

# Jolynn Moshner

**#277725 | March 16, 2021**

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

The Shelter to Housing Continuum Project is a disaster waiting to happen. It does nothing to help the houseless population and nothing to help our once beautiful Rose City. These proposed changes appear to be a band-aid that will do long-term harm to the economic viability and livability of this city. The problems we are seeing around this city didn't start with covid. They've been happening since 2016 when the Safe Sleep Policy was adopted. Not enforcing rules around street camping and allowing camping in open spaces are the same thing and do nothing to address the longterm problem. It simply makes the city less livable for everyone. A large portion of the population camping on the streets are the "hard to house", people with chronic and serious addiction and mental health challenges. Allowing open camping isn't a fix!!! It isn't compassion, it's avoidance and an abdication of responsibility to this community! Stop Shelter to Housing Continuum Project In Its Current Form. I sincerely wish/hope the same effort and hours that have been put into creating this plan are being put into a long-term plan. Before anything is passed, I'd like to see answers to the following. 1. What is the longer-term plan to address the needs the houseless and specifically, the "hard to house"? What is the framework for this plan? Is a team in place? Are organizations working together with the same effort that was put into this plan? What is the timeline? How will progress be measured? 2. Existing Camps. What is the enforcement plan for shutting down existing camps? How will clean-up be managed and on what timeline? What enforcement will be in place to make sure these existing camps don't re-establish? Lack of resources and enforcement of existing camping rules didn't just start during covid. This has been a growing problem since 2016. How will it be managed going forward? 3. Camp Management. How will camps be managed? Allowing camping in open spaces with no infrastructure to handle the number of houseless we are seeing is creating another crisis. How will sanitation, health and safety, needle disposal, fire hazards and trash and cleanup be managed? Who (what organization) is responsible for camp management? How will that organization be held accountable? The management plan described here is very vague. A detailed management plan needs to accompany this plan. 4) Camp locations/distributions. This plan expresses the desire to evenly distribute camps throughout the city. The argument that most of the designated areas are on the east side is due to the fact that there's more available land is not good rationale or policy. Fair and equitable distribution needs to be found. Please don't implement another plan that will exacerbate existing problems and create more problems in the future. This will have long term impacts on the economic viability and livability of this city.

Testimony is presented without formatting.

