



**PICTURE THE HOMELESS**

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**Good day Committee on Public Safety City Councilmembers:**

**Thank you for allowing me to speak to you today my name is Fabian Cancel, and I am a member of Picture the Homeless and also street homeless. I have been un-domiciled for a few years now; I am also a true New Yorker, born in Manhattan raised in Bushwick, and lived in the Bronx. I am of Puerto Rican decent and will be 47 years young on February 22. I am here today to address the council on its proposal to implement 8 pieces legislation that is to make my life and all other New Yorkers life easier.**

**I myself think that changing criminal offenses to civil penalties is great as we look at the big picture, my issue may be minor to some but are major to me. I've been targeted by the NYPD on several occasions and this has hindered me in continuing with my goal of being treated like a human being, a New Yorker and someone deserving the resources and respect offered to other New Yorkers because of their status.**

**The laws you are focusing on changing such as open container, littering are all good steps going forward. I have issues with the changes for the violations of park rules and community service. When I was targeted like so many other people like myself it was in a lot of cases for being un-domiciled. I was arrested when I should have been given a ticket and sent on my way. I lost personal property such as a portable DVD player and two cell phones that were never vouchered. I know of people that have lost personal documentation and could not prove who they were when they had their next encounter with the law. This was I feel due to officers having the discretion to either give me a ticket or get overtime or meet his quota.**

**I say all of this because it's important that making these criminal offenses civil penalties is very good, but I can't replace my property and those other folks can't and won't replace their documents. You must take the discretion away from the officer and be fair to all. I want this Council to go farther in making sure that we are not targeted for being un-domiciled, black, brown needing help in getting our lives together. And the only real way to do this is to not let an officer that does not like me continue to victimize me.**

**I hope God will answer my prayers and others in my situation, God Bless all.**

**Fabian.**