

arsinoe hudson

#277987 | March 16, 2021

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

My husband and I moved to Portland in 1990. Why did we move to Portland - well let me tell you: A. It was a beautiful city. I have traveled all over the world and back then I could not find a more beautiful city that I wanted to live in. B. The outdoor spaces - parks, trails, and closeness to mountains and rivers. C. The people. The people were kind. People said hello to each other, We were polite to each other when we drove. D. The facilities - community centers offered classes and they were social neighbor spaces. E. Portland was the shiny star full of innovators and people who can see and plan into the future - look at the Eastbank Project, Springwater Corridor, The Pearl District etc. Well I have to say the Portland of today is NOT what I signed up for. I no longer tell people "come visit - its a beautiful city" The homeless camps and trash everywhere is disgusting. If my yard had that much trash the city would cite me, fine me and make me clean it up. The City of Portland does not have to do any of that. We live in a giant trash can! The homeless population now have more rights than I do. They are allowed to take over my park, trails and community centers. We have ever increasing taxes but we have less and less access to outdoor and community services. Try biking on the Springwater Corridor - the encampments are so bad that sections of the trail is not bikeable. My house has been robbed twice. My car license plates have been stolen. My garbage can has been stolen - who steals a garbage can! I no longer feel safe in my neighborhood. So now the city wants to pass S2HC to change zoning so the the city, without input from us, can use places for homeless encampments. I am sorry but this is another way the city is taking our rights away. I also have no trust that the city official would make the best decisions. The city is not capable of managing the budget - we have high property taxes, water bills and utilities but it seems to always be out of money. The City has also done "emergency" housing acts - landlord can not evict, collect rent, the rules keep going. Portland is not longer innovative - this city now just chase problems and bandaid problems and now it wants to pass S2HC to bandaid the homeless encampments because they can not make clear decisions. I have no rights as a resident while the homeless can do what ever they want. Lets be innovative and solve the homeless problem no bandaid it. Encampments are not a solution - neither is passing S2HC.

Testimony is presented without formatting.