

Bill Truncali

#278381 | March 17, 2021

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

Dear Sir/Madam: I have read through your proposal on this topic and I have some concerns regarding potential temporary relocation of the homeless to city parks. It is my understanding that this would only be allowed under emergency situations for a maximum period of 180 days. This decision could be made by a public agency or non-profit agency. As a resident of the Pearl District, my concern is that the city originally declared a housing emergency in 2015. This situation has become only worse over the last 6 years. This is the result of not having a strategic and sustainable plan, and supporting laws, to deal effectively with the issue. I am compassionate to the needs of the homeless, but this must be dealt with while protecting the rights of home owners, local businesses and the arts community. In recent years, Portland has been an attractive destination for travelers from around the world. The current state of tents and the resulting trash scattered across the city have already had a significant impact on our reputation. Based on the current crisis, I am concerned that the city or a non-profit agency could use their authority to execute this action at any time. This would be devastating to Portland's economic recovery. The recent flight of many residents to the suburbs as a result of the pandemic and riots will only continue. I ask you to assure the citizens of Portland that you will seek to find another solution to this growing problem. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Bill Truncali

Testimony is presented without formatting.