

# Joanne Sterling

**#267370 | March 15, 2021**

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

As much as I understand and care about the current housing crisis and the plight of the homeless, Portland has lost its vision of what the city should be, and is ignoring the needs of citizens who have invested in life here. When my clients describe fear visiting parks at sundown, and groups gather to pick up needles, trash and debris, it is time to bring reason and common sense back to the reality of life in our urban surroundings. Creating camps in our city parks is madness. Rather than dealing with the problems homelessness and rampant drug use are creating, by allowing encampments the city is not only abdicating its responsibility but is also endangering the people who work, pay taxes, invest in the future, try hard to maintain business, and are becoming victim to indifference and inaction by its city government. Take responsibility. Create a solution. Help to clean up the mess and the chaos. Portland is becoming a laughingstock. It is rapidly becoming a poster child for inaction and ineptitude . Please pay attention. Your duty is to us all, and to the future of what this amazing city had the potential to be, rather than what its becoming: a haven for homelessness, open unhindered drug use, human trash, excrement, crime, and destruction and disrespect of public property. Please, stop this madness. You have the ability, and the power.

Testimony is presented without formatting.