

# Marina Zare

**#277971 | March 16, 2021**

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

Portland has become the haven for the homeless due to its very unfortunate desirable accommodations. Homeless come to Portland in busses and have been for years because they see the leniency the city and officials have extended to people living in the streets. A tent can be pitched anywhere, they can relieve themselves anywhere (and they do). They can take drugs, drink alcohol in broad daylight and call it a “ coping mechanism”, while the rest of us would be jailed for those. As bad as things have become in the past years, this proposal is a sure way to put the nail in the coffin of what used to be called the city of roses. The residents and business owners who managed to survive the riots, flood, fire, covid economic downturn can not survive this. Businesses will not survive this. No one will go to a restaurant or any other service provider at an earshot of a homeless camp. No one will move into a neighborhood and pay the kind of money we paid to move into these neighborhoods to have homeless campers as neighbors. No one will feel safe allowing their children to walk to school or play outside. Homeless problem will worsen by this proposal as it will plummet the home values and willingness to live here by adding tents, garbage, substance abuse, hazardous material literally at our doorsteps and at the same time hiking up taxes and other living expenses forcing those that so far have managed to stay afloat and keep a roof over our heads into wanting to leave the neighborhood and with decrease levels of livability this proposal will bring, a slew of foreclosures, ruined lives and homes will be the only outcome. This proposal will destroy neighborhoods, rob us from all that we have worked so hard to achieve, from our safety, security and sanity and will not solve this growing problem and at best, will provide some talking point for the officials and alienate a large number of people. Solutions; Stop doing what has been done since it only has made the problem worse. Stop adding homeless camps to end homelessness. Instead, repurpose more buildings like the Wapato building, use existing vacant ones for housing. Residents can earn living there by becoming clean and drug / alcohol free, by cleaning and taking care of the property they get to use as their home. They can work in the city, cleaning roads and streets that have turned into landfills from garbage and residuals of left behind tent cities. Build career pathways rather than safe places for drug administration.

Testimony is presented without formatting.