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

You need to stop funneling homeless into poor, minority and working class neighborhoods of North and East Portland. The pandemic has put unbelievable strain on our communities, many of whom continue to be left for dead by the so called social support services. It is well documented we have fared far worse in this time than more affluent communities. Working class folks and minority communities barely hanging on themselves do not deserve to bear the burden of the homeless population, who are destroying our neighborhoods and further complicating our lives. Rich power brokers adding to our misery is not helpful, rather it's shameful. Why are there no plans for shelters in Washington Park? Or Council Crest? Why is the city of Portland continuing unequal policies that continue racist and classist policies of the past? In poorer neighbors you have to remind children to dodge needles, broken glass, and endless garbage. We have to check our cars to see if anyone's syphoned the gas out. Or stolen a catalytic converter. Anything not bolted down on a porch, stoop, or yard is as good as gone. We can't walk our dogs for fear of being accosted by some tweaker or having our pets step on some used drug paraphernalia. However, take a walk through parts of the Pearl, or the west hills, and you wouldn't know anything had changed. And the garbage situation. It is a complete embarrassment. The city of Portland is a green city, yeah, right. Is there research being done on the environmental impact of turning so many public spaces in this city in to open trash dumps? Or is that sweep under the rug too? Where do you suppose all these tiny bits of plastic are going to end up? But hey, let's hurry up and build a carless city, maybe put some more bike lanes in the most rapidly gentrifying neighborhoods, because you know, then we can say aw shucks, we tried, after the earth is on completely on fire. This rigid, dogmatic, wing-nut approach of government in this state and in this city is a failure of the human spirit . We need real, pragmatic, problem solving leadership now in this time of multiple crisis. We need to end the exploitation of the poor by the privileged elites under the guise of progressive idealism without turning to opposition parties full of fascists.

Testimony is presented without formatting.