

# Benjamin Ward

**#267748 | March 15, 2021**

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

There are 4 elements. To summarize: 1) Code changes to make it easier to site homeless shelters and associated services in various zones. 2) A new community service use in the Zoning Code called Outdoor Shelters. 3) More housing flexibility by allowing Group Living configurations more broadly. 4) Allowing occupancy of a recreational vehicle or a tiny house on wheels on residential property. Comments on each: 1) I believe most neighborhoods would be wary of nearby shelters of sizes that exceeded a relatively small (8-10) "beds". Homelessness and drug addiction go hand-in-hand these days (and should be addresses simultaneously, not sequentially), but bringing too much of that into any one location would no make neighbors very happy. 2) The two examples given are really tiny house "mobile home villages". If you have city owned spaces that can accommodate this type of housing, it seems like this could be a good and modest addition to the solution. 3) This would be where I think the biggest effort should be applied. Anywhere a fourplex-to-apartment could be build, one of these alternatives could also be build. Or perhaps more "boarding houses" where people can rent furnished or mostly furnished rooms. Note: back when I first moved to Portland 40 years ago there were many old hotels where nightly rental was relatively cheap for those on a fixed budget. Most all have been renovated or replaces since then. 4) ADUs are one thing. RVs and tiny houses on wheels in the driveways is another. Next, parking on the curbs. A slippery slope. Not very fond of this proposal. Finally, while the total number of homeless in the city may not have changed much in the 6 years prior to covid, it's impact has accumulated. And in the last year, our city has gotten downright trashy. It is disheartening in so many ways. I sincerely hope the S2HC effort is a long term effort, not just a code change and were done. We're done when the number of homeless is

Testimony is presented without formatting.