <ericscottbrackett@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Cc:	ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Nov 20th vote
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 12:45:08 PM

As a 10th+ generation Mainer and lifetime Portland resident, my family and household is counting on you to vote against allowing public camping and to remove the encampment at harbor view park. We have been harassed, been broken into, had possessions stolen and have to fear for our safety on a daily basis. This cannot continue in a residential neighborhood.

Please help us.

Your Constituent,

Eric Brackett

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Barbara DeSerres <bildes49@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Order 68 - A Bad Idea
Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 12:26:53 PM

I wish to express my strong opposition to Order 68. It is bad for the homeless people who have chosen to come to Portland. It is bad for those of us who live here. It is disastrous for our public spaces and a threat to the safety of all who live here.

Legalizing camping in public spaces without facilities, especially in the winter, is irresponsible governance. Enabling the desecration of public spaces, which should be accessible to all, is irresponsible governance. Councilors ignoring the opinions of city employees, who maintain and protect our city, is irresponsible governance.

I live in the West End and have participated in and worked toward the development of HarborView Park for the past several years. We have worked with city employees and volunteer groups to clear brush from the embankment, establish gardens and plant native trees and shrubs. It is heartbreaking to see the destruction of our public space. It is deceptive to define the current encampment as the tent city under the Casco Bay Bridge. It is an encampment that is destroying a public park; a fate I would not wish on any of the other 65 parks in Portland.

Barbara DeSerres
West End, Portland

Sent from my iPad

From:	mikayla.patel@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Mikayla Patel <mikayla.patel@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 12:11:57 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Let's think of solutions that center each and every person's humanity first and foremost. Rather than simply brushing people to the side, let's invite everyone into the conversations about how to build the most inclusive and welcoming city for all.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mikayla Patel
9 Jordan St Portland, ME 04103-5343
mikayla.patel@gmail.com

From: council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Aaron Engebreth <aengebreth@hotmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Opposition to Amendment
Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 10:59:35 AM

To the council:

I write in opposition to the amendment forwarded by councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez which would end Homeless Encampment Sweeps and therefore allow homeless camping in public places outdoors in Portland through March.

I believe this proposal to be misguided. Rather, I ask you to please stand with Homeless advocates from around the community by urging increased capacity at existing shelters, placing temporary holds on incoming refugee populations (until we have our house in order here in Portland). Then, we can and should open our arms to refugees again.

The sweeps may be bad optics but allowing the lost, mentally ill and drug addicted to die in cold public parks is far worse.

Aaron Engebreth
69 Morning Street
Portland, Maine

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Susan Lyons <susan.lyons01@gmail.com>
To:	PublicComment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	allowing overnight camping until April 30, 2024
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 10:57:37 AM

Dear City Council members and Mayor:
I write in hopes you will not vote to pass the Encampment Sweeps Moratorium read at the 11/13 council meeting.

First, it's not necessary in the sense that overnight camping has been passively allowed by not enforcing existing provisions around vagrancy, public intoxication, hours of operation of parks.

Second, the encampments do not provide basic warmth, security, safety, or sanitary needs (The two porto-toilets at Harbor View are woefully insufficient.). On the contrary, they are dangerous to the health and welfare of the inhabitants, particularly as they continue to grow.

Third, there's an assumption that the sweeps are cruel and heartless. I don't agree. The City, particularly health and human services, has been diligent about reaching out: onsite workers, access to sheltered options, storage for belongings. I think it's possible to define and work with the subset of unhoused who may not meet the criteria for shelter (pets, families) without demonizing the process of closing down the encampments. It also seems unfair to continue to put public safety officers, city workers, and the campers themselves at risk because of the conditions of the encampments.

Susan Lyons, 25 High Street, #301
Portland 04101

From:	karolyngreenstreet@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Karolyn Buck <karolyngreenstreet@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 10:57:22 AM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

I honestly can't believe we're still having to advocate for this. Why are we punishing people for a systemic problem that they can't do anything about? It's not their fault they are homeless. Our system is broken. Using taxpayer resources to disrupt their lives even more is beyond short sighted, it is cruel and demoralizing for everyone involved. I don't like seeing homeless encampments anymore than anyone else, but at least it's a community. You're just destroying what little these people have. The only thing worse than seeing a homeless encampment, is seeing it get destroyed. Leave the encampments and use those resources to fix the root of the problem. To keep thinking we are fixing the problem by sweeping is the very definition of psychosis.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mrs Karolyn Buck
102 Berrys Mill Rd West Bath, ME 04530-6333
karolyngreenstreet@gmail.com

From:	courtney.pladsen@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Courtney Pladsen <courtney.pladsen@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 9:19:08 AM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Dr. Courtney Pladsen
374 Broadway South Portland, ME 04106-2914
courtney.pladsen@gmail.com

From:	gracevsullivan@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Grace Sullivan <gracevsullivan@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 8:33:28 AM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Ms. Grace Sullivan
26 Stanley St S Portland, ME 04106-6616
gracevsullivan@gmail.com

From:	putnam.hannah@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Ray Putnam <putnam.hannah@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 8:17:47 AM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mx. Ray Putnam
26 Stanley St South Portland, ME 04106-6616
putnam.hannah@gmail.com

From:	mvdavies17@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Marly Davies <mvdavies17@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 8:16:40 AM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Marly Davies
232 Brighton Ave Portland, ME 04102-2343
mvdavies17@gmail.com

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Johannah Hart <hartjohannah1@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Fwd: homeless encampments
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 7:49:42 AM

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Johannah Hart <hartjohannah1@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Nov 11, 2023 at 9:19 AM
Subject: homeless encampments
To: <council@portlandmaine.gov>

Dear councilors,
I urge you to ban homeless encampments on publicly owned land.
While it may be emotionally (& politically) beneficial, it is not the
way to run a city.
Are you familiar w/ Santa Monica CA history? Sincerely, Johannah Hart

From: dwrose201@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Destiny Wilkens <dwrose201@everyactioncustom.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 6:51:42 AM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mx. Destiny Wilkens
645 Congress St Portland, ME 04101-3373
dwrose201@gmail.com

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of DM Nguyen <ruhajj@gmail.com>
To:	council@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Unhoused Portlanders
Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 1:20:33 AM

I have noticed that the encampments in Portland have been disappearing. We have an apartment near my husband's work on Foreriver. The encampments at Foreriver, Deering Oaks, Park and Ride, Noyes building have been disappearing. We thought wow, the city must be helping these folks find shelter for the winter. I felt more comfortable with the tidy cleaned up spaces around town. Honestly, I felt more comfortable about not having to think about my humanity on the way to Whole Foods.

Color me surprised when I heard out front of city hall tonight (from folks living it) that the city of Portland has been playing "wack a mole", chasing the unhoused from location to location.

Each time a location is swept, people are dispersed to become even less visible, less protected (by each other, and social services), and more vulnerable. They loose what little they have and instead of keeping appointments for help, medical care, housing appointments they have to find food for the day, blankets, coats, shoes, shelter…

We are reminded, a measure of a people is how their most vulnerable are treated. We need to pass order 68 and stop encampment sweeps. Let's temporarily created designated safer spaces for folks to camp in instead of hiding our impoverishes, our vulnerable, our marginalized.

Thank you,

Dawn Nguyen and Laurence Averill
35 Frederic St, Apt 3
Portland, ME 04102

From: council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Alexa Pappas <apappas319@gmail.com>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: PLEASE PASS ORDER 68
Date: Monday, November 13, 2023 11:14:55 PM

Hello,

I urge you all to pass order 68 as the first of many necessary steps the city must take to ensure our unhoused neighbors are taken care of. Each sweep is a racist, violent, traumatic upheaval of camp sites providing the community and safety this city fails to. As a social worker and former outreach worker with our unhoused community from 2018-2022, I have seen first hand the devastation these sweeps have on my friends living in encampments. Every death of our unhoused family is preventable and a failure of the city of Portland to protect its own. Stop listening to the egregiously ignorant individuals complaining about people camping out and listen to the data and personal stories of people dying as a direct result of these displacements and the importance of these communities. Passing order 68 is the bare minimum, do your jobs and care about your people.

Alexa Pappas, East End
--
All the best,

Alexa Pappas

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Alexa Pappas <apappas319@gmail.com>
To:	counsil@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	PLEASE PASS ORDER 68
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 11:11:29 PM

Hello,

I urge you all to pass order 68 as the first of many necessary steps the city must take to ensure our unhoused neighbors are taken care of. Each sweep is a racist, violent, traumatic upheaval of camp sites providing the community and safety this city fails to. As a social worker and former outreach worker with our unhoused community from 2018-2022, I have seen first hand the devastation these sweeps have on my friends living in encampments. Every death of our unhoused family is preventable and a failure of the city of Portland to protect its own. Stop listening to the egregiously ignorant individuals complaining about people camping out and listen to the data and personal stories of people dying as a direct result of these displacements and the importance of these communities. Passing order 68 is the bare minimum, do your jobs and care about your people.

--

All the best,

Alexa Pappas

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Jessica Barker <jessybarker77@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Support for order 68 - stop the sweeps!
Date: Monday, November 13, 2023 11:04:19 PM

Dear Portland City Council,

I am writing in support of the amendment to order 68 proposed by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez to Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code.

Encampment sweeps are dangerous and not a solution to homelessness. Please stop the sweeps, and focus on real solutions, like more affordable housing for Portlanders.

Sent from my iPhone

From:	council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of jude brzozowski <judebrzski@gmail.com>
To:	council@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	LD 68
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 10:49:06 PM

Dear Council,
I'm writing to express my support for LD 68 to enact a moratorium on encampment sweeps. While it is clear that some community members are upset by the visibility of the unhoused community, sweeping encampments does nothing but make it more difficult for unhoused people to get back onto their feet because it causes them to lose both important belongings such as identification and fragments the unhoused community. When people lose their identification in sweeps (which is to say when their belongings are stolen by the police) it makes it significantly more difficult to maintain benefits, employment, housing, and other services, making it even more difficult for them to improve their circumstances. Encampment sweeps try to shove people around the city as if that will make them disappear. A fair and just community would not do that to people with nowhere else to go.
Please pass LD68 and prove that Portland is a compassionate community, Seek to get people into homes instead of shoving them around the city and fragmenting their communities.

Jude Brzozowski
106 Ocean Avenue, Old Orchard Beach, ME

From: sarah.s.katz@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Sarah Katz <sarah.s.katz@everyactioncustom.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Please: Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date: Monday, November 13, 2023 10:42:35 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sarah Katz
61 Monument St Portland, ME 04101-4367
sarah.s.katz@gmail.com

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Stephen Carpenter <presumpscot@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Support for order 68 - stop the sweeps!
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 10:42:35 PM

Dear Portland City Council,

I am writing in support of the amendment to order 68 proposed by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez to Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code.

Encampment sweeps are dangerous and not a solution to homelessness. Please stop the sweeps, and focus on real solutions, like more affordable housing for Portlanders.

Sent from my iPhone

From:	janelleanastacio@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Janelle Anastacio <janelleanastacio@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 10:31:32 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Janelle Anastacio
15 Memory Ln Buxton, ME 04093-3765
janelleanastacio@gmail.com

From:	ginnjulien@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of jules ginn <ginnjulien@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps now!!! Pass Order 68-23/24!
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 10:27:07 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
jules ginn
62 Marion Jordan Rd Scarborough, ME 04074-9422
ginnjulien@gmail.com

From: stroutjulia@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Julia Strout <stroutjulia@everyactioncustom.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date: Monday, November 13, 2023 10:22:21 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Julia Strout
74 Winter St Apt 3 Portland, ME 04102-5323
stroutjulia@gmail.com

From: council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Ryan Kleinert <ryan.kleinert@gmail.com>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Order 68
Date: Monday, November 13, 2023 9:50:04 PM

Portland City Council,

I am a resident of Portand and I am strongly urging you to Pass order 68 to stop the callous encampment sweeps!!! Encampment sweeps are not the answer! They have dire consequences on our unhoused neighbors.I urge you to choose compassion and empathy and pass order 68.

Sincerely,

-Ryan Kleinert

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Ryan Kleinert <ryan.kleinert@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Order 68
Date: Monday, November 13, 2023 9:49:38 PM

Portland City Council,

I am a resident of Portand and I am strongly urging you to Pass order 68 to stop the callous encampment sweeps!!! Encampment sweeps are not the answer! They have dire consequences on our unhoused neighbors.I urge you to choose compassion and empathy and pass order 68.

