

# Ricky Davison

**#277974 | March 16, 2021**

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

I have lived in portland for nearly 27yrs and have seen a lot of changes over those years. Some good and some bad. All in all I love this city and up until a couple of years ago I would never have even thought twice about moving out of Multnomah county. Unfortunately over the last year the city has seemed to really be spiraling out of control. From defunding the police and now trying to figure how to bring them back to trying to solve a homeless epidemic by enabling folks instead of helping them. I realize it is a complex situation. But at this point one that will not be helped by merely putting another bandaid on it. That being said I vehemently oppose letting homeless people the ability to set up their tents and shelters in our cities parks and golf courses. When I first read this topic for a council meeting I thought to myself, where I am living? Is this a viable option? After all there are already tents and make shift shelters set up all over the place as it is. Are we just going to allow the garbage and drug paraphernalia that goes hand and hand with these areas to take over the entire city? My biggest complaint is that this will not detour most from still setting up encampments wherever they please. This will just allow them to encompass a larger area of our city. Like I've stated previously this is a complex problem and has many different situations as to why people live on the streets. But pretending that this will help in any way is absurd. This will just be one step closer to putting the final nail in the coffin for our city and take us another step back. Please do not allow our city to slip any further toward a 3rd world country. We can do better than this. And consider the source from which this is coming. JoAnn Hardesty has not only been trying to defund the police her entire career , which only hurts those most vulnerable. But now she is trying to also put our children and other vulnerable citizens at risk by allowing some potentially dangerous characters to live in our cities parks. How can anyone be so self centered to not care about what is best for our community? Thank you, Rick Davison

Testimony is presented without formatting.