

Nancy Shannon

#278462 | March 17, 2021

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

Stop! Do Not Allow the Homeless to live in our Parks, Streets, Green Spaces or anywhere that is against the law! Do not redone fir the homeless!!! You have allowed the laws to be broken and now the city of Portland is being DESTROYED!!!! Designating homeless sites in so called areas will ruin our neighborhood livable! We the taxpayers of Portland will rise up against the leaders who allowed our town to destroyed!!! I have called, talked to, written letters etc... to the Governor, Mayor, Police, City Officials since 2015! Nothing but we're looking into this, we know, welll we can't do anything, we're doing surveys, this is out of our jurisdiction, etc.....!!!!!!! Never an answer that has truly shown that the issues were going to be taken care of ?!?!? Sure there is no pat answers.... but it is so wrong to allow the homeless to live in the streets or designated areas! Our society has laws we live by to protect ALL our rights!!!! But the last 5 years the homeless have been breaking the laws, and that lawlessness has changed the livable not only in my neighborhood but across our country! That will not change even if you put them in designated zones! The majority of the homeless (mentally challenged, those who just want to do their own thing and not live by any rules or thoughts about the the neighborhoods, businesses, environment, other people but themselves, etc) will not change because they don't want too! I have talked extensively with, fed, given clothing, blankets, sleeping bags, water, etc. for the last 5 years in my neighborhood.... I can honestly with a clear conscious say that most of the homeless in my neighborhood to not want "REAL" help! Just hand outs, free anything if not they take whatever they want! AND NO I am not being overly negative about this.... I live in it and with it every day now! Last two weeks there have been 2 RV explosion fires, and a shooting with blocks of my home!!!! Living in my home since May 19, 1980, this NEVER has happened let alone believable to think of.... What was the Mayor thinking when said let the people camp on the streets... told the "POLICE" "HANDS OFF" !!!!! That very next day while my husband and was walking our dog across the street in the park a group of people were drinking and smoking pot, signs stating of course that it was illegal..... please remember that was back 2014 , we told them that was not appropriate in this park, they laughed at us and said call the cops, so my husband did, and to our amazement were told by the operator at the police station that unless there was any violence or weapons present it wasn't an issue!!! ???! This was the first time my husband and I were never helped by the Police. Lawlessness was now prevalent in my neighborhood and it has been evident every day since! You have to STOP this lawlessness by making breaking the WRONG!!!! The leaders of our CITY are allowing the law breakers to get away with their crimes and destroying our city. As a homeowner and law abiding citizen, I choose NOT to break the law!

And if I did..... I (because I pay my taxes) would pay a fine or go to jail. During the Great Depression (when homelessness was probably worse than now) President Franklin Roosevelt bought about a work program that gave a place to sleep, 3 meals, work and the choices were you accepted or moved on and that was it. Now I know that most of these homeless won't but you can't give them what they want if it's destructive to our society. As a human being WE don't always know what's best for us.... the comes a time to make the choice what hood for all, now that I have rambled on PLEASE do not put the homeless in our neighborhoods or parks

Testimony is presented without formatting.