Sincerely,

-Ryan Kleinert

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Penelope Simpson <penelopesimpson03@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the Sweeps.
Date: Monday, November 13, 2023 9:37:31 PM

Hello,
I'm a Portland resident writing to urge Portland city councilors to support Order 68. I want to be a part of a community that shows all of its members kindness and compassion. Unhoused people have the right to exist. Criminalizing people simply because they cannot afford housing further perpetuates the systemic violence that puts people on the streets in the first place. Sweeps threaten people's constitutional rights, worsen the homelessness crisis, and disproportionately harm Black and Brown people. Stopping the sweeps will give people a chance to survive the winter months in the communities they have built.
Sincerely,
Penelope Simpson
14 Hamlin Ct.
Portland, ME
04102

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Annika Schmitt <annikarea.76@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Stop the Sweeps
Date: Monday, November 13, 2023 9:37:29 PM

Hello,

I am a Portland resident writing to voice my support for passing order 68-23/24. It's important to me to be a part of a community that shows kindness to all of its members. With colder months approaching and the health and safety of our neighbors in jeopardy, I hope that we may all do what we can to help and to show empathy.

Annika Schmitt
14 Hamlin Crt
Portland, ME 04101

From:	jillianmcleodtardiff@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jillian McLeod-Tardoff <jillianmcleodtardiff@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 9:37:07 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jillian McLeod-Tardoff
6 Robinson Ave Brunswick, ME 04011-2810
jillianmcleodtardiff@gmail.con

From:	algross96@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Arielle Gross <algross96@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 9:34:07 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Arielle Gross
59 Oakdale St # 1 Portland, ME 04103-4834
algross96@gmail.com

From:	penelopesimpson03@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Penelope Simpson <penelopesimpson03@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps! Pass Order 68-23/24!
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 9:23:00 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Penelope Simpson
14 Hamlin Ct Apt 2 Portland, ME 04102-4006
penelopesimpson03@gmail.com

From:	annikarea.76@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Annika Schmitt <annikarea.76@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 9:21:17 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Annika Schmitt
14 Hamlin Ct Portland, ME 04102-4006
annikarea.76@gmail.com

From:	council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Eva Fury <eva@furyeveryday.com>
To:	Council@portlandmaine.gov; Publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Pass Order 68: Stop the Encampment Sweeps
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 8:55:58 PM

Dear Portland City Council,
Please pass order 68 and stop clearing encampments of people experiencing homelessness. Sweeping the encampments breaks up communities trying to survive and access basic care. The sweeps are killing people and making it even more challenging for service workers to provide aid to the most vulnerable.

I would like to live in a city that cares for individual human life and dignity, a city that honors the life of the living as we mourn those lost in Lewiston and Maine this year. Stand on the side of justice and community. Stop the sweeps.

Eva Fury
22 Orange Street
Portland, Maine 04102

--
Eva Fury
(they/them)

Ask me about Kindling Collective

From:	sagefriedman@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Sage Friedman <sagefriedman@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24 because it is the right thing to do
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 8:40:36 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sage Friedman
126 North St Unit 2D Portland, ME 04101-5709
sagefriedman@gmail.com

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Jay Stonerook <jestonerook@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Support for order 68 - stop the sweeps!
Date: Monday, November 13, 2023 8:33:52 PM

Dear Portland City Council,

I am writing in support of the amendment to order 68 proposed by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodríguez to Chapters 17, 18, and 25 of the City Code.

Encampment sweeps are dangerous and not a solution to homelessness. Please stop the sweeps, and focus on real solutions, like more affordable housing for Portlanders.

There is nowhere for our unhoused neighbors to go. They often lose many of their belongings in these sweeps, including items donated by the housed community to help them survive living outside, and simply end up at another encampment. The only problem solved by sweeping encampments is preventing the more privileged of us from having to see them. It does not provide housing. It does not encourage those without homes to seek help at shelters. It only proves to them that the city does not care about them as humans, but sees them as a nuisance.

I know how lucky I am to have housing, even if I can barely afford my studio apartment in Portland with my full time, salaried position. I am lucky to have only ever been temporarily without housing, and lucky to have had friends with couches to crash on. I am lucky to have avenues through which I can access my medications. I am lucky not to have to drink myself into a stupor just to get a bit of sleep.

Please consider the actual ramifications of these actions. When you put the interests of businesses above these individuals, you show just how little they mean to you.

They are people. A few more missed paychecks and I could be right there with them. I'm sure many Portlanders would. These are our neighbors. Treat them as such. I challenge you to get to know them, any of them.

Stop the sweeps.

Thank you,
Jay Stonerook
District 1 Constituent

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Drew Sigfridson <dsigfridson@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 8:33:10 PM

I am not in favor of creating a temporary exception to the city's prohibition on camping and loitering on City property from the date of amendment through April 30, 2024.

This is a dangerous and slippery slope we are going down as a city and the city's policies could have a detrimental impact and compound an already dire situation.

An alternative strategy may be to temporary lift the cost-prohibitive green building code upgrade requirements and/or zoning restrictions to get people out of the weather for the winter months, on a temporary basis, in existing, vacant buildings.

Drew Sigfridson

69 Brookside Road

Portland Maine 04103

C: 207.831.5838

From:	"Constantina Vathis" via Public Comment on behalf of "Constantina Vathis" via Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	ATrevorrow@PortlandMaine.gov; RRodriguez@PortlandMaine.gov
Cc:	PublicComment@PortlandMaine.gov
Subject:	Homeless Encampments
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 8:18:35 PM

Dear Ms. Trevorrow and Mr. Rodriguez,

I am writing regarding my concern for the Encampment Sweeps Moratorium which will allow overnight camping in several city parks and on sidewalks throughout the city until April 30, 2024.

Allowing tents to stay in our parks through April, or any timeframe for that matter, is not the answer. This is a very dangerous idea and as a homeowner in the West End of Portland, I am 110% against this.

Allowing encampments will bring nothing but negative results for our community. Small business owners will suffer, our residents will no longer be able to enjoy our parks, tourism will decline, and our overall safety is at risk which should be a top priority for you as our City Council Members.

I have witnessed drug sales and drug use in the middle of the day in multiple encampment locations around the city. This cannot be allowed; we cannot let this happen.

Our parks and neighborhoods must remain safe places for our community to enjoy.

Thank you for your time,
Constantina Vathis
Portland, Maine

From:	adynnkitchin@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Adynn Kitchin <adynnkitchin@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 7:57:51 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Adynn Kitchin
25 Bedford St Portland, ME 04101-1929
adynnkitchin@gmail.com

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Isabelle Jade <isajaded@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Order 68
Date: Monday, November 13, 2023 7:44:23 PM

To members of the Portland City Council,

I am writing to urge the passage of Order 68 to temporarily stop the sweeps and the enforcement of the public camping and loitering bands. The current protocol and continuing actions taken by the city to displace unhoused Portlanders— our community members—are dangerous, counterproductive, and in direct conflict with the moral and ethical conscience of the citizens of this city, state, and country.

Social service workers and folks on the front lines of this issue are begging for a change in policy and approach. Sweeps break trust between the city's institutions/social resources and the populations who need support, derailing any hope of moving forward and upward. If the city is going to rely on non-profit and volunteer organizations to carry the brunt of the work to keep our unhoused population safe, we NEED to honor their requests and listen to their pleas. Stopping the sweeps will save lives.

We need concrete solutions to our housing crisis and homelessness in the city, and until we can find these solutions we MUST center policy around compassion and the acknowledgment of basic human rights and decency. It is the only way to keep ALL community members safe, build trust between citizens, government, and service workers, and pave the way for a better future for the city of Portland.
Thank you for your time and for your vote,
Isabelle Jade Desroches
28 Norwood st, Portland ME 04103

From:	mebecks@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Elise Becksvoort <mebecks@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 7:41:24 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mx. Elise Becksvoort
23 Linden St Auburn, ME 04210-4738
mebecks@gmail.com

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Mat Mahoney <mat.mahoney@gmail.com>
To:	pali@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov
Cc:	PublicComment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Encampment Sweeps Moratorium
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 7:15:25 PM

Dear City Council Members

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed Encampment Sweeps Moratorium legislation that would legalize overnight camping throughout our cities parks and green spaces. As a Portland resident, home owner and taxpayer, I believe this measure would have detrimental effects on our neighborhood for several reasons.

Firstly, the preservation of public spaces is crucial for the community's well-being. Our parks are designed for daytime recreational activities, not for sustained overnight use. Permitting overnight camping will only lead to overuse and degradation of these cherished green spaces, ultimately diminishing their beauty and utility for everyone.

Secondly, there are significant safety and health concerns to consider. An increase in overnight occupancy will only further add to existing sanitation issues, illegal drug use and petty crime in the city. Something I'm sure we can all agree is a bad idea.

Furthermore, this proposal will inadvertently aggravate the homelessness issue and not help it as it's only a temporary fix. While I empathize with the plight of the unhoused, allowing camping in public spaces is not the answer.

Our parks should remain spaces where residents can safely enjoy recreation and relaxation, not areas burdened with the complexities of overnight camping.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response and am hopeful for a resolution that prioritizes the well-being and safety of our entire community.

Sincerely,

Mathew Mahoney
9 Lewis st
Portland, Maine

From:	nikanorris9@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Nika Norris <nikanorris9@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 7:13:35 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Nika Norris
261 Northeast Rd Standish, ME 04084-6452
nikanorris9@icloud.com

From:	finleymacdonald309@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Finley MacDonald <finleymacdonald309@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 6:45:53 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

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The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mx. Finley MacDonald
40 Lily Ln New Gloucester, ME 04260-4063
finleymacdonald309@gmail.com

From:	katesullivanjones@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Kathleen Sullivan-Jones <katesullivanjones@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 6:42:27 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

We need to create a sanctioned camping area and take actual steps to create housing for people instead of just temporary shelter. Anyone who supports these sweeps will never get my vote.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Sullivan-Jones
96 Front St Portland, ME 04103-4904
katesullivanjones@gmail.com

From:	magnolia.vinci@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Magnolia Vinci <magnolia.vinci@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 6:41:26 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

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Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Ms Magnolia Vinci
25 Bedford St Portland, ME 04101-1929
magnolia.vinci@maine.edu

From:	candice.lasalle@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Candice LaSalle <candice.lasalle@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 6:19:22 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Candice LaSalle
9 Hilltop Dr Old Orchard Beach, ME 04064-1513
candice.lasalle@gmail.com

From:	abardales95@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Audrey Ramirez-Bardales <abardales95@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 5:55:40 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Audrey Ramirez-Bardales
124 Park Ave Portland, ME 04101-2171
abardales95@gmail.com

From:	gabelasalle27@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Gabriel LaSalle <gabelasalle27@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 5:34:21 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Gabriel LaSalle
9 Hilltop Dr Old Orchard Beach, ME 04064-1513
gabelasalle27@gmail.com

From:	laney.pacheco@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Eleni Pacheco <laney.pacheco@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 5:01:19 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Eleni Pacheco
12 Trueworthy Ave Augusta, ME 04330-3942
laney.pacheco@yahoo.com

From:	akanehsemionenyc@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Akaneh Semione Draper <akanehsemionenyc@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 4:46:27 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Akaneh Semione Draper
119 Morning St Apt 8 Portland, ME 04101-3249
akanehsemionenyc@gmail.com

From:	mariamylena1@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Maria Vargas <mariamylena1@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 4:38:29 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Maria Vargas
64 King St # 2 Westbrook, ME 04092-3535
mariamylena1@gmail.com

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of bstauffer@eco-story.com
To:	ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; PAli@PortlandMaine.gov; "April Fournier"; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; ATrevorrow@PortlandMaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; "Andrew Zarro"; mdion@portlandmaine.gov
Cc:	"Danielle West"; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	encampments
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 4:18:36 PM

Dear Councilors:

My name is Bill Stauffer. I am a small business owner in Portland and the current board president of Mechanics Hall. The increase in the homeless population has been something many of us have watched with a great sense of humility and frustration – frustration in the sense that we often feel helpless to make a difference. Over the last several years, I have had to make changes to my own business practices, such as adding camera systems, locking buildings 24/7, additional security lighting, etc. Some of this is the price of doing business in Maine's largest City. Graffiti clean up, human waste clean up, needle clean up, trash clean up, etc has certainly increased but has always been "part of the job." More recently, however, we and our tenant base have experienced physical threats, broken windows, and theft. It is my belief that legalizing the encampments lacks the thoughtfulness and creativity of better solutions. It seems obvious that doing so will increase our already large numbers of homeless from away. Yet, it also will legitimize unsafe living in our City. As a father of two young daughters who work in Portland, they have faced harassment, threats, and people overdosing in the bathrooms of their place of work (CBL). I have spoken to numerous businesses that are planning to leave the City. Clearly, many have already chosen to shut their doors, evident by middle Congress Street. We all want to work toward a solution. But legitimizing the encampments clearly does so in the face of many of your other constituents, from homeowners to business owners. We are here to be part of the solution if you seek our help, but protecting our interests and our children must be part of the solution, and not an afterthought, which is what this proposal feels like. Thank you, Bill Stauffer

Bill Stauffer
PH: (207) 699-5727 x11
FX: (207) 699-2321

Storrey Industries
Eco-story LED Lighting
151 Newbury Street
Portland, ME 04101
USA
www.eco-story.com

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From:	emmaplishness@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Emma Lishness <emmaplishness@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 4:12:02 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Emma Lishness
39 Maggie Ln Portland, ME 04103-6500
emmaplishness@gmail.com

From:	celestial.familiar@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Brittany Heizler <celestial.familiar@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 4:07:53 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

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The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Additionally, consider reallocating funding that would have gone toward a sweep to resources to assist our houseless community in portland in more safe and just ways. Consider funding meals, clothing, shelter programming, mental health resources, etc.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Brittany Heizler
89 Sheridan St Apt 2 Portland, ME 04101-2657
celestial.familiar@gmail.com

From:	jenniferheald8154@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jennifer Heald <jenniferheald8154@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 3:59:54 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Ms. Jennifer Heald
880 Forest Ave Apt 7-8 Portland, ME 04103-4115
jenniferheald8154@gmail.com

From:	samuel.crankshaw@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Samuel Crankshaw <samuel.crankshaw@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 3:50:48 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

The forcible displacement of our unhoused neighbors risks violating their constitutional rights. Sweeps also risk public health and safety by destroying people's property, including life-saving supplies like tents, sleeping bags, medicine, and legal documentation.

Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

The work of building a just, equitable, and inclusive city is on the line. Criminalizing people's very existence simply because they cannot afford housing is counterproductive, cruel, and goes against our city's core principles. It also exacerbates racial disparities. I urge you to further racial and economic equity in our city by funding evidence-based solutions to homelessness that give people the support they need to thrive on their own terms.

Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Samuel Crankshaw
79 Revere St Apt 1 Portland, ME 04103-4009
samuel.crankshaw@gmail.com

From:	recluse@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Ian Hernandez <recluse@everyactioncustom.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Stop the Sweeps, Pass Order 68-23/24
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 3:38:16 PM

Dear Portland City Council Public Comment,

As a Portland resident, I am writing to ask you to support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property, sponsored by Councilors Anna Trevorrow and Roberto Rodriguez.

Since May 2023, there have been six large encampment sweeps in Portland. These sweeps and routine enforcement of the city's camping ban have forcibly displaced hundreds of unhoused people.

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Ultimately, sweeps and camping bans worsen the city's homelessness crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, particularly Black people. I, along with the vast majority of Portland residents, support racial and economic justice and equity. To get there, Portland must invest in affordable housing and adequate shelter – not violently push unhoused residents out of public view.

With winter fast approaching, sweeps present even greater dangers. Portland City Council must take immediate action to temporarily stop enforcement of these policies.

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Forcible displacement is the wrong approach for our city. We cannot continue harming the legal rights, health, and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please support Order 68-23/24 to temporarily suspend the city's bans on camping and loitering.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Ian Hernandez
142 Court St Farmington, ME 04938-5923
recluse@gmail.com

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Ashley Flowers <ashschmid@gmail.com>
To:	Public Comments for City Council Meetings
Subject:	No Camping in Public Parks
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 2:08:13 PM

To the Portland City Council,

Regarding Order #68-23/24
Please keep our parks safe and clean for families and children to recreate and enjoy the beauty of the outdoors by keeping them free from tent encampments. Please find alternative solutions for people experiencing houselessness that do NOT include them setting up camp in our cities parks and public green spaces.

Gratefully,

Ashley Schmid
17 Fernald Terrace
Portland, ME 04103

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Keri Lord <oliviamine58@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; Steve Campbell
Subject:	Camping ordinance, Fitzpatrick contract
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 1:45:45 PM

Dear Council, Mayor, Corpoation Counsel

Keri Lord
58 Deering St

I am long time, resident participant in city government. I write to tell you that the proposed amendments to the camping ordinance is a huge detriment to our city. You should not support it in anyway! It is not our only option! Portland government is not and should not take responsibility for all these people in need! We have 3 other layers of government that should be doing their share: County, State Legislaters/Governor.
They are absent from this crisis... the Governor has proudly reported that our "Rainy Day" fund is bulging. I urge you to get really tough w the above levels. They are not doing their part... they are suckering our welcoming city.
Time to stand up for our city Councilors! Its pouring,and we have no raincoat or umberella....

The contract for use of Fitzpatrick field property.... whoever negotiated it gave away the candy store! My guess is the "Club" wrote most of it. Needs to be renegotiated much more favorably for the city... makes us look like patsys.

Respectfully
Keri Lord
58 Deering St

From: council@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Abby Gordon <abby.gordon@gmail.com>
To: council@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: HSC beds/Encampments Vote
Date: Monday, November 13, 2023 12:30:38 PM

Dear City Councilors,

As a resident and taxpayer in the Portland Downtown district, I am writing to express my strong support for additional HSC beds and any other support these facilities may need. I am also writing to share my ***very strong*** disagreement with any legalization or normalization of encampments. Not only does this pose a real public safety concern (especially for women such as me, living and often walking the streets alone), but it is unfair to our homeless neighbors. I sincerely hope you will vote accordingly.

Best,
Abigail

_____

Abigail Gordon
10 Exchange Street #314
Portland, ME 04101

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Jenny Potter Scheu <jpscheu@gwi.net>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	PLEASE VOTE YES on Order 37-23/24 Tonight ….and next week, DO NOT SANCTION NOR ACCEPT HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 12:29:45 PM

City Councillors!

PLEASE VOTE YES on Order 37-23/24 on November 13,2023.

and
next week, November 20,2023

Please DO NOT SANCTION NOR ACCEPT HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS

THANK YOU

Jenny Scheu
29 Waterville Street #3
Portland ME 04101

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Lauren Sterling <laurenannsterling@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Unhoused Encampments
Date: Monday, November 13, 2023 12:28:19 PM

Dear Councilors Trevorrow, Rodriquez, Fournier, Pelletier, Phillips, Zarro, Dion, and Mayor Snyder.

I am writing to express my concern and strong disagreement with the proposed amendments to the Portland City Code chapters 17, 18, and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property sponsored by Councilors Roberto Rodriguez and Anna Trevorrow, my East Bayside Councilor.

These proposed changes, as I understand them, would create a temporary exception to the City's prohibition on camping and loitering on City property, which would allow unhoused people to camp on certain public properties from the effective date of the amendments to April 30, 2024.

There are several issues I have with the proposed code changes to allow our unhoused community -- forever growing -- because of inaction on the part of the City Council.

The first is that the well-developed, comprehensive plans outlined by the professionals in the field at Preble Street have been ignored leading up to these proposed changes. They include:

- **Supporting the health and safety needs of the entire community** by providing essential services for unsheltered individuals such as water, toilets, food, medical care, mental health, and substance use treatment.
- **Creating an Intentional Plan to shelter and house unsheltered individuals**. More than 100 beds will soon be available at the City of Portland's Homeless Services Center (and others as we now know from Kate Snyder's Nov 10th notice), and we cannot afford to squander this opportunity. For this plan to be successful, it must be created in partnership with unsheltered individuals.
- **Continuing efforts to make City shelters more low-barrier and accessible** to people who are living outside.

Absent any action by the City Council on the above recommendations, the Preble leadership is now supporting the code changes, which they presumably believe is a more compassionate direction than the encampment sweeps. It's understandable. Nobody wants people, whether they are residents or not to be cold, hungry, or in harm's way, myself included. Getting people into shelters should be the priority.

However, scattering the unhoused community, over 80% of which are dealing with addiction and/or mental health crises, across the city's small, neighborhood parks and spaces – spaces used by residents of all ages to get from one place to the other for work

or otherwise, is not going to improve the safety of the unhoused, and only threaten the safety of the rest of the city's resident population.

It seems that Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriquez believe it will be safer for campers to be in smaller groups but have suggested nothing in the proposal to ensure that's the outcome.

It seems, at the very least, the following questions need answers before changing the code.

What will the cost be for health staff and law enforcement to manage this long list of public spaces to ensure safety and health for the unhoused, the residents, and the neighborhoods in which they sit?

In what way will these code changes advance the execution of increased emergency shelter space in which to better assess and serve the unhoused?

In what ways is the city engaging with the county and state agencies and planners to manage the unhoused and the lack of safe emergency shelter and treatment?

I'm grateful that Portland has elected Mark Dion and look forward to benefitting from his experience and strategic thinking. I hope this code change proposal is rejected to give the mayor-elect the opportunity to work with the Council to consider a better alternative than what's been submitted. The unhoused deserve better, and so do the rest of Portland's residents and taxpayers.

Thank you, all, for your service to the community.

Lauren Sterling
Cell in U.S. 207-465-5228
Cell in Puyloubier, FR +33-07-87-40-84-19
laurenannsterling@gmail.com

Ask me about these great Maine organizations:
Palaver Strings
https://www.palaverstrings.org/about

Maine State Music Theater
https://msmt.org/

McGillicuddy Humanities Center at University of Maine
https://umaine.edu/mhc/

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Nikki Williams <nikki.eleni.williams@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Fwd: Stop the encampment sweeps!
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 12:24:00 PM

Dear elected officials,

My name is Nikki Williams and I live at 68 Berkeley St in Portland. I'm writing to implore the City to stop the sweeps of tent encampments in Portland. It is inhumane and poor policy. It does not make any situation better, but just redirects us away from solutions and shatters people's lives in the process.

As a city, we have to do better for ALL of our residents and neighbors. I urge you to adopt the proposal to allow public camping as you continue to pursue policies that support people to find safe and affordable housing for themselves and their families.

Sincerely,
Nikki

Nikki Williams (she/her)
917.612.0424

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Tom Doherty <tdoherty@milestone-recovery.org>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Milestone Recovery Statement on Unsheltered Homelessness
Date: Monday, November 13, 2023 12:23:15 PM

Dear Councilors, Mayor Snyder, Manager West,

On behalf of the staff and board of Milestone Recovery and as a resident of Portland, I want to applaud your time and effort working to meet the crisis in housing/sheltering in our city, while also expressing my concerns regarding the needs of our unhoused neighbors.

Unsheltered homelessness is at a crisis level right now, a level never before seen in Portland. To protect the lives of its citizens, it is imperative that Portland lift the shelter cap imposed in May 2022. The decisions you make now will either entrench the issue of unsheltered homelessness or return Portland to being what it once was: a model community with low levels of unsheltered homelessness.

Unsheltered homelessness was not always so prevalent in our city. In 1987 City Manager Bob Ganley established a policy that no one in Portland would be unsheltered. When shelter capacity was reached or exceeded, additional resources were brought online, perhaps not a bed, but a warm place where people could be safe, both from the elements and from predation. For 35 years we got this issue right and there were small numbers of folks outside. For 35 years police, outreach workers and hospitals had a place to send people when they encountered them. For 35 years there was not exponential growth in the need for emergency shelter. In May 2022 the City reversed that longstanding policy and began capping shelter beds. Without safe options in place, we have seen dangerous exponential growth in encampments.

Last winter there were about 80 people unsheltered in Portland. Milestone's HOME Team, using privately raised funds, worked tirelessly to keep these citizens alive, shuttling food, clothing, and other critical resources to encampments throughout the City; we just made it. I was astounded that we had no deaths due to hypothermia last year.

As I write this there are 215 tents in Portland with winter fast approaching. Despite our best efforts, here is no way we can keep all those people alive this winter. If we go down the road of not providing opening adequate shelter and moving folks indoors, preventable deaths from hypothermia are inevitable, and the results will be devastating to our unhoused neighbors, as well as to the police, paramedics, and outreach teams that need to deal with the aftermath. A death from overdose takes an emotional toll on first responders, but a preventable death from hypothermia will even more so. To underline this was the article in the Press Hearld I saw yesterday morning about 4 deaths of unsheltered individuals in Anchorage during a storm.

Even as we see the terrible suffering in encampments, we must also recognize the detrimental effects of forcibly closing those encampments without first providing adequate alternatives. Mental illness, substance use, and general distrust of the system all increase when an encampment is forcibly dispersed. The Department of Housing and Urban Development, National Alliance to End Homelessness, and US Interagency Council on Homelessness all report that people whose belongings are destroyed in an encampment sweep are less likely to engage with the shelter system, less likely to find long-term housing, less likely to engage with medical or mental health care, and more likely to die of overdose than those who are engaged in outreach while living in camps.

We have all seen the devastating harm of both the sweeps and large encampments. Both these approaches are dangerous and deadly to the marginalized folks they impact. We need a third, well proven response: sheltering into housing.

Permanent housing is the only long-term, sustainable solution to homelessness, and shelter is the proven avenue to housing. Last month alone, Milestone's Housing Navigator helped four formerly chronically homeless individuals find permanent housing: four individuals who had occupied over 1300 bed-nights in local shelters! The Team at the HSC likewise does truly amazing work getting people into housing, clearing bed capacity to serve more folks coming into the shelter system. Through its Long-Term Stayers initiative, the City heads a public-private coalition that is at the cutting edge of moving people from shelter to permanent housing, but these efforts are undermined when full shelter options are not provided.

