

Michelle Wulfe

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

Dear Portland City Council Members, I would like to begin by thanking you for addressing the homeless situation. The Eastside has seen a constant increase in the number of homeless camps and displaced people on our streets and in our communities. The Hansen shelter, when in operation, brought a sharp increase in the number of homeless in our area. Once the shelter was closed, the problem only increased. Recently entire sections of 122nd between Halsey and Glisan were covered in tents. Establishing organized areas for the camps, housing and shelters is necessary. I hope that the ability to provide services, medical aid, recovery services, sanitation and meals are a priority in selecting a location. I take issue with the sweeping changes to the Zoning Code being a Permanent Change. How is a program that is so widely encompassing passed and permanent changes made without a trial run or validation period to see if it is successful? Entire sections of the Zoning code are being obliterated. Why is a Variance not being considered for a trial period to determine if these changes are beneficial? A Variance could be granted for areas as testing grounds or stop-gaps, this could be done with the option to revoke if it does not work as planned. Not everything that has been done in the past has worked and a permanent change at this stage is premature, Like many in my community, I am very concerned with the equitable placement of the camps, shelters, and housing. History has shown that many of these projects are pushed out to the East side. The S2HC site maps showed most of the spaces available to be located on the East side as well. This combined with the budget constraints are concerning. As a homeowner, I worry about the effect on my community. Are there any considerations to avoid placement near schools and senior communities? We are in a time of crisis. But eventually Covid will end, we need to help our community heal and recover. This includes communities and businesses. Modifying our Zoning plan Permanently to allow Camps and shelters in our communities forever (or even 20 years from now) sends the wrong message. Is Portland willing to sacrifice business and tourist income. Homeless camps are detrimental to Businesses and our Tourist Industry. This needs to be a temporary solution, while we can keep the vital Business and Tourist revenue that are so important to our tax base revenue. Sincerely, Michelle Wulfe Summerplace

Testimony is presented without formatting.