

Patricia Glazier

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

I understand that the burgeoning homeless population does not appear to be going away anytime soon. I also understand that this is very complex problem complete with many facets that often make helping these individuals difficult. That being said, living only blocks away from Laurelhurst Park I have seen first hand what exploding homeless camps do to neighborhoods and the people who live there. I also am witnessing the stress that being around an impending 60 bed shelter on North Lombard and Denver Avenue is causing to the close neighbors of the Arbor Lodge and Kenton neighborhoods. I have some points that I wish to make: 1) It appears as if the majority of the potential shelters are placed in the east side of the Willamette River. Granted, the west side is more challenging topographically but, it only seems right to look into an equitable distribution of any potential shelter spaces in ALL Portland communities. Not just the east side. 2) Proposal that no permanent changes be made to the current codes. Let Title 15 expire so that random camping is not allowed and then extend a new emergency declaration to allow there new codes to be enacted temporarily under a new emergency time frame (1 year or less). With regards to random camping, the proposal to allow tents to be erected in public parks and golf courses is, in my opinion, not logical or sound. It smacks of a city that has no idea how to deal with this growing and deepening problem and has chosen to drop it in the laps of neighborhoods and the individuals who utilize these spaces for enjoyment, sports, gatherings, peace and solace. If any of you witnessed the extreme example of this by the Laurelhurst Park annex, you would have noted massive amounts of garbage, human waste, used needles, abandoned cars, yelling, screaming, increased crime and also fear being experienced by the neighbors close to that area. The annex houses a playground, tennis courts and soccer field, a wading pool area and a building that in the recent past was home to summer classes for children. What about the parks that have schools incorporated into them such as Grant Park? Home to Hollyrood School and Grant High School, there are children there daily. Sunnyside School and Park is another example. Having "a few" tents parked inside these areas is not a sane idea. Those "few" tents will balloon into yet another example of a small city complete with the same problems already witnessed by the homeless camps we already experience. I think about those parks that have open shelter space, public pools, gardens, gazebos, dog run areas. All these areas would be in danger of being over taken by individuals who have many physical, emotional, psychiatric and drug issues, just to name a few. These individuals deserve help that random campsites cannot provide. Public golf courses are NOT areas for camping and should never be designated as such. Leave public spaces alone. Homeless individuals can enjoy being in a park but not as tenants of said

areas. 3). With regards to shelters, enforcement plans need to be delineated and attached to any new codes mentioned in part 2 so that as any new shelters are established, random camps are shut down, removed, cleaned up and then monitored so that they cannot reestablish. 4). A detailed description of what management plan is for each site and who, specifically is responsible for its implantation and results needs to be published BEFORE any vote is taken . Please consider ALL of Portland residents in your proposals. Realize that any plans made now will affect thousands of people who call Portland home currently and in the future. Sincerely , Patricia Glazier

Testimony is presented without formatting.