

Ashleigh Norment

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Testimony to **Portland City Council** on the **Shelter to Housing Continuum Project, Recommended Draft**

Hello - I am a homeowner in the Riverwood Homeowners Association development at 125th Place and Shaver. We have had an ongoing struggle with campers taking up residence on our street and causing various public health, safety and livability concerns. Right now we have campers breaking the law on Shaver, refusing to leave even though it is posted that RV parking is not allowed and the City is allowing them to get by with it. I am certainly in favor of shelters, outdoors or otherwise, that are legal options for people in this situation. A major concern of mine is equity as to where the shelters are placed. We already know that most new shelters have been opened in the last few years have been on the East side and that the East side has been identified to have the most vacant lots big enough to accomodate these shelters. The plans need to include a cap on number of shelters in a particular geographical area and all areas of the city need to share in the distribution of shelters. Secondly, what criteria constitute a "managed shelter"? At the bare minimum it should be required that there are sanitation and garbage facilities with each site and that those facilities are regularly serviced. Since neighborhoods, particularly on the East side, have been asked to bear the brunt of this situation over the past several years with no support whatsoever from the City, there should be some public education on exactly who constitutes the unhoused population in Portland. It would help me immensely to know some facts and figures on what proportion are mentally ill, what proportion are domestic violence survivors, what proportion are drug addicts, etc. This would possibly help our compassion quotient and would also help stimulate ideas on approaches that work.

Testimony is presented without formatting.