

Erica Jensen

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

The East Portland community continues our voicing of concerns with this new proposal. In very recent history the East Portland community voiced strong concerns about the proposed Hansen Shelter project and suggested that Wapato would be a better location for the project. These concerns were ignored and the Wapato suggestion was dismissed out of hand as a non-workable solution. Now we know the Hansen Shelter was a disastrous failure and chased businesses out of the area before being shut down itself and the Wapato property is now housing one of the most lauded shelter operations in our area. So we demand that we are heard and heeded this time. We require these commitments to be a part of this new proposal: 1) Title 15 emergency housing declaration be allowed to expire thereby disallowing random camping within city limits. A new emergency declaration be declared so that these new codes may be implemented only for the duration of this new emergency declaration, not to exceed one year. 2) A new proposed shelter site map be drawn and posted for community review, that shows an equitable distribution of proposed sites in ALL communities of Portland. Dispute the East Side having more potential sites, they should be removed from the map until it shows an equitable distribution in ALL communities. 3) An enforcement plan needs to be explained and attached explicitly to this proposal stating that as new managed shelters are established, random unsanctioned camps will be shut down, removed, cleaned up and monitored so that they can not be reestablished. A one for one continuous progress report should be publicly available. 4) The management plan should be detailed for these new sites and naming who, specifically, is responsible for its implementation and results are to be published before any vote is taken.

Testimony is presented without formatting.