

Amy Horlings

#278345 | March 17, 2021

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

Dear Council Members, Homelessness is a complex and growing issue in our city, and the solutions needed are varied. I support some of the recommended changes, especially allowing long term residence in RVs on private property with appropriate sanitation hookups, and the widening of options for residence in tiny houses. But I strongly disagree with the de facto authorization of existing campsites and allowing camping in public parks without a plan for providing sanitation resources. The Laurelwood shelter had been a good neighbor since opening (I live 2 blocks away) and I welcome additional well run shelters and most importantly longer term transitional housing. But the campers along Foster and Powell have not always been good neighbors. There are needles, trash, and feces around these campsites. The idea of “sharing” public parks and sidewalks when bathrooms and needle exchange and disposal are not provided is not an answer. It’s clear that the city cannot keep up with the current sanitation needs of our unhoused neighbors. Sanctioning camping without a strong plan for garbage pickup, bathroom facilities and needle disposal simply absolves the city of the need to find real solutions. And of the need to provide a humane standard of living to all our residents. I oppose the vague and expanded allowances for use of city property during a housing emergency, and urge you to reject these amendments. Respectfully, Amy Horlings

Testimony is presented without formatting.