

Brenda Smith

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

I have lived in East County for over 30 years. I have seen the landscape gone from small neighborhood environments to high density housing with no additional support visible to the community. With the addition of the first MAX line we have seen an increase in crime and more recently the increase in homeless camps which have destroyed our neighborhoods. The infrastructure dedicated to East Portland is not sufficient to handle the issues. The Hansen project is case in point. Dumped in the area without public notice caused several business to leave the area. We are now facing a food desert due to Safeway going out of business. The bus service unless you live directly on the lines is of no benefit to anyone living midway between Stark and Division and Stark and Glisan. As a soon to retire citizen, I do not feel safe in my neighborhood during the day let alone at night and now you want to put more Hansen projects in my neighborhood. Without serious addition of services you will wash your hands of the issue and say we tried. An enforcement plan must be delineated and be expressly coupled to this action so that as new managed shelters are established, random camps are shut down, removed, cleaned up and then monitored so they can not reestablish. Everyone should work together to solve the homeless crisis. SE Portland was annexed into the city without buy in from its citizens. Since then we have seen it become the dumping ground for not-in-my-neighborhood communities, increase violence stemming from gangs and mental health issues. There should be an equitable distribution of potential shelters in ALL portland communities including the elite neighborhoods for NW Portland. If you look at the proposed maps there East Portland is slated to take the brunt of this project. Let Title 15 expire so that random camping is no longer allowed and extend a new emergency declaration to allow these new codes to be enacted temporarily under the new emergency time frame (no longer than one year). Tent camping is rampant all over the city. It is an embarrassment to the community. Finally, a detailed description of what the management plan is for each site and who, specifically, is responsible for its implementation. The issue at hand was caused by this body of people. Do not create another problem without delving into the details. Once the plan is determined the results needs to be published before any vote is taken. Included in that plan should be details on how you enforce the no street camping; how do you provide support to business owners who are already suffering because of the pandemic and the issues surrounding street camping in East Portland and how do you provide services to the shelters to ensure safety of not only the shelter citizens, but those living around them. From the map it looks like you are planning on sending a lot more folk into East Portland. Make sure there is the infrastructure, including police, to support it.

Testimony is presented without formatting.