

# Mary MacKillop

**#267489 | March 15, 2021**

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

I believe the best way to approach helping the homeless is to let Title 15 expire because random camping has proved to be problematic: a health hazard, a safety issue, an expensive clean-up, clear-out issue among others. New codes that exist for a maximum of one year should form an enforcement plan that establishes new managed shelters while random camps are shut down, removed, cleaned up, then monitored so they cannot re-establish. A detailed description of what the management plan is for each site and who specifically is responsible for its implementation and results needs to be published before any vote is taken. Just moving people to a shelter does not address the base problem of drug and alcohol addiction or mental health issues. Any plan needs to include treatment, preferably non-optional, and social services. Another important part is that everyone, including the homeless, needs to be held responsible for their actions. The homeless camping situation has changed what was once a livable city and it is time for our city, county, and state leadership to step up and clean up the mess they have allowed to grow to epic proportions.

Testimony is presented without formatting.