

Jamie Strohecker

#267171 | March 10, 2021

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

Citizen Input to the Shelter to Housing Continuum Project: Reading the Project Purpose and ensuing Code changes being proposed, I wanted to submit my comments on this project proposal. Please see responses to the project points below. We know Portland has a very serious issue with lack of housing for many to the point that it has become a disgrace and discouragement to all of us that call Portland home and we see and know how this situation has gotten beyond what is acceptable. Addressing the current City Codes to see if changes and/or modifications should take place is always helpful as long as these proposed changes are useful and work towards the betterment of all the citizens of Portland. I hope you all realize and are aware that not everyone (homeless or not) will appreciate or utilize these ideas and plans. How do you propose dealing with that? The Bureau of Planning and Sustainability is developing proposals to change certain City Code requirements that would expand the housing and shelter options for individuals and households with extremely low incomes. Code changes being considered could:

- Promote more flexible household living arrangements.
- Remove barriers to the production or retention of single-room-occupancy (SRO) housing, group living arrangements, or small apartments with shared kitchens. What kinds of barriers are currently in place to prevent the production / retention of SROs?
- Allow and regulate public or nonprofit operation of outdoor shelters where people can be accommodated in tents, yurts, small cabins or vehicles. You mention exploring the use of campgrounds with tents, yurts, small cabins, RV's, etc.. and adjusting siting regulations. Does this mean campgrounds and other 'designated spaces' being considered that are used and/or owned by Portlanders are to be converted into tent / yurt cities? Seems that is already in place and this is just a way to make it 'legal' and OK? Doesn't that discourage the general public from enjoying these outdoor spaces as well as create a potentially hazardous environment for those living there and/or using these spaces for fun and recreation?
- • Allow occupancy of a recreational vehicle or a tiny house on wheels on residential property. What specifications and rules come into play to avoid ghost RVs or other undesirable 'accommodations' being allowed on residential property to avoid continued and/or potential neighborhood blight? What rights would neighbors and neighborhoods have should an issue arise that needs to be resolved due to unhealthy, unsanitary, unsightly conditions?
- • Increase allowances for "institutional" uses in residential zones (churches, synagogues, and mosques, for example) to provide shelter and services. Have you reached out to the institutions to see what uses they might be able to assist with and if they're even able and willing to provide shelter and services? Who helps pay these institutions to have services available onsite since they should not have to incur a financial

burden because they've been legislated to provide these services? • • Modify current rules for temporary activities needed to respond to natural disasters and emergencies. Modify rules for activities in response to natural disasters and emergencies? Such as ? • • Adjust the siting regulations for temporary housing and shelters, increasing the number of allowed beds in some zones. How about re-opening shelters that have been shuttered for a number of years and get them back up and running for use. One example would be the Salvation Army shelter that was for women and children many years ago on the corner of Burnside and 2nd ave. • • Adjust the siting of day storage and hygiene facilities serving the houseless. Who would monitor / clean the storage, garbage and hygiene facilities at these sites? Would there be regular garbage and porta-potty service? Who would pay for that? Require these site residents contribute a small monthly 'rent' to live in a tiny village, etc to help pay for storage, garbage and hygiene services. Nothing should be for free. • Modify Design Review guidelines and other procedures for permitting affordable housing. What kind and to what extent would design review guidelines and 'other procedures' be modified? Would there truly be citizen input and consideration given to any modifications before implementation?

Submitted by: Jamie Strohecker 5132 SW Thomas St Portland, OR 97221 March 10, 2021

Testimony is presented without formatting.