

# Annette Mattson

**#267494 | March 15, 2021**

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

As an East Portland resident since before annexation, I am still waiting for the City of Portland to fulfill the promise of street cars, parks, sidewalk and employment opportunities. While some token investments have been made, what I see more of is increased socio-economic segregation that is a direct result of City Policy. This proposal will increase that segregation by creating pockets of poverty in some neighborhoods while allowing others to not support their fair share of residents in need. Shelter siting should be equitable in every neighborhood in Portland. Concentrating our houseless residents will strain those neighborhoods, their services and their schools. When looking at locations for business, retail and employment, companies look at poverty and education levels in those census tracts. A concentration of poverty will keep new business and employers from locating to the area, further perpetuating poverty and creating a black hole of despair which will grow and become harder and harder to escape. Existing grocery deserts will remain so and existing grocery stores will shut down, as we saw at 122nd and Glisan. When locating camps, again, equitable distribution is necessary. The west side needs to carry it's share. So does Irvington, Eastmoreland, and Laurelhurst. There should be a formula for size, location, and income ratios so that east of 82nd does not continue to be one of the poorest places in the nation. In regard to permanently residing in RVs - what will the standards be? Will you allow the wheelless tarp covered RVs with boarded up windows currently found parked all over the city, to be moved into front yards? Can we look forward to the same piles of rat filled trash on lawns that we now find on sidewalks and streets? What are the standards? Have you every driven to rural areas that have no codes on trailers and seen the numerous rotting trailers that people have parked on their property? Who is going to enforce the life, safety and health codes for this? If you are going to support this change, I challenge every city staff member and councilor to open up their yard to the RV's on Foster Road near SE 112th avenue. Just move them right on your lawns. They are dangerous, dirty, surrounded by garbage and unfit for people to live in. Is this what you are planning for yards across Portland? Or only "some" yards - the yards in the precincts with the lowest voter turnout? This policy will just be one more example of perpetuating concentrated poverity through Portland policy. I beg you to vote "no."

Testimony is presented without formatting.