With the HSC and new Asylum seekers shelter, we now have the facilities and resources to go back to the proven approach that served Portland well for over three decades. Now is the time to take the bold steps that Bob Ganley took 36 years ago and commit to serving our neighbors not with an eviction notice and a front-end loader, not with a tarp in a parking lot, but with real, sustainable, long-term housing options. The City's services are wonderful resources that can do more for our community. Milestone can and will do its part too. We are working hard to get folks into safe shelter. We are working to counter misinformation about the City shelter with clear information about the policies and conditions at the HSC. We are looking to increase the overflow capacity of Milestone's own Emergency Shelter as much as our tiny facility can handle.

In summation, sweeping encampments and allowing unfettered growth in encampments are both oversimplified solutions to a very complex problem. We need to undertake better, more difficult solutions for our unhoused neighbors. Now is the time to reintroduce the bold, proven policy that worked for 35 years for our City, our people. As a first and critical step, I strongly urge the City to reverse its May 2022 decision to cap shelter availability.

Thank you for your service to this city and attention to this vexing issue.
Tom

"Tom" Thomas Doherty M.S.W. (he/him/his)
Executive Director
Milestone Recovery
65 India Street
Portland, ME 04101
www.milestone-recovery.org
www.linkedin.com/company/milestone-recovery-maine
(207)775-4790 Ext 114

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Brian Townsend <briant@commonspacemaine.org>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	For: Order 68 (Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18 and 25 re: Camping and Loitering on Public Property).
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 12:21:53 PM

Dear City Councilors and Mayor Snyder,

I'm the Executive Director at Commonspace (known until recently as Amistad), and I am writing to strongly encourage all of you, in the name of what is best for our community members who are unhoused and unsheltered, to reject the current effort to amend existing City rules, enforcements, and strategies related to camping and loitering. I first want to acknowledge that this amendment proposal has very evidently been put forward with good intention, with compassion, and out of an effort to comprehend and act upon the multiple reports and opinions presented to this Council over the last many months. The Council has heard from a range of voices, including community members who simply want this "problem" to go away, advocates and outreach workers who have passionately described the traumatic impact of encampment sweeps, and people living within the encampments who have asked for humane and urgent attention to their circumstances. Regrettably, I don't believe that the Council has heard in adequate measure from the numerous agencies whose missions involve deep connection with the community of Portlanders experiencing homelessness.

With the long season of cold weather already upon us, our community needs to maintain a laser focus on getting all our community members indoors. Three previous obstacles--insufficient number of shelter beds, a learning curve for the component parts of the ECRT, and the relative comfort of warm weather-- have been removed. In a couple of weeks the Homeless Services Center will have over 120 beds made available by the opening of the new shelter for asylum seekers (and will optimally have the 50 additional beds made available as an emergency response measure by this Council), the ECRT's collective focus on and success with supporting people into shelter and housing has vastly improved with time and experience, and the work of encouraging people to accept support is far simpler when the ground is frozen and the risks of harm from exposure are real and immediate. Our community team and our HUD-supported effort is in place, and we will soon have an adequate number of indoor options to successfully bring all Portlanders indoors.

Beyond this, we owe it to all Portlanders, and especially to our unhoused residents, to stop romanticizing encampments, which are hubs of misery, violence, and exploitation. Given the number of people we see victimized and exploited within the encampments on a daily basis, it seems to me that it must require a great deal of emotional distance and privilege for anyone to emphasize "the right to live outdoors" as the issue at stake here. And while I love and respect our community advocates for their Stop the Sweeps efforts, any advocacy that holds as its focus the relief of harms to our unsheltered neighbors must have an equal focus on stopping the harms that are occurring because the encampments exist. The sweeps of encampments are traumatic. The encampments themselves are traumatic. The answer: bring everyone inside.

Especially now. It is November. In years past, up until this very recent phenomenon of high-volume encampments, a very few hardy souls would weather the winter outdoors in Portland. We still remember some for whom this effort ended tragically. The others, at the onset of winter, suddenly

discovered other options to get out of the cold. Those options were often not ideal— an emergency shelter bed, or the couch of a friend—but were far better options than remaining outside and succumbing to the steady misery of living outdoors in the winter, with its attendant risks of exposure, a tent fire, illness, and other dangers. At any rate, everybody else around them was working to get indoors, and any worker doing outreach was focused on removing obstacles to shelter or housing before the cold season, rather than hustling to find warm blankets and propane tanks. Common sense and compassion were not at odds.

We are all learning on the fly, across the nation, about why these encampments are happening now, and what measures work and don't work in response to them. One thing we have learned is that encampments, once established, create their own reality, and grow exponentially. People throw their lot in with an encampment because it is there. If the encampment wasn't there, they wouldn't be there either. We have also learned that confusing or ambivalent community messaging encourages increased camping and the arrival of people joining encampments from well outside the region. At this moment in time, it is critically important that our community speaks with clarity and consistency about the dangers of camping outdoors in winter and demonstrates a commitment to moving everyone currently living outdoors into shelter or housing.

Finally, I would note that one of the outcome objectives of this amendment effort, of breaking up the larger encampments in exchange for multiple smaller encampments across the city, has perceived value on its surface, but would in fact make the numerous encampments more dangerous and less accessible to our housing and shelter outreach teams, while making the challenge facing Portland more complex and entrenched. With neighboring states setting shelter caps, any permissive language about outdoor camping here will bring increased numbers of unhoused people to this city. The numerous, smaller encampments could potentially become numerous large encampments. Given that we know these encampments to be dangerous and exploitative environments for those who live within them, and given that we know that it is fundamentally unsafe for almost all people to live outdoors all winter, this is an outcome we must avoid at all costs.

The sweeps are traumatic. So are the encampments. We aren't faced with a choice of doing what is humane versus doing what is inhumane. We are faced with determining which set of interventions best supports providing current and future unhoused Portlanders with the greatest opportunity to secure safety, stability, housing, and recovery. The ECRT is in place. The Homeless Services Center is in place, and ready to fulfill its intended purpose of providing safe, indoor shelter with wraparound health and community services, and to continue its strong track record of placing shelter guests into housing.

Please do not vote to support the zoning amendment, and please do support the addition of 50 beds to the HSC through declaring the limited state of emergency or, as others have suggested, to temporarily allow the shelter to serve people to the extent of its determined fire/safety capacity, in order to meet this moment of critical importance for our unsheltered residents and for our community.

Sincerely and gratefully,

Brian

Brian Townsend
Executive Director
103 India Street, Portland, ME 04101
(207) 272-0429
briant@commonspacemaine.org

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Hilary Bassett <hilarydbassett@gmail.com>
To:	ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; Azarro@portlandmaine.gov; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov; pali@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Please oppose or withdraw Order 68-23/24 Camping on Public Property; Please support Order 37-23/24 Temporary Expansion of Homeless Services Center
Date:	Monday, November 13, 2023 11:46:21 AM

Dear Mayor Snyder and City Councilors:

I write to urge you to withdraw or vote NO on the recent proposal to allow encampments in Portland's public spaces for unhoused persons (Order 68 – 23/24, Camping and Loitering on Public Property). This approach will negatively impact our public parks, open spaces and walkways which should be maintained and kept safe and available to everyone in the community for access, recreation and peaceful enjoyment of the outdoors. Allowing encampments will not resolve the challenges facing the unhoused population.

Cullen Ryan's op ed piece "Sanctioning homeless encampments would be a grave error," in the Nov. 10 *Portland Press Herald*, provides a helpful perspective and recommendations that I believe would be more effective. As Ryan states, and I agree, a better approach would be to:

1) <!--[endif]-->Adopt a "no one will be unsheltered policy"

2) <!--[endif]-->Support the 50 bed temporary expansion of the Homeless Services Center during a transition period to accommodate current needs. (Reconsideration of Order 37 -23/24, Declaring a State of Limited Emergency at 654 Riverside Street)

3) <!--[endif]-->Support the mission of Homeless Services Center as a place where people can access resources they need and move on to longer-term housing so they can achieve stability.

4) <!--[endif]-->Prioritize shelter beds for unhoused individuals. The opening of the new facility for asylum seekers will free up over 100 beds.

5) <!--[endif]-->Initiate a concerted effort in the community to coordinate services, resources and housing so that the Homeless Services Center is a temporary stop along the way to a more stable housing. Engage individuals, organizations and agencies at the local, county and state level, to accomplish this goal.

I trust that the Council will continue to pursue ways to provide additional housing options, including those that support families, recovery, mental health, and various special needs. These efforts take time to implement, but will provide much-needed longer-term positive effects.

Thank you for your work to address the needs of all of the citizens of Portland and for your

consideration.

Hilary Bassett

55 Morning St 1-1, Portland

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Zack Barowitz <zbarowitz@gmail.com>
To: City Council; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Encampment issue should focus on solutions
Date: Monday, November 13, 2023 10:41:19 AM

Honorable Mayor and Councilors:

It hardly bears saying that the issue of the encampments and homelessness in general, is complex with no ready solutions. It is an issue where my understanding is ever-evolving.

It is a very hard political decision to condone camping (for obvious reasons) but I think it must be considered until a better alternative is found. We all know that removing people from encampments does not solve the problem and exacerbates any trauma conditions that people might have and might have contributed to their becoming (and remaining) unhoused while adding new ones. Sweeps are not the way to build trust with people who may be reluctant to stay in a city-run shelter.

Secondly, we will have a new mayor who has vowed to take a new approach to this issue. These ideas should be given full consideration before any further sweeps are made.

Thirdly, we have more shelter beds coming online. There should be no sweeps before such beds are made available.

Fourthly, allowing camping is not incompatible with outreach strategies to get people into shelter/housing. Ideally, there ought to be an outreach trailer staffed by medical and social service providers at encampment sites. At the bare minimum, there should be a 24-hour police presence at encampments as, I believe, was done when the Oxford Street Shelter.

I see the priorities as follows:

1. Work to build trust and minimize the trauma of those living outdoors
2. Increase the number of emergency shelter beds particularly over-flow shelter beds (as had been done in the past) as well as specialty shelters that serve people with special needs (e.g. geriatric, behavioral health, etc.)
3. Develop and implement programs for homelessness prevention
4. Develop various models of supported housing (e.g., housing first, transitional housing, etc.)
5. Build more housing

I wish all of you the best of luck in finding solutions for this issue and will applaud any progress no matter how small. Thank you for your dedication to serving the people of Portland

Cordially,

Zack Barowitz

From:	"Fred McCann" via City Council on behalf of "Fred McCann" via City Council <Council@portlandmaine.gov>
To:	council@portlandmaine.gov
Cc:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Support Order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re:Camping and Loitering on Public Property
Date:	Sunday, November 19, 2023 8:07:21 AM
Attachments:	2023-11-20 Fred McCann Order 68 Testimony.pdf

I will be unable to attend the November 20th meeting in person. Please find attached my testimony in support of Order 68-23/24

Thanks,

— Fred McCann
244 Danforth Street, Apt 1
Portland, ME 04102

(207) 209-3413

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Sally Oldham <oldhamseg@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Please oppose ordinance to allow camping in parks and public spaces
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 8:10:43 PM
Attachments:	To City Council re encampments in parks.pdf

Please include the attached in public comments offered to Mayor Snyder and City Council members for Monday's consideration of allowing camping in Portland's parks and public spaces.

Thank you,

Sally Oldham
118 Congress Street
Portland, ME

From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Pamela Fish <fishpamelaj@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Encampments
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 4:00:26 PM
Attachments: IMG_1983.jpeg
video000000.mov

Please do not pass Order 68. I live in downtown and since the encampment at Harborview has exponentially grown it has made downtown unsafe. I realize living in a city has its issues but in the last few months these issues have become increasingly dangerous. This is a public safety risk for both the inhabitants and neighbors. It is also a risk for visitors to our city. I now carry an alarm system with me. I am not comfortable taking my dog out at night. I can not walk alone without fear. I have been danced around manically, yelled at, threatened and have witnessed many horrible reactions to drugs (screaming, itching, ripping apart trees, kicking cars as just a few examples.

I am truly considering moving off the peninsula. It is not worth my life to live in this city if these encampments are allowed to remain.

Please do the right thing. Put these folks in treatment centers and get them off the streets. They have no rational decision making capabilities.

Thank you
Pamela Fish
207-210-3308

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Joshua Wolfgram <joshua.wolfgram@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Cc:	Scott Knoll; Dean Marvin; Dave Beriau
Subject:	Order 68-23/24 - Public Comment - Camping and Loitering on Public Property
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 11:58:17 AM
Attachments:	Order 68-23.24 - BBCL-Public Comment.pdf

Portland City Council,
Back Bay Lacrosse submits the following document as Public Comment to be placed in the packet for the City Council Meeting on Monday November, 20th.

Members of our organization are working to attend the meeting in person or virtually to speak on this topic.

Thank you
Josh Wolfgram
President - Back Bay Lacrosse Club

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Emily Read <emily@onelongfellowsquare.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Letter regarding Order 68
Date:	Friday, November 17, 2023 10:46:51 AM
Attachments:	Encampment Ordinance OLS Opposition.docx

Thank you for including in the Council packet...

