



March 16, 2021

Portland City Council  
1221 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Ave Room 130  
Portland, OR 97204

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**RE: Shelter To Housing Continuum**

Dear Mayor Wheeler, Commissioners Hardesty, Mapps, Rubio, and Ryan:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Shelter To Housing Continuum (S2HC) project. As a greenspace advocate, I offer my support to the proposed S2HC code reforms to make it easier to develop a greater variety of accessible housing choices across a wider array of sites within the City.

As part of the public process, you are hearing a lot of feedback from City residents concerned about allowing for temporary housing in Parks and Open Space. I want to acknowledge that there is much in this proposal that makes it the right choice in this desperate moment – the ongoing housing emergency in the midst of a pandemic and an economic crisis. In an ideal world I would not support temporary shelters in our Open Spaces zone, but this is not an ideal situation.

These zoning and other code changes will expand opportunities for nonprofits, churches, and other mutual aid organizations to offer supportive housing options for those in need. The S2HC is part of the broad sweep of recent reforms that include the Residential Infill Project, Better Housing By Design, Expanding Opportunities for Affordable Housing, and Measure 26-210 to make Portland more welcoming, inclusive and humane, with a greater variety of housing options and choices.

As important as these reforms are, I want to acknowledge that they are not enough to ameliorate our ongoing housing crisis. We still have an outstanding need for a [tenant opportunity to purchase policy](#) and to develop alternative housing financing measures for lower income homeowners, homebuyers, and renters. These ideas were raised during lead-up to the passage of the Residential Infill Project in summer 2020. Where are they at now?

Please support the package of Shelter To Housing Continuum reforms, as proposed by BPS. Let's advance our housing policy for all.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Labbe".

Ted Labbe  
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