

Jonathan Greenwood

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

Hello, I am writing to express my deep, deep support for Shelter to Housing Continuum. We are in a crisis. Many of our very poor are now houseless as a result. We need options for these people that will make their lives easier, and put them on track to getting permanent housing. First, I would like to express that we should be allowing group living in any scenario. This would open doors for people who are currently unable to live in such cheaper situations due to zoning rules. Second, we should be allowing RVs and tiny houses on single family lots. This will widen the possibilities for people who are houseless to get housed quickly. Restrictions against this are nonsensical and heartless. Don't count this against ADU limits to make the situation for our houseless and precariously situated neighbors much better. Third, we should relax zoning in all zones to allow shelters without expensive review. This will make it easier to shelter our houseless neighbors in a housing crisis. Fourth, allow accommodation types in outdoor shelters to include RVs, Tiny House on Wheels, and other types of shelter/housing. This should include tent camping. We need this kind of change to widen options for our houseless neighbors. Fifth, extend the housing emergency in our city. We are in a health crisis that is driving many to houselessness due to lack of jobs. This is tragic. I hope this would include allowing people who are sheltering on single family home lots to stay in place. Some are housing more than one RV or tiny house on wheels. To upend these people's stable situation during a precarious time would be terrible and just downright mean. Sixth, we should be allowing shelters in open spaces and in the right-of-way. This would open the door for tent siting, RVs, and tiny homes on wheels. We must do this and not harass people due to the lack of having a home. Seventh, we should lower the monetary and temporal barrier for setting up shelters. Currently, it can cost up to \$20,000 and take over six months to get a permit for shelters. This is unacceptable. These fees and wait periods should be waived for people experiencing houselessness. It is the compassionate thing to do. Allow churches to set up shelters without a waiting period that requires any fees. Do the same for open space and right-of-way zones. Eighth, we shouldn't require exorbitant sewer hookup fees for RVs and tiny homes. Adopt a mobile process for dealing with sewer waste like is done in Eugene. Finally, I just want to express that we shouldn't be sweeping any camps during a housing emergency, which should be extended until at least six months after the health crisis has passed. Actually, we should adopt a policy of never sweeping houseless people's camps. The city should adopt a policy of providing trash pick up, mobile showers, mobile laundry services, and provide portapotties for such camps to provide comfort for those struggling with houselessness. We have people claiming houseless individuals bring crime and trash to

neighborhoods and natural areas; this is my call to everyone in power in Portland to do right by the very poor in our city. Please heed everything I have said here. I write this with the help of a group I'm a part of, Portland: Neighbors Welcome. Please listen to those of us crying out to provide shelter and comfort for those in need. Please do not listen to detractors who only care about the bottom line of property values and ignore human dignity. Thank you, Jonathan Greenwood

Testimony is presented without formatting.