

Deborah Crohn

#267253 | March 12, 2021

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

I am not in favor of outdoor housing. That is accepting that our drug addicts and mentally ill can't have decent housing, but will be permanent second class citizens who live in shanty towns and tents. I am not in favor of allowing RV's on streets. Only in sanctioned parking lots with employees devoted to moving people RAPIDLY from RV's into proper housing. We cannot accept that our drug addicts and mentally ill will be permanent second class citizens, living in sub-standard housing. We have appropriated a great deal of tax money and I don't think it's being spent on our drug addicts and mentally ill neighbors. The money should be spent on free housing, free drugs, free drug treatment, and free mental health support. Most people living in tents are not functional. They don't have friends or family and they clearly have dealt with trauma. Often they are irrational and impossible for family to help. Change the laws so that mentally ill people can be involuntarily committed so they can get help. Provide incentives for our drug addicts to get help or at least be housed and given free drugs, so that the dealers don't just make money off of them. Where's the money from the opioid settlement? What about the property tax levy? If it's an emergency why don't we buy hotels right away? Why didn't politicians get behind using the vacant jail to turn that into emergency housing? Why are we in love with sub-standard shanty towns? We have to have standards. Enough of this shanty town nonsense. It's embarrassing.

Testimony is presented without formatting.