

Alexander Johnson

#278261 | March 17, 2021

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

The work of the Shelter to Housing Continuum Project is an unequivocal step in the right direction. We have a moral imperative to address the needs of the homeless and provide pathways to dignity and purpose that avail themselves of existing supportive organizations (including our communities) while also laying the groundwork for new and better options. We can't continue to passively punish homelessness and expect the situation to improve as if it were simply a question of incentive. If the systems currently in place were fully sufficient to tackle the housing crisis - now in its sixth year - then we wouldn't be here. This is as much a local issue as a humanitarian one, and the stakes have never been higher given the events of this last year.

Testimony is presented without formatting.