George Crawford

#267419 | March 15, 2021

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

This proposal should only be approved with a stipulation it's approval results in current outdoor camping and vehicle living in public spaces (ODOT Land, Portland Parks, Side Streets etc..) to no longer be allowed and must be enforced. The term serving Portlanders is great "if we mean true residents". If we have for example 100,000 residents tax base and have services & housing to support people in need from this 100,000-population source, then great. The problem is tax payor paid services are available to anyone who shows up here and instantly becomes an AKA - Portlander. We are taking the brunt of people in need, addictions, mental health for the whole region and beyond. Our tax base cannot support and should not support the burden of this challenge. The more and more options we give and housing we provide for recent arrivals will just drive more people to come to Portland with a pre-existing need for supportive services. The housing bonds passed by local tax payors should only be creating housing and providing services for people who are truly residents of the tax base. Looking at this proposal it appears we will try to fill current need which if accomplished will just encourage more in need to arrive in Portland continuing a vicious cycle. The policies and housing plans need to address this residency issue. Portland is like the Enabler Aunt letting her addicted Nephew stay at her house. It's easy living so he tells his friend and then another and before you know it her house is taken over and she lost control. This is the situation Portland currently is in and eventually the Aunt needs to say enough is enough. One Issue needing addressed with this proposal is the uneven burden it adds to people living east of the river. I understand the reasoning being access to services and transit, but quality of life impacts continually is placed on only a portion of Portlanders. Another solution to add more housing is reducing the huge permitting and SDC costs for building privately. The current Portland model is about 25K paper fee for every unit added. This means the private market will only take on projects in higher priced areas where it financially pencils out. There should be true incentives to help expand all areas in Portland. These huge cost barriers also exacerbate who makes money on Portland's growth. The housing bonds and city should also look at lending to low income home owners and reducing these development fee's to enable them options to build ADU's, multi family or add tiny homes on wheels which will help add housing stock to all neighborhoods and give options for wealth growth with lower income households.

Testimony is presented without formatting.