

Nancy Keating

#267134 | March 9, 2021

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

Hello, I have lived in the SE area of Portland (Lents) since April 2018. The homeless/transient issue has been bad since I first moved here. Before moving into my home, I discovered that there was a houseless encampment in the backyard of the house I was purchasing. The people who lived there broke into my home two days before I physically moved in and stole my jewelry, camping equipment (which was quite expensive), my food, and my clothing. They also stole my car. When the police came, they did not take a report as they said it was not worth it.” I moved here from the NE side where there was hardly any homeless, but there was a large police presence and/or private security guards in the area. Below is a list of my concerns regarding the proposed zoning changes:

1. I think we all need to realize that we have to find permanent housing for the houseless people in Portland. However, I do not think that people living in camps and villages should be a permanent solution. The long-term goal should be drug rehabilitation, work/training to work and other services that would assist people to re-enter into the system.
2. Houseless camps/villages should not be solely placed/built in one specific area of Portland but should be spread about the whole Multnomah County. It seems the proposals and mapping show East Portland as the sole destination. This would only make an area that is already disparaged in spaces and housing.
3. I also think the idea of allowing private parties to have the ability to build/put up camps and villages as well as RV camps in any neighborhood under “clear and objective standards” is not a good solution. This could include out of state landlords who have no vested interest in our community. These alternative shelters will not necessarily be run by the county – they could be run by anyone the county approves to run them. It could be veteran shelter operators or other services groups. It could be an individual who decides his empty lot would make a great spot for a self-governed camp.
4. There should be a geographic limit on how many camps could be clustered in any given neighborhood or location.
5. Also, there does not seem to be any types of services such as such as sanitation or trash collection be attached to alternative shelters. If you have ever gone past the houseless area on SE 92nd under the 205 underpass, it is disgusting and very unhealthy.
6. There are no indications that the county will have public outreach or community involvement in these shelters or who the shelter operators will be. The communities should be involved. I hope my statement will make some type of impact. Since living here, I spend a few hours each week taking pictures of the homeless in their cars, tents, and RV’s; and I report these. This does not seem to have an effect, and these people litter the ground with their trash, needles, and feces. They come onto our property and take our belongings or steal our vehicles. I am constantly hearing the excuse “Due to Covid/riots” we cannot help... we don’t have enough

manpower... What is going to happen when there are no more riots or the pandemic is over. By that time this zoning will be in place and the SE will be a huge problem area that no one cares about. This is very sad and frustrating. Nancy Keating

Testimony is presented without formatting.