

Donna Howard

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

To whom it my concern: Our home has been in our family since 1968, we have seen Portland at its finest and now its lowest, in my opinion. Our neighborhood along with many others have been asking, no, begging for help. I am concerned neighbor who wants the houseless community to be treated fairly and for our city and neighborhoods to remain livable and overcome these challenges, together. On my street we have tents, drugs, human feces, rats and garbage that continue to grow. Some of the houseless are aggressive, some have mental health issues. Allowing this is not the answer for anyone, and I do not understand how you can think it is. How can you “distribute” the problem, who will monitor this, who will choose where each tent can be placed? Who will make sure that this doesn’t get out of control in any one place as it continually happens here at the Laurelhurst Park annex? As I type, we have over 25 tents, continuing to grow down Oak street onto 37th. This is just not right! What the city and our government leaders have done and are proposing is not working, for any of the citizens of Portland, with or without houses. We need designated areas for these people where they can have access to running water, sanitation and social services. Why would you have camps all over the city instead of concentrated in stationed areas where you could bring services to a majority? I plead with you do not allow this current proposal to go through, allowing campsites in schools, parks and neighborhoods is not the answer. What comes to mind is Einstein’s quote “The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again but expecting different results.” Thank you for your consideration, I hope you all do the right thing for all of your citizens.

Testimony is presented without formatting.