

Cheryl Meyers

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

S2HC is not a solution, at least as it now stands. There appear to be no criteria, no regulations or standards for maintaining health & safety (both inside and outside these encampments), and no measures of accountability or impact. If we were traveling to another country, we would be appalled to find the types of homeless encampments such as the ones Portland is proposing they expand upon even further. I am a recent transplant to Portland, specifically East Portland. I am concerned about how many of the homeless are pushed further and further to the "other side of the tracks," that is East Portland, and I am concerned that the city will simply place even more of these encampments in the still-somewhat-affordable, family-friendly neighborhoods of East Portland because it's the path of least resistance. The reasoning of "we're simply proposing these where the need is greatest" is circular reasoning that ignores the fact that there are more unsanctioned homeless camps in East Portland because they've been pushed out here from elsewhere. The homeless that are here are not FROM East Portland; they were pushed here from elsewhere. Making unregulated and unaccountable homeless encampments a way of life resolves nothing.

Testimony is presented without formatting.