Emily Read
Executive Director
One Longfellow Square
181 State Street | Suite 201
Portland, ME 04101
207.761.1757 x102

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Wayne@RedHookDesignAlliance.com <wayne@redhookdesignalliance.com>
To:	Jennifer Packard; ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; Pious Ali; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov
Cc:	Mary Godfrey; Amy Magida; David Packard; Rich Gill; Kristen Bartlett; ricky reid; Richard Bianculli; Ethan Hipple; Alex Marshall
Subject:	RE: Proposal to Allow Camping City Wide
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 1:15:24 PM
Attachments:	image001.png

To All,

Jen, thanks for sending this message to the city council. You are spot on !!

Might I add that this morning there were a half dozen DOT pickup trucks, a huge payloader, and an equally huge dump truck clearing another encampment. Yet, another expensive use of municipal resources. The overall cost of managing this humanitarian crisis, if redirected, would go a long way toward providing a long-term solution, and the betterment of the lives of our displaced residents. City wide “encampments” are not the solution, managed housing and support services are.

We can do better,

Wayne

Wayne Valzania MS CPM
Red Hook Design LLC
&
Portland Door Restoration
17-C Westfield Street
Portland, ME 04102
Mobile 207-274-4918
RedHookDesignAlliance.com
Visit us on Instagram

From: Jennifer Packard <jp@pkrealtymgmt.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 11:30 AM
To: ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov; Pious Ali <pali@portlandmaine.gov>; afournier@portlandmaine.gov; rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov; publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov; atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov; vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; azarro@portlandmaine.gov; mdion@portlandmaine.gov
Cc: Mary Godfrey <mg@pkrealtymgmt.com>; Amy Magida <am@pkrealtymgmt.com>; David Packard <dp@pkrealtymgmt.com>; Rich Gill <rg@pkrealtymgmt.com>; Amy Magida <am@pkrealtymgmt.com>; Kristen Bartlett <kb@pkrealtymgmt.com>; ricky reid <rickyreid247@gmail.com>; Richard Bianculli <richb@portlandmaine.gov>; Ethan Hipple

<ehipple@portlandmaine.gov>; Alex Marshall <amarshall@portlandmaine.gov>
Subject: Proposal to Allow Camping City Wide

Dear Mayor Snyder,
Dear Council Members,

I am writing on behalf of the tenants we serve in the community of Portland. They include residents and businesses located in Portland.

As landlords and property, we feel particularly responsible for creating safe homes for the residents and businesses (taxpayers!) we care for. A few of our properties are located next door to Housing First Facilities. They are excellent neighbors, and we are very glad to share boundaries with them.

The Police, Business owners, Residents of Portland, City Parks and Rec department, the folks supporting the unhoused community, and the unhoused are all frustrated!

The experiences our tenants and our property management team have had in dealing with encampments close to our business and residential properties is heartbreaking and frustrating for everyone concerned.

Let me name a few real-life experiences our team and tenants have had with encampments.

- Tenants have been **assaulted** on our private property with tire irons for asking drug dealers not to conduct business on our property.

- Members of the encampment community have used **hammers to break into cars** on our property during daylight hours, with guests sitting just feet from the incidents.

- When the encampment abutting our property was active, our team **hauled literally tons of trash, including needles and other drug paraphernalia**. This is dangerous for the health and wellbeing of our staff and tenants. Not to mention children and dogs, as we hold an easement for Portland Trails on this site.

- Businesses have suffered **break-ins, theft, and property damage**.

- Worst of all, **customers are too afraid to conduct business** in neighborhoods affected by encampments.

- These issues have caused avoidable damage to the safety, health, and well-

being of our residents, employees, and the businesses themselves.

We need to support the Housing First bill, (LD 2) that creates funding for folks who need help to access stable, long-term shelter first and then get the help they want or need. We need to support people so they can live the life they are capable of and deserve, that goes for everyone, not just the temporarily unhoused. We also need to support the development and construction of this housing, in our neighborhoods.

With great gratitude and respect for the council, Mayor Snyder and everyone on the front lines of this crisis.

Jen

Jennifer Packard - President PKRM LLC - Asset & Property Management, Renovation, Land Use Planning

Yard South

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From: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Carla Nixon <cnixon@cumberlandmaine.com>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Cc: mdion@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: RE: Legalize camping ordinance
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 11:16:46 AM

A homeless woman ignites a fire using cardboard beneath the section of Interstate 10 that has been closed due to a recent fire in Los Angeles, Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023. At least 16 homeless people, including a pregnant woman, were evacuated when flames ripped through storage yards beneath the Los Angeles freeway. The disaster has renewed attention on the city's inability to protect the thousands of unhoused residents living in such perilous locations across the city. (AP Photo/Jae C. Hong)© Provided by The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The fire erupted after midnight under a Los Angeles freeway where 16 people were living, including a pregnant woman who was only weeks from giving birth.

As the flames engulfed the storage yard and the inferno's heat melted some of the thoroughfare's steel guardrails and concrete pillars, rescue crews were able to get everyone out safely. But the disaster has brought renewed criticism of officials' inability to get homeless residents off the street, leaving tens of thousands living in perilous locations across the nation's second-largest city.

From: Carla Nixon
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 11:09 AM
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Cc: mdion@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Legalize camping ordinance

I am writing to express my strong opposition to this proposed ordinance. It benefits no one, not even the un-housed, to allow this. It is dangerous to them and to everyone who lives in, works in, or visits the City.

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Payson Park <friendsofpaysonpark@gmail.com>
To:	Public Comments for City Council Meetings
Cc:	Mayor Kate Snyder; At-Large Councilor Pious Ali; At-Large Councilor April Fournier; At-Large Councilor Roberto Rodriguez; District 1 Councilor Anna Trevorrow; District 2 Councilor and Parks Commission Liaison Victoria Pelletier; rphillips@portlandmaine.gov; District 4 Councilor Andrew Zarro; District 5 Councilor Mark Dion; Parks Commission; Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Friends of Payson Park on Order #68-23/24
Date:	Thursday, November 16, 2023 11:12:27 AM
Attachments:	FOPP ORDER 68-23-24.pdf

Dear Mayor Snyder and City Councilors,

Please see the attached pdf (text also included below) outlining FOPP's concerns regarding Order #68-23/24.

Thank you for taking the time to understand our concerns.

Sincerely,

Ashley Schmid and Susan Lavigne
Friends of Payson Park

###

> Dear Mayor Snyder and Portland City Councilors,
>
> We, the Friends of Payson Park, are writing to express our extreme concern regarding the proposed **Order #68-23/24**, which would allow unfettered camping in public parks and green spaces.
>
> As residents of Portland, and neighbors of Payson Park, we feel it is our responsibility to strive for the health and well-being of our parks and our fellow neighbors near and far. Suggesting that camping outside during a Maine winter is the answer to the unhoused is abhorrent. It has been well documented the current situation is not safe for many living in the tents, adding freezing temperatures, including snowstorms. will only exacerbate the problems. Additionally, we believe the proposed Order would be to the detriment of Portland's treasured green spaces.
>
> As you may remember from our discussions surrounding the proposed music festival in Payson Park, this park is a very active gathering space filled with children, families, dog walkers, sports teams, band practices, picnics, fundraising events, and so much more. We love seeing the joy that visitors to this park gain from being able to spend time in this clean, > green, safe space.
>
> We ask that you please reject the proposed ordinance change and instead seek to find shelter for the unhoused in Portland.
>
> Sincerely,
>
> The Friends of Payson Park

Friends of Payson Park * Portland, Maine

We love it when you like and engage with us on Facebook!

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Alison Gibbs <arden246@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	please oppose Rodriguez/Trevorrow proposal
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 8:28:06 PM
Attachments:	WPNA 11.14.23.pdf

Hello,

I support the WPNA's position that the encampments, while well-intended, can and have had unintended consequences for those living in them as well as for nearby residents and businesses. The WPNA's full position is attached for reference. Please oppose the Rodriguez/Trevorrow proposal on November 20.

Alison Gibbs
37 Carroll St.

From:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov on behalf of Anne Pringle <anne.pringle.me@gmail.com>
To:	publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Subject:	Rodriguez/Trevorrow Proposal re Encampment
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2023 3:26:37 PM
Attachments:	WPNA 11.14.23.pdf

Please see attached comment in opposition to this proposal.

--

PLEASE NOTE that I have migrated to a new email address: anne.pringle.me@gmail.com and I will no longer be using oldmayor@maine.rr.com. Please update your address book accordingly.

From: "fsreilly@aol.com" via City Manager on behalf of "fsreilly@aol.com" via City Manager <citymanager@portlandmaine.gov>
To: publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov
Cc: Danielle West; Ethan Hipple
Subject: Homeless Encampments
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 1:32:10 PM

Friends of Lincoln Park

One Sixty Eight York Street
Portland, Maine 04101
Phone 207-*879-7747*
LoveLincolnPark.org
fsreilly@aol.com

November 15, 2023

via email to publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov

Dear Mayor Snyder and Portland City Councilors:

As President of Friends of Lincoln Park, I am urging you to vote down the proposed ordinance/policy changes now before the Council that are aimed at addressing the issue of homeless encampments. As written, the ordinance would, among other things, *"allow camping in all City parks"*.

Please do not allow our sixty-seven beautiful parks that so many of us--City leaders and staff as well as numerous dedicated Friends groups--have fought so hard to establish, improve and protect by putting them in jeopardy with this misguided and inappropriate proposal. Our investment in Portland's parks has been made so that all Portland citizens and visitors alike can safely enjoy green, open and inviting oases in our thriving city.

Please bear in mind that opening Portland's parks to encampments will also have significant and costly consequences. For example, we know from former City Arborist and Friends of Lincoln Park Board Vice President, Jeff Tarling, that the 2011 Occupy Wall Street protest in Lincoln Park badly degraded the park causing costly repairs which took more than a year to

complete and resulted in the loss of the park's use by the general public.

This proposal also puts the people living in the encampments and adjoining neighbors in a precarious situation with the strong possibility of propane fires and winter illness.

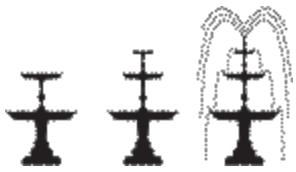
Although we appreciate the effort Councilors Rodriguez and Trevorrow have made to find a solution to an untenable situation, we do not believe this is it. We are concerned the ordinance will result in serious negative consequences for Portland's parks and discourage use by the general public. We therefore urge you to reject this proposed ordinance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Frank E. Reilly

Frank E. Reilly, President



Trustees: Noni Ames . Deb Andrews . Frank E. Reilly . Sharon Reilly . Jeff Tarling

FRIENDS OF PAYSON PARK

friendsofpaysonpark@gmail.com

TO
Portland City Council
389 Congress St
Portland, ME 04101

November 15, 2023

RE
Camping in Public Spaces

Dear Mayor Snyder and Portland City Councilors,

We, the Friends of Payson Park, are writing to express our extreme concern regarding the proposed **Order #68-23/24**, which would allow unfettered camping in public parks and green spaces.

As residents of Portland, and neighbors of Payson Park, we feel it is our responsibility to strive for the health and well-being of our parks and our fellow neighbors near and far.

Suggesting that camping outside during a Maine winter is the answer to the unhoused is abhorrent. It has been well documented the current situation is not safe for many living in the tents, adding freezing temperatures, including snowstorms. will only exacerbate the problems. Additionally, we believe the proposed Order would be to the detriment of Portland's treasured green spaces.

As you may remember from our discussions surrounding the proposed music festival in Payson Park, this park is a very active gathering space filled with children, families, dog walkers, sports teams, band practices, picnics, fundraising events, and so much more. We love seeing the joy that visitors to this park gain from being able to spend time in this clean, green, safe space.
We ask that you please reject the proposed ordinance change and instead seek to find shelter for the unhoused in Portland.

Sincerely,

The Friends of Payson Park

November 17, 2023

Dear Mayor Snyder and City Councilors,

I am writing to urge you to oppose the proposed ordinance that will be debated on November 20 that would severely limit “sweeps of encampments”, allow camping in all City parks and public spaces and eliminate “emphasis areas” that ban camping in designated places.

While there is a strong consensus that Portland needs to address the major challenge of how to help unhoused individuals move into housing and find social service assistance that they often need, this proposed ordinance seems ill founded to help solve these problems and seems almost certain to lead to creating new problems for the City.

Portland’s parks are a treasure in this city and are available to all residents for leisure, athletic, and family friendly activities. If the homeless are allowed to camp out in our parks and other public spaces, we will almost certainly draw more homeless to this City. These encampments will degrade the environment of our parks and drive residents away from using them. Our parks represent too important an investment in this city to see them slowly destroyed by the conditions we read about found in encampments in the City.

