

Susan Aromaa

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

Good morning, I read the FAQ section of this proposal and noted that shelters would be sited "where there is demonstrated need." I bought my house 6 years ago. Since then, three homeless shelters have been opened within a 1 mile radius of my house (two permanent, one temporary). One of the permanent shelters is within 600 feet of my house. Since the shelters opened, street camping in tents and campers has exploded in my area where there wasn't any before. Please keep in mind that you are creating additional need where you place shelters. If you are proposing siting shelters by need, you are effectively going to inundate specific neighborhoods with shelters. Shelters should be evenly dispersed throughout neighborhoods in Portland (where there is access to transportation/services). I don't think my neighborhood can handle an additional influx of a population who needs low barrier services. One thing that has been left out of this proposal is what is going to happen with street campers who do not want to take advantage of the additional opportunities we are offering, including sanctioned outdoor campsites. This will only help the city if it significantly reduces the number of unsanctioned outdoor street campers. I don't see anything in this proposal that mentions enforcement of sidewalk camping or benchmarking the number of campers moved off the streets. Finally, please do not allow camping in natural areas. It's a waste of taxpayer money to clean up these natural areas only to turn around and have that work undone by lots of people camping in the area. For example, please look at what's happened to the Johnson Creek Brookside park off of SE Foster. Thank you for considering my testimony. Best, Susan Aromaa

Testimony is presented without formatting.