

# Jeff Dunford

**#267468 | March 15, 2021**

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

As an east county resident, I naturally have an interest in preserving and increasing the livability of my neighborhood. As a person who likes to think of themselves as both compassionate and realistic, I am both willing to be part of a solution to the crisis of homelessness plaguing our society and understanding of the fact that space for shelter at reasonable cost is relatively more abundant in my area. All that I want is that the burden of taking care of this problem be spread throughout the region as equitably as possible. There needs to be funding allocated to remediate any adverse impact the establishment of homeless facilities have on the neighborhoods where they are established, and by no means must there be the perception that homeless people living in one area are being transported to other less-favored parts of the region. It is also important that treatment for medical/psychiatric related homelessness be separated from criminal behavior, and that criminal behavior be punished vigorously and medical/psychiatric related homelessness receive treatment. If more prosperous areas of the region are unsuitable for shelters due to the cost of real estate within their boundaries, it would seem only fair that those areas pay a larger burden of the cost of establishing and maintaining these facilities.

Testimony is presented without formatting.