In conclusion, I urge you to oppose the ordinance that would allow camping in Portland’s parks.

Sincerely,

Sally Oldham
118 Congress Street
Portland

Portland City Council
389 Congress St
Portland, ME 04101

Public Comment: Order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25 re:
Camping and Loitering on Public Property

We are writing to express concerns about the recent proposal to allow homeless individuals to camp on city owned property which includes Fox Field/Kennedy Park. As a member of the community, youth sports organizers and parents whose child participates in the youth lacrosse program, We believe it is essential to address the potential consequences and implications of such a decision.

While we understand the importance of addressing homelessness and providing support to those in need, we are concerned about the potential impact this decision may have on the safety, hygiene, and overall well-being of the youth who use the field. Youth sports play a crucial role in the physical, emotional, and social development of our children, and it is paramount that the spaces designated for these activities remain safe and secure.

Allowing camping on the lacrosse field as well as any other field used by youth sports in the city may pose several challenges, including:

1. **Safety Concerns:** The presence of homeless individuals in close proximity to youth activities raises concerns about the safety of our children. It is essential to prioritize their well-being and ensure they can enjoy their sports activities without unnecessary risks.
2. **Hygiene and Sanitation:** Camping on the field may lead to sanitation issues, affecting the cleanliness of the area. Proper waste disposal and access to sanitary facilities must be considered to prevent health hazards for both the homeless individuals and the youth who use the field.
3. **Impact on Youth Programs:** Allowing camping on the lacrosse field could potentially deter parents from enrolling their children in the program, impacting the overall success and sustainability of youth sports initiatives.

We strongly urge you to reconsider using any field used by youth athletic and explore alternative solutions to address homelessness that do not compromise the safety and well-being of our community's youth. Collaborative efforts between local government, social services, and community organizations can be employed to find compassionate and effective solutions.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and trust that you will carefully consider the concerns raised by community members. I am hopeful that we can work together to find a solution that benefits both those experiencing homelessness and the youth in our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Back Bay Lacrosse Board

November 16, 2023

Mayor Snyder & Honorable Members of the City Council -

On behalf of the board of directors of One Longfellow Square, I write to you in opposition to Order 68, the draft proposal to amend sections 17,18, and 25 of the Code of Ordinances. These changes would allow camping in most city parks during the winter, and would also allow encampments on many streets, sidewalks, and other public ways throughout the city.

Aside from our concerns about sanctioning outdoor living during the coldest months in our state, we are deeply troubled by the increased criminal activity in Longfellow Square that we fear will be exacerbated if encampments are allowed in the park.

Already this year, we have involved law enforcement in a stabbing in the park, in an assault on one of our employees in the park, in indecent exposure incidents, and in overdose situations. We are concerned about the ongoing safety of our staff, volunteers, and patrons.

Additionally, we bring musicians to our stage from across the country and around the world. As word of assault activity spreads amongst the community of travelling artists, we are fielding questions from agents out of state wondering if it is safe to send performers to our venue.

As a small nonprofit, we cannot afford to lose customers or performance acts due to perceived threats. We fear that allowing encampments in public parks like Longfellow Square will have a negative economic impact on the arts district while also reducing safety and security in our public spaces.

We recognize the challenges you face in identifying humane solutions to a growing population of unhoused residents. We do not feel that allowing encampments in our city parks is the right approach.

Respectfully,

Robin E. Lee
President
One Longfellow Square Board of Directors

181 State St. Ste. 201, Portland ME 04101
207.761.1757 • onelongfellowsquare.com

Fred McCann

(207) 209-3413 fred@fredmccann.com 244 Danforth Street, Apt 1 Portland, Maine 04102

Testimony of Fred McCann regarding Order 68-23/24
Before the City Council
November 20th, 2023

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony regarding Order 68-23/24. My name is Fred McCann. I've resided in Portland for the past twelve years and I'm currently serving on the Portland Water District Board of Trustees.

I am writing to express my strong support for Order 68-23/24 which would institute a moratorium of sweeps of homeless encampments. This amendment would grant people who are homeless the right to camp in public spaces, with some reasonable limitations, until April 30th.

This is not only a matter of human rights and social justice, but also a smart and effective policy. Sweeps are a counterproductive and harmful strategy that hurts both the unhoused and the housed populations. They infringe on the basic rights and dignity of people who have no other options. They interfere with their ability to access services, health care, and harm reduction. They increase the likelihood of hospitalizations, overdose, and death. They also squander public funds and resources that could be better used for housing and supportive services.

The Portland Press Herald reported on November 18th that a lack of access to clean water precipitated a hepatitis A outbreak among the unhoused population. The outbreak was linked to a mid-September sweep that dispersed the residents of the Fore River Parkway Trail camp to other locations without water facilities.

Sweeps do not solve homelessness. They only move it around. They also create more animosity, prejudice, and stigma towards people who are already vulnerable. They undermine the trust and collaboration between the unhoused community and the city officials and service providers who are trying to assist them.

That is why I urge you to support this amendment. Please demonstrate your leadership and courage by defending the rights and welfare of our unhoused neighbors.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Fred McCann

WESTERN PROMENADE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

November 14, 2023

Portland City Council
389 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101

Re: Rodriguez/Trevorrow Proposal

Dear Mayor Snyder and City Councilors:

One of the major green spaces in the City's park system is the Western Promenade. The crown jewel of our historic neighborhood, it is more than just a neighborhood park – it's a haven that attracts diverse residents from throughout the West End, including seniors and families with young children, essential care workers from the adjacent hospital, from throughout the city, and visitors to Portland. All are drawn by its quiet walkways and serene, natural beauty.

We are well aware of the challenges of homelessness and drug addiction in our country, in our city, and in our neighborhood. There are no easy answers.

But certainly, the "answer" is not to spread encampments all over the city by eliminating the ban on camping in parks and other public spaces. The impacts on Deering Oaks, the Bayside Trail, the Western Prom, and now Harbor View Park are very evident. The encampments are a dangerous environment for those living in them and the neighbors and businesses nearby. There has been at least one overdose death on the Prom and numerous reported thefts and break-ins.

With winter fast approaching, the emphasis should be on bringing campers inside and connecting them with services. Enabling encampments all over the city will expose many impaired people to possible death from the elements. Imagine a person passed out from an overdoes in a tent in freezing temperatures… This is simply a bad idea.

Please focus on getting people inside in a warm, safe environment with their basic needs met and a plan, developed with them, to change their lives.

Please oppose the Rodriguez/Trevorrow proposal on November 20.

Respectfully submitted,

The Western Promenade Neighborhood Association
Portland's oldest neighborhood association, celebrating its 50th year

AMENDMENT 1 TO ORDER 68-23/24
PREPARED BY CORPORATION COUNSEL
FOR COUNCILOR TREVORROW AND COUNCILOR RODRIGUEZ
RE: CAMPING LOCATION EXCEPTIONS; DEFINITION OF UNHOUSED PERSON

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE IN CITY COUNCIL ASSEMBLED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That Section 17-1 is hereby amended, which said section reads as follows:

Sec. 17-1. Loitering.

(a) The following definitions shall apply in this section:

...

(d) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this section 17-1, until April 30, 2024, unless otherwise prohibited by law, it shall not be unlawful for an unhoused person living in the city to camp, sleep, sit, and otherwise loiter in any public place, except that camping shall remain unlawful in the following public places: (1) on all school grounds and on or within 250 feet of any school building; (2) on any athletic field, court, or other athletic facility located on school or city property, (3~~2~~) within a playground, provided that this exception is limited to the perimeter of the playground and does not include any surrounding or adjacent public place; (3~~4~~) Monument Square, Congress Square, and City Hall plaza; and (5~~4~~) all public streets, public highways, ~~and~~ public sidewalks, trails, and other public rights of way; and (6) any public places where such activity ~~in the Portland Downtown District. It shall also remain unlawful to camp or otherwise loiter in such a manner as to: (1) obstruct any public street or public highway by~~ may prevent~~ing~~ the passage of vehicles or traffic or that may impede the city's repair, maintenance, ~~or~~ snow removal, or construction activity in such places. ~~; (2) obstruct any public sidewalk or trail such that less than five feet of open space on the sidewalk or trail remains for passage by pedestrians; or (3) prevent ingress and egress to or from any public building, or business facing or fronting on any public street, public highway, public sidewalk, or any other public place.~~ For

purposes of this subsection, the terms camp and camping refer to activity by unhoused people who use tents, tarps, wooden pallets, sleeping bags, blankets, boxes, carts, and other non-structural equipment to create shelter for sleeping and other life-sustaining conduct in public places, provided that the use of wooden pallets is limited to placement of a single layer of one or more pallets laid flat under a tent to raise the tent off of the ground. For purposes of this subsection (d), "unhoused person" means an individual or family who (1) lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; (2) has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a park, car, or other public place, as defined in Section 17-1(a)(2); (3) lives in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including hotels and motels used for emergency shelter); (4) resides in a shelter or place not meant for human habitation and who is exiting an institution where he or she temporarily resided; (5) is fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions in their current housing situation, including where the health and safety of children are jeopardized; or (6) will imminently lose their housing, including housing they own, rent, or live in without paying rent, are sharing with others, and rooms in hotels or motels not paid for by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals or by charitable organizations. An individual or family shall be presumed to imminently lose their housing when they are (1) subject to any written or oral threat of eviction; (2) able to produce any credible written or verbal evidence that the owner or renter of their current housing will not allow them to stay for more than 14 days; or (3) lack the resources to maintain permanent or temporary housing for longer than one month. The provisions of this subsection (d) shall automatically expire at 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2024, and the clerk shall delete this subsection from this section at that time.

2. That Sections 18-18 is hereby amended, which said section read as follows:

Sec. 18-18. Loitering in parks.

Except as provided below for Tommy's Park and Post Office Park, no person shall stop, loiter, be or remain in any of the parks of the city or in any of the paths, drives, streets,

boulevards or roadways of the parks between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:30 a.m. of the day immediately following, except for the purpose of traveling across or through such parks; nor shall any person park an automobile and remain therein between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:30 a.m. of the day immediately following on any of the drives, streets, boulevards, promenades or roadways within the parks of the city, unless said person or persons has the prior written authorization of the city manager to be in said park or parks or their drives, streets, boulevards, promenades or roadways during the aforementioned hours.

No person shall stop, loiter, be or remain in Tommy's Park or Post Office Park or in any of the paths of these two parks between the hours of 1 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. on any given day, except for the purpose of traveling across or through such parks.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this section 18-18, until April 30, 2024, unless otherwise prohibited by law, unhoused personspeople living in the city shall be permitted to camp, sleep, stop, loiter, and otherwise remain in any parks of the city, through all hours of the day, except (1) in any city playground, including, without limitation, Adams School Playground, Breakwater Playground and Fields, Clark Street Playground, Deering Oaks Playground, Dougherty Field Playground, Fox Field Playground, Great Diamond Island Playground, Heseltine Playground, Kiwanis Pool Playground, Marada Adams Playground, Munjoy South Playground, Nathan Clifford Playground, Payson Playground, Penny's Park, Peppermint Playground, Pleasant Street Playground, Stone Street (Bayside) Playground, Stroudwater Playground, South Street Playground, Tate/Tyng Playground, Taylor Street Playground, and Wills Playground, provided that this exception is limited to the perimeter of the playground and does not include any surrounding or adjacent public place, as defined in Chapter 17, Ssection 17-1(a)(2), except as otherwise set forth in this paragraph or in section 17-1(d); and (2) Monument Square, Congress Square, and City Hall Plaza. It shall also remain unlawful to camp in any and all school playgrounds, and fields, and other athletic facilitiesincluding, without limitation, Cliff Island Playground, East End School Playground and Fields, Rowe School Playground and Fields, Longfellow Playground and Fields, Lyseth/Lyman Moore Playground and Fields, Ocean Avenue Playground and Fields, Peaks Island Playground and Fields, Presumpscot Playground and Fields, Reiche Playground and Fields, and Talbot School Playground and Fields. Unhoused personspeople living in the city shall also be permitted to stay in a parked vehicle on any drives, streets, boulevards, promenades, or roadways in any parks of the city, except for any

drives, streets, boulevards, promenades, or roadways that may exist in any playgrounds ~~Clark Street Playground, Marada Adams Playground, Monument Square, Munjoy South Playground, Pleasant Street Playground, South Street Playground, and Tate-Tyng Playground~~, between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:30 a.m. of the day immediately following so long as the vehicle does not obstruct the passage of vehicles, traffic, or pedestrians over such drives, streets, boulevards, promenades, or roadways and does not impede the city's repair, maintenance, ~~or~~ snow removal, or construction work in such places. All applicable parking rules or regulations shall continue to apply to unhoused persons at all other times. ~~It shall remain prohibited for unhoused people living in the city to camp, sleep, stop, loiter, stay in a parked car, or otherwise remain in any city playground, including, without limitation Clark Street Playground, Marada Adams Playground, Munjoy South Playground, Pleasant Street Playground, South Street Playground, and Tate-Tyng Playground.~~ For purposes of this paragraph, the terms camp and camping refer to activity by unhoused ~~people~~ persons who use tents, tarps, wooden pallets, sleeping bags, blankets, boxes, carts, and other non-structural equipment to create shelter for sleeping and other life-sustaining conduct in public places, provided that the use of wooden pallets is limited to placement of a single layer of one or more pallets laid flat under a tent to raise the tent off of the ground. For purposes of this paragraph, "unhoused person" means an individual or family who (1) lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; (2) has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a park, car, or other public place, as defined in Section 17-1(a)(2); (3) lives in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including hotels and motels used for emergency shelter); (4) resides in a shelter or place not meant for human habitation and who is exiting an institution where he or she temporarily resided; (5) is fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions in their current housing situation, including where the health and safety of children are jeopardized; or (6) will imminently lose their housing, including housing they own, rent, or live in without paying rent, are sharing with others, and rooms in hotels or motels not paid for by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals or by charitable organizations. An individual or family shall be presumed to imminently lose their housing when they are (1) subject to any written or oral threat of eviction; (2) able to

produce any credible written or verbal evidence that the owner or renter of their current housing will not allow them to stay for more than 14 days; or (3) lack the resources to maintain permanent or temporary housing for longer than one month. The provisions of this paragraph shall automatically expire at 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2024, and the clerk shall delete this paragraph from this section at that time.

