

Sermin Yesilada

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

Dear Mayor Wheeler and City Council members, I am writing in support of the Shelter to Housing Continuum Project, Recommended Draft. This proposal fills in the gaps of the Residential Infill Project to even better encourage the development of affordable housing and sheltering throughout the City of Portland. I am in full support of changing the existing definition of "household" and in allowing Group Living as a limited use in single family residential zones. These changes better reflect the make up of households and population trends that will be our future. Removing regulatory barriers to alternative types of living situations will make it easier to build affordable housing in our neighborhoods. I am also in full support of the proposal's changes to allow shelters to exist in more areas than currently allowed and in expanding the different types of allowed shelters. Our housing crisis has only worsened, the trash dumping is out of control, and I fear this will become a complete humanitarian disaster after the COVID-19 eviction moratoriums are lifted. Millions are at risk of becoming homeless. This proposal will allow Portland to get ahead of the problem. I live in Multnomah Village with my husband and three children. One of the potential sites for Tiny House shelter living is the land adjacent to the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. I have been volunteering with Cascadia Clusters at this site. There is also the Greater Portland Bible Church and the Hillsdale Community Church that have land where these Tiny House shelter villages could be located. I live within a quarter mile to half a mile of each of these sites. I enthusiastically say, "YES IN MY BACKYARD!" I recently established my own business and am in the process of registering as an architecture firm. I am a member of a grassroots organization that is submitting a proposal to the Joint Office of Homeless Services for the alternative emergency shelter grant. My business will also be in developing co-housing or co-op villages of tiny homes with a common house as infill missing middle housing. An example of a larger scale version can be found in OrangeSplot's and Square One Village's developments. This type of housing is inherently more affordable than our average single family home price due to density and size. The changes adopted through the Residential Infill Project and as proposed in the Shelter to Housing Continuum Project will make it all the more possible to develop these villages to be affordable to residents. The two together, the shelter cluster proposal and the Tiny House co-housing model, is shelter to housing continuum. I urge the council to adopt the recommended draft so that Portlanders like myself and my fellow housing activists can get to work building it. Thank you, Sermin Yesilada, IIDA AIA LEED AP BD+C Registered Architect - OR Multnomah Village resident

Testimony is presented without formatting.

