

Linda Robinson

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

I urge you NOT to adopt the Housing to Shelter Continuum proposal as currently configured. I'm submitting these thoughts as supplemental testimony, after reading some of the other testimony submitted. The Portland: Neighbors Welcome group argues that property zoned Open Space should not be excluded from the siting of outdoor shelters because not all land zoned Open Space is a park or natural area. If that's their position then the wording in the code change should be very specific about that. By saying that temporary outdoor shelters can be built on land zoned Open Space, someone in the future is sure to assume that any Open Space land can be used that way. This would be a huge mistake. I would also caution against exempting "developed parks" but not undeveloped parks -- because we still have many properties in East Portland that were designated by Multnomah County (prior to annexation) as "Future Parks" -- and which still have not been developed. There are, however, used by local residents, often because that's all that's available near their residence. I am also concerned about those that advocate that Right-of-Way (ROW) should not be exempted. Shelters (even temporary shelters) should not be located in ROW adjacent to schools, parks, trails and the like. There could be parcels of land with a ROW designation that would be appropriate. But there are only a few of those -- and allowing shelters in ROW, in general, would be a terrible mistake. The wording of the code needs to be specific enough that it clearly includes only those that are appropriate. It's too hard to fight it when used inappropriately -- and too hard to change the code -- once it's adopted. Finally, some are urging the city to adopt all the proposed code AND renew the declaration of a Housing Emergency. The way I read the proposed code change is that any temporary shelter (6 months) can be extended if a housing emergency has been declared by the mayor and until there is no longer an emergency. Keeping the declaration makes all "temporary" shelters essentially permanent shelters (or at least long term, much longer than 6 months).

Testimony is presented without formatting.