

GIA RIDEAU

#277921 | March 16, 2021

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

I grew up in Portland. As an adult I lived in Los Angeles for 15 years and moved back in 2009. First I want to say that I think you should create communities out by the airport/delta park/anywhere there is open space. Why do storage facilities take precedence over neighborhoods? This way you can concentrate the services needed to sustain the communities. The residents should **HAVE TO CONTRIBUTE** to live there: trash pickup, community gardens, maintenance, cooking/cafeteria, laundry, whatever is needed. People with skills can use them to improve their surroundings (plumbers, electricians, handymen and women). We do not need people who aren't willing to get back on their feet slumming in our neighborhoods when no other cities will take them. If you do this we will become even more of a magnet for the homeless. There is a point of no return in this situation, if we're not already there. 2nd -- when I lived in LA, Richard Rogg, the owner of Promises Drug rehab in Malibu had opened a facility on our street. We knew that when we bought our house there. (I am not a NIMBY person when things are done right). He proceeded to buy up 2 more properties on our street and was getting ready to purchase a 3rd when we finally moved. California had **NO RESTRICTIONS** on these rehab facilities. Each facility/home had at least a dozen people (6 men, 6 women), transient, so you were essentially living next door to strangers at all times. This is a terrible environment to raise children in. I wouldn't want a house next door to me that was filled with **DOCTORS** and **NURSES** if the population was constantly turning over. (I am also not prejudiced against people in recovery.) The politicians were in such a panic in the 80s (much like now) with all the cocaine use and addiction that they did not think things through when they passed the laws that allowed rehabs to exist in neighborhoods. And I was told that if I wanted to change legislature I would need a lot more time than I had to attend meetings and gather signatures. I was a single mom with a full-time job. So if we get **STUCK** with your proposal, **PLEASE** think it through. There must be restrictions on how many of these lots can be within a certain number of blocks/miles from each other. **THEY NEED TO BE SPREAD OUT**. And don't you dare even think about **NOT** placing them in the wealthiest neighborhoods in the city right along with the poor areas. That would be absolutely shameful. I think you should have done something similar to the aforementioned work camp situation when this whole thing first started. I don't see how making Portland a more inviting place for the homeless is going to benefit our city. For the record, I do not think your idea of putting these lots in neighborhoods is going to work. You are punishing people who have worked hard and want their kids to be able to ride bikes in the street and shoot hoops and not live next door to people who cannot take care of themselves (mentally ill or drug addicted), and you know that is a

substantial portion of our homeless population. You are placing a massive burden on unqualified people. I am not saying we should turn our backs on them, rather we should set up a system where they have an opportunity to get back on their feet or get the help they need. Please google SOCIALWYZE. It's a program that helps people BEFORE they lose their homes. They are succeeding in Dallas and need new cities for their pilot program. We need something proactive if we have any chance of ever cleaning up this mess.

Testimony is presented without formatting.