

Deborah Towell

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

I have lived in east county for 50+ years so I have witnessed and have had to live with the changes often made by people who do NOT live in east county. This proposed zoning change is a terrible idea for east county. We are already struggling with extreme upticks of gun violence, criminal activity, and garbage/waste from homeless camps. I can't walk around my neighborhood and feel safe anymore when I see open spaces and bike paths taken over with overflowing garbage, waste and drug paraphernalia. Now you want to make it legal for folks to camp wherever for up to 6 months?? Take a look around our neighborhood. Try to go for a walk or a drive through gateway area and take in the view and smell of the camps, garbage and open drug use! East county is already struggling and does not need the extra burden of allowing the camps to legally stay in our parks, open spaces, sidewalks and bike paths. It will only attract more crime and apathy among it's property owners. Have you walked into Gateway Fred Meyers lately?? You walk in feeling like a criminal with all the safety and anti-theft measures they've had to take. Living around here is depressing when you look around. Please do not focus all this proposed change to the east county. We won't survive much more influx of homeless. There has to be better and more equitable ways to address homeless. A colleague shared that the government made a change like this in Austin, TX and it was and still is a COMPLETE FAILURE they are still trying to fix! East county is not the solution unless you are knowingly and willing to turn this area into a slum.

Testimony is presented without formatting.