3. That Sections 25-26 is hereby amended, which said section read as follows:

Sec. 25-26. Required.

(a) No person shall place or cause to be placed in or on, or shall suspend over any street, way or public place in the city any article or thing whatsoever, including but not limited to portable sidewalk signs, except under a duly authorized permit therefor issued pursuant to the provisions of this division.

Except during declared festivals or other approved events that require a sidewalk occupancy permit under this section, this section shall not apply to a table or other structures used by (1) street artists to create or sell works of art, or (2) individuals who set up a table and/or chairs in compliance with chapter 19, article II, sec. 19-24 subparagraph (a)(1),(2),(5) and (6), to engage in an activity other than commercial speech, protected by the first amendment to the United States and Maine Constitution including but not limited to the distribution of political or religious literature, or the gatherings of signatures on petitions.

Furthermore, until April 30, 2024, the requirement for a permit under this subsection (a) shall not apply to unhoused ~~individuals~~ persons living in a public place in the city in accordance with the provisions of chapter 17, sec. 17-1(d) and chapter 18, section 18-18, who use tents, tarps, wooden pallets, sleeping bags, blankets, boxes, carts, and other non-structural equipment to create shelter for sleeping and other life-sustaining conduct in public places. For purposes of this paragraph, the use of wooden pallets is limited to placement of a single layer of one or more pallets laid flat under a tent to raise the tent off of the ground. For purposes of this paragraph, "unhoused person" means an individual or family who (1) lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; (2) has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a park, car,

or other public place, as defined in Chapter 17, section 17-1(a)(2) of this code; (3) lives in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including hotels and motels used for emergency shelter); (4) resides in a shelter or place not meant for human habitation and who is exiting an institution where he or she temporarily resided; (5) is fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions in their current housing situation, including where the health and safety of children are jeopardized; or (6) will imminently lose their housing, including housing they own, rent, or live in without paying rent, are sharing with others, and rooms in hotels or motels not paid for by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals or by charitable organizations. An individual or family shall be presumed to imminently lose their housing when they are (1) subject to any written or oral threat of eviction; (2) able to produce any credible written or verbal evidence that the owner or renter of their current housing will not allow them to stay for more than 14 days; or (3) lack the resources to maintain permanent or temporary housing for longer than one month. The provisions of this paragraph shall automatically expire at 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2024, and the clerk shall delete this paragraph from this subsection at that time.

...

AMENDMENT 2 TO ORDER 68-23/24
PREPARED BY CORPORATION COUNSEL
FOR COUNCILOR TREVORROW AND COUNCILOR RODRIGUEZ
RE: CAMPING AS ALLOWED USE IN DEDICATED PARKS AND PUBLIC GROUNDS UNDER SECTION 18-12(B)(9)

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE IN CITY COUNCIL ASSEMBLED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That Section 17-1 is hereby amended, which said section reads as follows:

Sec. 17-1. Loitering.

(a) The following definitions shall apply in this section:

...

(d) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this section 17-1, until April 30, 2024, unless otherwise prohibited by law, it shall not be unlawful for an unhoused person living in the city to camp, sleep, sit, and otherwise loiter in any public place, except that camping shall remain unlawful in the following public places: (1) on or within 250 feet of any school building; (2) within a playground, provided that this exception is limited to the perimeter of the playground and does not include any surrounding or adjacent public place; (3) Monument Square and City Hall plaza; and (4) all public streets, public highways, and public sidewalks in the Portland Downtown District. It shall also remain unlawful to camp or otherwise loiter in such a manner as to: (1) obstruct any public street or public highway by preventing the passage of vehicles or traffic or that may impede the city's repair, maintenance, or snow removal;(2) obstruct any public sidewalk or trail such that less than five feet of open space on the sidewalk or trail remains for passage by pedestrians; or (3) prevent ingress and egress to or from any public building, or business facing or fronting on any public street, public highway, public sidewalk, or any other public place. For purposes of this subsection, the terms camp and camping refer to activity by unhoused people who use tents, tarps, wooden pallets, sleeping bags, blankets, boxes, carts, and other non-structural equipment to create shelter for

sleeping and other life-sustaining conduct in public places. The provisions of this subsection (d) shall automatically expire at 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2024, and the clerk shall delete this subsection from this section at that time.

2. That Section 18-12 is hereby amended, which said section reads as follows:

Sec. 18-12. Use and Maintenance of Parks and Public Grounds. The City shall retain all parks and public grounds dedicated in section 18-11 predominantly in their natural, scenic, open and/or intended condition. Notwithstanding the foregoing, this provision shall not prevent the City from the following:

(a) Improving or maintaining dedicated parks and public grounds in a manner consistent with the design of the park or public ground or approved master plan;

(b) Using dedicated parks or public grounds for any of the following:

(1) Athletic contests;
(2) Playgrounds and/or recreational structures;
(3) Outdoor restaurant seating;
(4) Outdoor markets;
(5) Outdoor performance spaces or performances;
(6) Signs and other advertising;
(7) Food trucks or vendors; and/or
(8) Festivals;
(9) Camping, sleeping, stopping, loitering, and otherwise remaining in any parks to the extent permitted in the third paragraph of section 18-18 of this chapter.

***

2-A. That Sections 18-18 is hereby amended, which said section read as follows:

Sec. 18-18. Loitering in parks.

Except as provided below for Tommy's Park and Post Office Park, no person shall stop, loiter, be or remain in any of the parks of the city or in any of the paths, drives, streets, boulevards or roadways of the parks between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:30 a.m. of the day immediately following, except for the purpose of traveling across or through such parks; nor shall

any person park an automobile and remain therein between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:30 a.m. of the day immediately following on any of the drives, streets, boulevards, promenades or roadways within the parks of the city, unless said person or persons has the prior written authorization of the city manager to be in said park or parks or their drives, streets, boulevards, promenades or roadways during the aforementioned hours.

No person shall stop, loiter, be or remain in Tommy's Park or Post Office Park or in any of the paths of these two parks between the hours of 1 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. on any given day, except for the purpose of traveling across or through such parks.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this section 18-18, until April 30, 2024, unless otherwise prohibited by law, unhoused people living in the city shall be permitted to camp, sleep, stop, loiter, and otherwise remain in any parks of the city, through all hours of the day, except (1) in any city playground, including, without limitation, Adams School Playground, Breakwater Playground and Fields, Clark Street Playground, Deering Oaks Playground, Dougherty Field Playground, Fox Field Playground, Great Diamond Island Playground, Heseltine Playground, Kiwanis Pool Playground, Marada Adams Playground, Munjoy South Playground, Nathan Clifford Playground, Payson Playground, Penny's Park, Peppermint Playground, Pleasant Street Playground, Stone Street (Bayside) Playground, Stroudwater Playground, South Street Playground, Tate/Tyng Playground, Taylor Street Playground, and Wills Playground, provided that this exception is limited to the perimeter of the playground and does not include any surrounding or adjacent public place, as defined in Section 17(a)(2). It shall also remain unlawful to camp in any school playground and fields, including, without limitation, Cliff Island Playground, East End School Playground and Fields, Rowe School Playground and Fields, Longfellow Playground and Fields, Lyseth/Lyman Moore Playground and Fields, Ocean Avenue Playground and Fields, Peaks Island Playground and Fields, Presumpscot Playground and Fields, Reiche Playground and Fields, and Talbot School Playground and Fields. Unhoused people living in the city shall also be permitted to stay in a parked vehicle on any drives, streets, boulevards, promenades, or roadways in any parks of the city, except for Clark Street Playground, Marada Adams Playground, Monument Square, Munjoy South Playground, Pleasant Street Playground, South Street Playground, and Tate-Tyng Playground, between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:30 a.m. of the day immediately following so long as the vehicle does not obstruct the passage of vehicles, traffic, or pedestrians over such drives, streets, boulevards,

promenades, or roadways and does not impede the city's repair, maintenance, or snow removal, in such places. It shall remain prohibited for unhoused people living in the city to camp, sleep, stop, loiter, stay in a parked car, or otherwise remain in any city playground, including, without limitation Clark Street Playground, Marada Adams Playground, Munjoy South Playground, Pleasant Street Playground, South Street Playground, and Tate-Tyng Playground. For purposes of this paragraph, the terms camp and camping refer to activity by unhoused people who use tents, tarps, wooden pallets, sleeping bags, blankets, boxes, carts, and other non-structural equipment to create shelter for sleeping and other life-sustaining conduct in public places. The provisions of this paragraph and section 18-12(b)(9) shall automatically expire at 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2024, and the clerk shall delete this paragraph and section 18-12(b)(9) from this ~~section~~ chapter at that time.

3. That Sections 25-26 is hereby amended, which said section read as follows:

Sec. 25-26. Required.

(a) No person shall place or cause to be placed in or on, or shall suspend over any street, way or public place in the city any article or thing whatsoever, including but not limited to portable sidewalk signs, except under a duly authorized permit therefor issued pursuant to the provisions of this division.

Except during declared festivals or other approved events that require a sidewalk occupancy permit under this section, this section shall not apply to a table or other structures used by (1) street artists to create or sell works of art, or (2) individuals who set up a table and/or chairs in compliance with chapter 19, article II, sec. 19-24 subparagraph (a)(1),(2),(5) and (6), to engage in an activity other than commercial speech, protected by the first amendment to the United States and Maine Constitution including but not limited to the distribution of political or religious literature, or the gatherings of signatures on petitions.

Furthermore, until April 30, 2024, the requirement for a permit under this subsection (a) shall not apply to unhoused individuals living in a public place in the city in accordance with the provisions of chapter 17, sec. 17-1(d) and chapter 18, section 18-18, who use tents, tarps, wooden pallets, sleeping bags, blankets, boxes, carts, and other non-structural equipment to create shelter for sleeping and other life-sustaining conduct

in public places. The provisions of this paragraph shall automatically expire at 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2024, and the clerk shall delete this paragraph from this subsection at that time.

...

AMENDMENT 3 TO ORDER 68-23/24
PREPARED BY CORPORATION COUNSEL
FOR COUNCILOR TREVORROW AND COUNCILOR RODRIGUEZ
RE: CAMPING UNDER CHAPTER 2; LAND BANK ORDINANCE

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE IN CITY COUNCIL ASSEMBLED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That Section 2-42(h) is hereby amended, which said section reads as follows:

(a) *Findings.* The City Council hereby finds that:

***

(h) *Powers and duties of commission.* The Commission:

1. Shall file annually with the City Council a registry of all open space of the types in section 2-43(a), publicly or privately owned, located within the city or abutting the City as potential buffer areas, for the purpose of providing information pertinent to property utilization, protection, development or use of such open space. The registry must show all property interests then currently held by the city, including a description of the use of those interests and all acquisitions, improvements or dispositions of all property interests held by the city at any time during the year preceding each filing. The commission shall determine and list in the registry the open space lands which meet the criteria in section 2-43(a) and which have significant value for preservation through the land bank, and those which are of lesser or no value for preservation and those which are more appropriate for other uses. The foregoing determinations shall include a prioritized list of any recommended acquisitions for the Land Bank, as well as the commission's rationale for its determinations. The commission shall actively seek comments on the proposed registry from the Planning Board, Friends of the Parks, city departments, and the general public at a public hearing prior to adopting the registry or revision to the registry and forwarding it to the council for review.

