

# Love Jonson

**#267322 | March 14, 2021**

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

I support Shelter to Housing Continuum Project and the amendments proposed by Portland: Neighbors Welcome. More than half of all police dispatches in 2019 were directed at houseless people living their lives outside. These dispatches put houseless people—who are disproportionately Black and brown people—at increased risk for escalated police incidents. Until Portland Street Response can be scaled up to meet the full need and until we can secure meaningful police reforms, houseless Portlanders need as many opportunities for safe, stable housing as possible. And, the reason my neighbors at Hazelnut Grove love where they live so much is because of their self-governed model, which is similar to the cohousing community I live in just up the hill. Other people need more formal supportive services. This project will make way for many different types of stable, low-barrier housing communities. For these reasons, please pass the project with improvements: extending the housing emergency, allowing outdoor shelters in open space zones and right of way where appropriate (e.g., not in developed parks), reducing conditional review requirements, and not requiring vehicle dwelling to have sewer connections but instead allow sanitation solutions that work best. Thank you to our Commissioners, BPS staff, Council staff, and innumerable advocates for your work on this project.

Testimony is presented without formatting.