

Linda Elmore

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

I've lived in East co. all my life and have watched the changes take place particularly in East co. concerning the homeless. Yes, its a problem but given the effect its had on neighborhoods and the lack of support from the city of Portland to clean up the areas the homeless effect it does not make any sense to build shelters to draw more homeless to our area. How many properties does the city of Portland own that are siting vacant that could be used for shelters in the inner city areas? But are those areas being considered I doubt it because the inner city areas don't want shelters. What happened to the jail that's never been occupied in NE Portland oh yes its vacant. Many of the homeless won't go to shelters because they choose to do their "own thing". All of us feel sorry for the situations of the homeless but many choose this lifestyle so why should the homeowners and business's in East Portland have to be the place for them to live should they decide to live in a shelter... its unfair and yet we pay outrageous property taxes in east co. and we seem to be the dumping ground for anything that Portland doesn't want to deal with. We already have many help centers along 122nd and other east county locations in SE and NE... its time the city of Portland did some upgrades in East Portland instead of giving us the problems Portland doesn't want to deal with...

Testimony is presented without formatting.