

Mike Barron

#267281 | March 14, 2021

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

Dear Mayor Wheeler and members of the Portland City Council, I'm a 5th generation Portlander and truly believe there's got to be a better solution to the existing issues at hand. Look at our current situation, stumptown to dumptown... I would be more inclined to agree with this proposal, but we've had a trial for the last year right at our feet, and clearly it's not working. Look at how disgusting every corner of our city has become! I'm sure my ancestors who were instrumental in building this city are rolling over in their graves. Can't we find something that is sustainable and fair for everyone; especially those citizens who are law abiding and pay their hard earned wages to find this city through some of this highest taxes in the country? This is a double standard and will only enable perpetuation of the issue at hand. I am empathetic to the homelessness crisis, my own brother recently came off the streets after suffering from a meth addiction for several years. His street living environment is what nearly killed him. He got a horrible infection, that would not have occurred had he had proper sanitization, designated housing and toiletries to care for himself. As a parent of four children under 103, it's very sad we can't feel comfortable taking our neighborhood park (Laurelhurst park), the one my parents took me to, without concerns of my child getting a needle stick or an encounter with human feces. We're asking our homeless to live in 3rd world type conditions next to multi million dollar homes, why should we increase the problem? This make no sense and the ones who came before us would be so ashamed at the disservice we are doing this city. For gods sake clean up the rubbish first, then let's talk about a better solution for all. With deep concern, Mike Barron

Testimony is presented without formatting.