

Dean Gisvold

#277828 | March 16, 2021

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

Resolutions of the Board of Directors for the Irvington Community Association At its regularly scheduled monthly meeting, held virtually on Thursday, March 11, 2021, with a quorum present, the Board of Directors for the Irvington Community Association (ICA) approved the following recitals and resolutions. Recitals First, we know that the City has a significant homeless problem affecting all neighborhoods, including Irvington. Tent camping seems to be everywhere. Something has to be done, but we know that the City has many pressure points right now, such as recent court decisions which allow camping where other alternatives are not available. Another big problem is money, City revenues are down, and everywhere you look money is needed to clean up the City, get the plywood off businesses downtown and elsewhere, control and stop the violence, and defeat the virus. Will there be money for S2H? Will there be non profits, managers, and operators for the needed shelters? And what will happen when the foreclosure and eviction moratoriums expire? Second, what appear to be well managed tent shelter areas (with adequate hygiene equipment and garbage services) at the east end, and just north of the Hawthorne Bridge, have been operating for several months without serious complaints as far as we know. This may be a good model to follow, but we have no idea about cost and manpower needs. Also we have heard good reports from Vancouver regarding the use of motels for temporary shelters. So there are alternatives to look at to see if they would work in Portland. Third, all of the pictures in Vol 1 of S2H show an ultra-clean environment, tidy, and well kept, which is not what we now see on the streets and sidewalks in Irvington. You will remember when then Mayor Hales allowed camping in certain areas in the City. The unintended consequences were many; it did not work out well, and neighborhoods are bearing the brunt of the problem. We do not want to see a repeat. Whatever form and wherever located the shelters must be well funded and managed, with all necessary services. Be It Resolved that ICA will support the S2H recommendations if the City: 1. Will clean up and move the current tent camps that now exist in Irvington and other neighborhoods in Portland to new shelters per S2H 2. Will manage or cause to be managed all new shelters, especially the outdoor shelters, and provide such shelters with all necessary services, such as housing units, sinks, showers, toilets, storage, and garbage pickup. 3. Will enforce rules and regulations that keep the shelters clean and well managed, and use City inspectors as part of the process, rather than rely on the complaint driven system we now have, which takes too long and does not work all that well. 4. Will have one City bureau in charge, and clearly identified to neighborhood residents. 5. Will provide adequate City funds to make the above happen for at least a three year period. Submitted by Dean Gisvold, board member and land use

chair, on behalf of the ICA. March 16, 2021.

Testimony is presented without formatting.