

# Lynn Wolf

**#267183 | March 10, 2021**

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

I am justifiably concerned about this project proposal. The failed Hansen Shelter project is still fresh in memory and negative impact here. Briefly, I want three commitments expressly added to this proposal. 1) There will be a publicly posted distribution map, up for review and reworking, showing that proposed shelter/managed campsites are evenly distributed among ALL communities of Portland and not concentrated on the Eastside. 2) The Emergency designation and rules are to be extended to implement this plan and no permanent code changes are made at this time. More public review is needed for permanent changes to be made. 3) a comprehensive enforcement plan is coupled specifically to this program whereby new managed shelter sites are established but unsanctioned camping sites are physically shut down, removed, cleaned up, and then monitored so they can not be reestablished. This should be proven and reported on contemporaneously with the opening of new shelter sites. Along with these commitments I need to see what a comprehensive management plan entails and who, specifically, is responsible for its implementation and results. 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. I've read the RFPQ the Joint Office of Homeless Services put out and it does not inspire confidence. The RFPQ does not stipulate minimum services such as sanitation or trash collection be attached to alternative shelters. I have not been able to find anything that indicates the county will require shelter operators to do outreach to neighbors or engage community stakeholders. In fact, the new unconditional use designation means shelter operators will not have to do this. And the county will have no authority to ensure outreach happens. I have not been able to find anything that indicates the county has any kind of framework, plan, goals, minimum safety requirements, or standards as a pre-requisite for opening these new alternative shelters. There is nothing we have been able to find that ensures the camps will be supervised by a third party. They could be Self-Governing. What this will mean for East Portland - I think it is extremely likely the county and others will try to cluster outdoor encampments in East Portland and leave wealthier, whiter “single-family resident” neighborhoods untouched. I do not trust local officials to implement the code change in an equitable manner.

Testimony is presented without formatting.