

March 16, 2021

Testimony to Portland City Council on Shelter to Housing Continuum Proposed Zone Code Changes

To the City Council:

We are writing in opposition to the proposed Shelter to Housing Continuum (S2HC) proposed zone code changes to the city charter. To be frank, we cannot believe the City Council is even considering this change. Are you really prepared to surrender the livability of our entire city to houseless camps? And, are you accepting of relegating this population to live in the disgusting squalor apparent in all of these camps? You cannot possibly accept this as a solution to this situation.

We recognize that this is a crisis situation. This crisis is not just in Portland. It is affecting cities across the entire nation. As elected leaders of our city you must rise to this occasion and work on solutions that are satisfactory to all parties. This means helping people who want help now living on the street and in the parks while protecting the amazing city you have inherited. It means mobilizing the bureaucracy to work outside their current job description to help the most people while protecting the livability of the city.

There are working groups in the city trying to find common ground solutions to support the city government. Listen to them. Look for real solutions to the problems. Do not give up and sacrifice this amazing city. Do your job.

Kay Altman

David Browning