

Monica Cory

#278030 | March 16, 2021

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

I appreciate that the city is trying to create emergency affordable housing. Eliminating bureaucracy to fast-track simple, temporary managed housing is a good idea, in theory. I coined the phrase, Restart Villages--a place for people on the street to get stabilized short-term housing. However, it has to be temporary housing with tough love. The challenge now is that our city council veterans squandered the support of the majority of citizens by allowing unlawful protestors to destroy our city --for months. Now, you are tackling a big, expensive issue with a considerable lack of confidence from the majority of your citizens. That said, here's what needs to be considered for this plan to have a chance of proceeding: Furthermore: 1 As new housing options and shelters are erected, all street tents and urban camping should be banned. And especially along the Columbia River, Johnson Creek, Springwater Corridor, and other waterways and public bike routes. Time to say NO. 2 If a houseless person comes to rely on public or private donation dollars for a hand up, they will have to comply with standards of behavior. No more trash and hoarding and they must be expected to participate in the cleaning and maintenance of the housing option and contribute to their rent. That of course, will be the responsibility of the unit operators. 3 Since the public is funding this quick start housing initiative, the public should say where these spaces are. 4 Don't dump it all in East Portland. Since only the recently added Commission Mapp's lives east of Cesar Chavez Blvd., I'm sure that by just looking at a map, it might seem tempting. Again. Do not do it. Look for ODOT spaces. Industrial sites along Columbia Blvd. Delta Park. St. Johns. Barbur Blvd. Yes, even on the west side. And these new housing areas should not be in established parks and public spaces except for possibly Delta Park where the houseless are already overwhelming the area. The city has already underfunded Parks and Rec. 5 These units have to be considered transitional housing. I support helping those who want to restart with simple, steady housing, basic employment (or volunteer work) and by reinforcing personal achievements. But not with a steady handout with no ownership or expectation from the benefactor. Hold people accountable for their behavior. And help show them the way out of living in wet canvas tents on the sidewalks. There was a guy in a camper nearby our home last summer. He had a broom and trash bags, and he cleaned the sidewalks every couple of days. No one complained about him because he was a good neighbor. Most people aren't intolerant of the houseless; they are frustrated with the garbage they leave behind, the theft, the intimidation, and the aggressiveness of the mentally ill. I think with respect to the greater tax-paying public, this could be a good plan. But in all giving, we have to remember: When you give once, you elicit appreciation. When you give twice, you create anticipation. When you give three times, you create

expectations. Give four times, it becomes entitlement. Give five times and you establish dependence. We have to encourage people to be self-sufficient. Monica Cory

Testimony is presented without formatting.