

Brian Sahler

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

Whatever the policy ends up being going forward, Portland needs to provide enough space/shelter, services and dumpster space for the people who are already here and then we need to say, "Move into a designated area, or move on." The lenient approach the City has taken has absolutely resulted in people migrating to this area and setting up camp essentially wherever they would like. I can't imagine there are many places in the country that would allow mass homeless encampments seemingly anywhere, including bordering on school athletic fields (Cleveland HS). We, and our friends are to the left on the political spectrum, but the trash and debris everywhere, and particularly along our main commuting routes (McLoughlin Blvd., I-5) is absolutely disgusting. The Springwater Corridor, after having been cleaned up thoroughly a few years ago is now a series of mass dump sites, with many of them polluting Johnson Creek. In the last 4 years, I've gone from being incredibly proud of my City to being embarrassed to have visitors from out of state. If you are going to be accommodating, then you need to do the work to provide services and clean up after people. SOLVE and Central City Concern should have their budgets and outreach massively increased. I don't care what gets cut to pay for that, or what additional taxes need to be imposed - the homelessness problem and the associated dump sites are the city's biggest problem. You also need to realize that a segment of the population has no intention of cleaning up or moving into shelters or transitional housing and send a message that the status quo of setting up camp wherever, leaving trash and human waste wherever isn't going to continue to be acceptable. We give generously to the Oregon Food Bank, Portland Homeless Family Solutions and other outreach organizations. We've adopted a couple of blocks to keep clean, and we've bagged up abandoned encampments: feces, needles, bottles and all. We've just reached a point, as many in Portland have, where we feel enough is enough - the City needs to get more aggressive in dealing with this problem.

Testimony is presented without formatting.