

Cindy/Leo Zinn

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

As members of the Riverwood community we feel that the following issues are very important. We require these commitments to be a part of this new proposal: 1) Title 15 emergency housing declaration be allowed to expire thereby disallowing random camping within city limits. A new emergency declaration be declared so that these new codes may be implemented only for the duration of this new emergency declaration, not to exceed one year. 2) A new proposed shelter site map be drawn and posted for community review, that shows an equitable distribution of proposed sites in ALL communities of Portland. Despite the East Side having more potential sites, they should be removed from the map until it shows an equitable distribution in ALL communities. 3) An enforcement plan needs to be explained and attached explicitly to this proposal stating that as new managed shelters are established, random unsanctioned camps will be shut down, removed, cleaned up and monitored so that they can not be reestablished. A one for one continuous progress report should be publicly available. 4) The management plan should be detailed for these new sites and naming who, specifically, is responsible for its implementation and results are to be published before any vote is taken. Additionally, we strongly oppose setting up public parks as sites for camping. As shown by the current sites used by the tent shelters the combination of strewn garbage, lack of hygiene and general cleanliness would destroy the parks and render them unusable by the public. The proposed site at the old Kmart location at 122nd and Sandy would potentially increase criminal activity in this North East area that is already plagued by burglaries and shootings. We understand that the homeless situation is complex, but the resolution should not put viable neighborhoods in decline.

Testimony is presented without formatting.