

# Gail Weiss

**#277678 | March 15, 2021**

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

I am writing concerning the city creating spaces in outer SE for homeless camps. I used to be homeless myself, so I have much compassion... but I also have an understanding of how it can get out of hand. If the city is going to 'okay' any encampments, said encampments should provide porta-poties + shower service + garbage service + 24/7 security + counseling and job search help. It's scary being homeless, and one way to divide the scary homeless/psychos from regular homeless would be to have camps like this. People who are trying to get out of homelessness would be thrilled to have someplace safe to sleep - 24 hour security would ensure the troublemakers would not be welcome. We live in a very wealthy city, we CAN afford this. If homeless are just allowed to set up camp and leave feces, needles, and other trash around (as they have been already in this neighborhood) we in the community should get a hefty property tax break for having to clean up after them ourselves. It's not fair to send homeless people to camps in SE without systems of basic living in place (septic, water, security). Property development should be taxed to pay for the needs they created (evicting people for profit). I think all people should be able to have a safe place to sleep and just be. The city has plenty buildings and monies to hire people to man indoor camps, and keep them clean and safe for the WHOLE city. Don't just dump them on open properties out here to do whatever they want without any hope for a future. Organize it, pay people to organize it, and make it happen!

Testimony is presented without formatting.