Said registry or revision thereto shall be subject to the approval of the City Council;

2. May solicit and recommend to the City Council the acceptance of gifts of any real property interests or of funds to further the conservation and open space goals of this article;

3. May recommend to the City Council the disposition of all or any portion of the property interests listed in the registry and held by the city; shall review any request to use, improve or permanently dispose of a property interest prior to review by a council committee or the city council; and may review any proposed disposition of city tax-acquired property interests and make its own recommendations thereon to the City's tax acquired property committee, council committees and/or the City Council;

4. May obtain such professional services as are necessary in order to perform its duties, including development and updating of the Commission's registry, provided, however, to the extent possible, City staff shall assist the Commission;

5. May act as a liaison for the activities of public and private conservation bodies organized for similar purposes;

6. May make recommendations to, and participate with, the city and other agencies and parties in regard to wetlands mitigation plans and projects;

7. May apply for federal, state and local funds for which it may be eligible, subject to the approval of the City Council;

8. May advertise, prepare, print and distribute books, maps, charts, plans and pamphlets which in its judgment it deems necessary; and

9. Shall submit to the City Manager annually an operating and capital budget for all expenses and projects of the Commission, which shall include a separate budget for expenditures from the Land Bank fund, which expenditures will be limited to the purposes for which this fund is dedicated. Commission expenditures shall not exceed its

annual operating and capital budget, unless otherwise amended by the City Council.

10. Nothing in this Article III-A prohibits the City Council from allowing unhoused persons, without a recommendation or other action from the Commission, to camp, sleep, stop, loiter, and otherwise remain in parks and other public places as set forth in Chapter 17, section 17-1(d), and Chapter 18, section 18-12(b) and section 18-18. The provisions of this subsection h(10) automatically expire at 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2024, and the clerk shall delete this paragraph from this chapter at that time.

***

1-A. That Section 17-1 is hereby amended, which said section reads as follows:

Sec. 17-1. Loitering.

(a) The following definitions shall apply in this section:

...

(d) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this section 17-1, until April 30, 2024, unless otherwise prohibited by law, it shall not be unlawful for an unhoused person living in the city to camp, sleep, sit, and otherwise loiter in any public place, except that camping shall remain unlawful in the following public places: (1) on or within 250 feet of any school building; (2) within a playground, provided that this exception is limited to the perimeter of the playground and does not include any surrounding or adjacent public place; (3) Monument Square and City Hall plaza; and (4) all public streets, public highways, and public sidewalks in the Portland Downtown District. It shall also remain unlawful to camp or otherwise loiter in such a manner as to: (1) obstruct any public street or public highway by preventing the passage of vehicles or traffic or that may impede the city's repair, maintenance, or snow removal;(2) obstruct any public sidewalk or trail such that less than five feet of open space on the sidewalk or trail remains for passage by pedestrians; or (3) prevent ingress and egress to or from any public building, or business facing or fronting on any public street, public highway, public sidewalk, or any other public place. For purposes of this subsection, the terms camp and camping refer to activity by unhoused people who use tents, tarps, wooden pallets, sleeping bags, blankets, boxes, carts,

and other non-structural equipment to create shelter for sleeping and other life-sustaining conduct in public places. The provisions of this subsection (d) shall automatically expire at 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2024, and the clerk shall delete this subsection from this section at that time.

2. That Sections 18-18 is hereby amended, which said section read as follows:

Sec. 18-18. Loitering in parks.

Except as provided below for Tommy's Park and Post Office Park, no person shall stop, loiter, be or remain in any of the parks of the city or in any of the paths, drives, streets, boulevards or roadways of the parks between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:30 a.m. of the day immediately following, except for the purpose of traveling across or through such parks; nor shall any person park an automobile and remain therein between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:30 a.m. of the day immediately following on any of the drives, streets, boulevards, promenades or roadways within the parks of the city, unless said person or persons has the prior written authorization of the city manager to be in said park or parks or their drives, streets, boulevards, promenades or roadways during the aforementioned hours.

No person shall stop, loiter, be or remain in Tommy's Park or Post Office Park or in any of the paths of these two parks between the hours of 1 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. on any given day, except for the purpose of traveling across or through such parks.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this section 18-18, until April 30, 2024, unless otherwise prohibited by law, unhoused people living in the city shall be permitted to camp, sleep, stop, loiter, and otherwise remain in any parks of the city, through all hours of the day, except (1) in any city playground, including, without limitation, Adams School Playground, Breakwater Playground and Fields, Clark Street Playground, Deering Oaks Playground, Dougherty Field Playground, Fox Field Playground, Great Diamond Island Playground, Heseltine Playground, Kiwanis Pool Playground, Marada Adams Playground, Munjoy South Playground, Nathan Clifford Playground, Payson Playground, Penny's Park, Peppermint Playground, Pleasant Street Playground, Stone Street (Bayside) Playground, Stroudwater Playground, South Street Playground, Tate/Tyng Playground, Taylor Street Playground, and Wills Playground, provided that this exception is limited to the perimeter of the playground and

does not include any surrounding or adjacent public place, as defined in Section 17(a)(2). It shall also remain unlawful to camp in any school playground and fields, including, without limitation, Cliff Island Playground, East End School Playground and Fields, Rowe School Playground and Fields, Longfellow Playground and Fields, Lyseth/Lyman Moore Playground and Fields, Ocean Avenue Playground and Fields, Peaks Island Playground and Fields, Presumpscot Playground and Fields, Reiche Playground and Fields, and Talbot School Playground and Fields. Unhoused people living in the city shall also be permitted to stay in a parked vehicle on any drives, streets, boulevards, promenades, or roadways in any parks of the city, except for Clark Street Playground, Marada Adams Playground, Monument Square, Munjoy South Playground, Pleasant Street Playground, South Street Playground, and Tate-Tyng Playground, between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:30 a.m. of the day immediately following so long as the vehicle does not obstruct the passage of vehicles, traffic, or pedestrians over such drives, streets, boulevards, promenades, or roadways and does not impede the city's repair, maintenance, or snow removal, in such places. It shall remain prohibited for unhoused people living in the city to camp, sleep, stop, loiter, stay in a parked car, or otherwise remain in any city playground, including, without limitation Clark Street Playground, Marada Adams Playground, Munjoy South Playground, Pleasant Street Playground, South Street Playground, and Tate-Tyng Playground. For purposes of this paragraph, the terms camp and camping refer to activity by unhoused people who use tents, tarps, wooden pallets, sleeping bags, blankets, boxes, carts, and other non-structural equipment to create shelter for sleeping and other life-sustaining conduct in public places. The provisions of this paragraph shall automatically expire at 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2024, and the clerk shall delete this paragraph from this section at that time.

3. That Sections 25-26 is hereby amended, which said section read as follows:

Sec. 25-26. Required.

(a) No person shall place or cause to be placed in or on, or shall suspend over any street, way or public place in the city any article or thing whatsoever, including but not limited to portable sidewalk signs, except under a duly authorized permit therefor issued pursuant to the provisions of this division.

Except during declared festivals or other approved events that require a sidewalk occupancy permit under this section, this

section shall not apply to a table or other structures used by (1) street artists to create or sell works of art, or (2) individuals who set up a table and/or chairs in compliance with chapter 19, article II, sec. 19-24 subparagraph (a)(1),(2),(5) and (6), to engage in an activity other than commercial speech, protected by the first amendment to the United States and Maine Constitution including but not limited to the distribution of political or religious literature, or the gatherings of signatures on petitions.

Furthermore, until April 30, 2024, the requirement for a permit under this subsection (a) shall not apply to unhoused individuals living in a public place in the city in accordance with the provisions of chapter 17, sec. 17-1(d) and chapter 18, section 18-18, who use tents, tarps, wooden pallets, sleeping bags, blankets, boxes, carts, and other non-structural equipment to create shelter for sleeping and other life-sustaining conduct in public places. The provisions of this paragraph shall automatically expire at 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2024, and the clerk shall delete this paragraph from this subsection at that time.

...

MEMORANDUM
City Council Agenda Item

FROM: Anne Torregrossa

DATE: November 13, 2023

SUBJECT: Order 69-23/24 Approving the One-Year Extension of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Portland Police Superior Officers Association - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager

SPONSOR: Danielle West, City Manager

(If sponsored by a Council committee, include the date the committee met and the results of the vote.)

COUNCIL MEETING DATE ACTION IS REQUESTED:

1st Reading **Final Action**

Can action be taken at a later date: Yes If action cannot be taken at a later date, please explain why. Do NOT write yes or no; that will be automatically generated by the checkbox.

Does this item involve a new contract with the City: Yes

PRESENTATION: Please list the presenter(s), type, and length of presentation

I. SUMMARY

II. AGENDA DESCRIPTION

This item extends the negotiated collective bargaining agreement between the City and the Portland Police Superior Officers Association ("PPSOA") which is set to expire on December 31, 2023. The proposed agreement would extend the collective bargaining agreement for one (1) year and provide a four (4%) percent increase to superior officers effective July 7, 2024. This proposal is presented after previously receiving guidance from the City Council in executive session and after having been approved by the PPSOA.

This item must be read on two separate days. It received its first reading on November 13, 2023. Five affirmative votes are required for passage after public comment.

III. BACKGROUND

Background information that will not appear in the Agenda Description

IV. INTENDED RESULT AND/OR COUNCIL GOAL ADDRESSED

V. FINANCIAL IMPACT

The fiscal impact of this proposal is an estimated $190,000 increase in expenses within the FY25 budget to cover the 4% increase in wages. This increase will continue into FY26 as well.

VI. STAFF ANALYSIS AND BACKGROUND

Staff Analysis that will not appear in the Agenda Description.

VII. RECOMMENDATION

VIII. LIST ATTACHMENTS

1. Police Superior Officers Association One-Year Extension 11.13.2023
2. Fiscal Impact Note Template - SOA - Fiscal Impact Note

Prepared by:

Anne Torregrossa
Date: 11/13/2023

KATE SNYDER (MAYOR)
APRIL D. FOURNIER(A/L)
PIOUS ALI (A/L)
ROBERTO RODRÍGUEZ (A/L)

CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL

ANNA TREVORROW (1)
VICTORIA L. PELLETIER (2)
REGINA L. PHILLIPS (3)
ANDREW ZARRO (4)
MARK DION (5)

ORDER APPROVING THE ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE PORTLAND POLICE SUPERIOR OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

ORDERED, that the current Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Portland Police Superior Officers Association effective July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023 be extended through December 31, 2024, as set forth in substantially the form of the document attached hereto; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager or designee to execute said document and any other related documents necessary or convenient to carry out the intent of this order.

Formula for New Program Costing on Tax Rate

1) FY24 Valuation:	14,879,000,000	**$14,879,000**
2) FY24 Tax Rate (Total City & School): **Levy / (Valuation/1000)**		**$14.41**
(a) FY24 Tax Rate (City)**:**		**$6.34**
(b) FY24 Tax Rate (County):		$0.62
(c) FY24 Tax Rate (School):		$7.45
3) FY24 Value of $0.01 of Tax Rate (Total City & School)**:**		**$148,790**

FISCAL IMPACT NOTE **New Program Cost Data:**	**FY24** **City Rate**	**City / Sch Combined Rate**	**FY25** **City Rate**	**City / Sch Combined Rate**	**FY26** **City Rate**	**City / Sch Combined Rate**
Example:						
ADD: NEW ITEM ANNUAL EXPENDUTURES		**$0**		**$190,000**		**$199,500**
ADD: NEW ITEM ANNUAL REVENUE LOSS		**$0**		**$0**		**$0**
LESS: TOTAL NEW ITEM ANNUAL REVENUES		**$0**		**$0**		**$0**
=NEW ITEM NET TAX RATE IMPACT PROJECTION	**$0**	**$0**	**$190,000**	**$190,000**	**$199,500**	**$199,500**
New Program Impact to the Tax Rate	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.01**	**$0.01**	**$0.01**	**$0.01**
New Program % Impact on Tax Rate	**0.0000%**	**0.0000%**	**0.2014%**	**0.0886%**	**0.2115%**	**0.0930%**
Tax Rate Inlcuding New Program	***$14.41***	***$14.41***	***$14.42***	***$14.42***	***$14.42***	***$14.42***

The fiscal impact of this proposal is an approximately $190,000 increase in expenses within the FY25 budget to cover the 4% in wages. This increase will continue into FY26 as well.

KATE SNYDER (MAYOR)
APRIL D. FOURNIER(A/L)
PIOUS ALI (A/L)
ROBERTO RODRÍGUEZ (A/L)

CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL

ANNA TREVORROW (1)
VICTORIA L. PELLETIER (2)
REGINA L. PHILLIPS (3)
ANDREW ZARRO (4)
MARK DION (5)

ORDER ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING A $2,000 DONATION FROM OLDCASTLE LAWN & GARDEN, INC. FOR THE SHOP WITH A COP PROGRAM

ORDERED, that a $2,000 donation from OldCastle Lawn & Garden, Inc. is hereby accepted and that amount appropriated for the Shop with a Cop program; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the City Manager or designee is hereby authorized to execute whatever documents are necessary to effect the intent and purpose of this order.