

Susan Gisvold

#278396 | March 17, 2021

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

Dear Mayor and Commissioners, In summary, S2H well intended, but misses the mark. This newest PSC project requires a pause and reassessment. The issue of homelessness is complex. Central City and Reach, and other nonprofits, are dealing successfully with new housing and supportive services for folks who were in jail or homeless. Without specifying requirements, such as funding and management and neighborhood outreach, the shelter to housing proposal appears to continue the friction between impacted residents and their homeless neighbors and an ongoing breakdown of trust between Portland residents and their elected and appointed officials. Not to mention the endless supply of garbage resulting from these camps. The homeless problem is not a land use problem and it will not be addressed by entitling ad hoc occupancy. This initiative should never have been placed in the hands of the PSC. The proposal fails to address any of the underlying problems of unemployment, mental health, addiction, criminal behavior, and the shortage of sanctioned and managed housing for those who are struggling to get back on their feet. Knowledgeable neighborhood residents want to know the answers to the following questions: Who is to be housed and who is to be excluded? Who is responsible for managing the camps? What services, if any, will be provided? Will there be a workable and responsive complaint system available to neighborhood residents? How permanent is the camp? Is anyone deprived of use of the space where the camp is to be located? Most importantly, who is paying the bills? Please vote no until you can answer these and other questions raised by neighborhood residents. Submitted by Susan Gisvold March 17, 2021.

Testimony is presented without formatting.