

Jessica Onstrom

#277802 | March 16, 2021

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

I agree with major points listed below. I'm especially concerned about the need for enforcement and the ability to ban sidewalk camping when other alternatives are available. I wish I could attach a picture of the sidewalk on NE 122nd and Davis, along our closed Safeway store. We've had bicycle lanes added and speed limits reduced, but it's OK for pedestrians to walk in a busy street because the sidewalk has been blocked with tents, trash and bio-hazards? I believe many of those poor campers are clients of the Blackburn center - one more nail in the coffin of our struggling neighborhood. Would things be better if this zoning change moved them to Ventura Park, or back to the Hansen parking lot, or perhaps my neighbor's 1/2 acre lot if he needs help paying his taxes? Please don't consider a permanent change without considering all the consequences to our neighborhoods. 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.