

# Angela Todd

**#278488 | March 17, 2021**

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

Safety and livability should be a right of all Portlanders. How did our discussions about compassion and equity turn into this idea that following the law is optional? I resent the sentiment that the safety in Portland has to be diminished for equity to be realized in the city of Portland. I want to start by expressing my horror as I watch so many Portlanders being victimized at the poor policies and decisions this council and other elected officials have supported. I am so incredibly disappointed that this council is considering a band-aid solution to an epidemic that leaves so many people living outdoors, many with mental illness or drug addiction. I fail to understand why you aren't spending your time modeling programs that have worked in other cities in the United States, rather than insisting on this social experiment you appear to be conducting on the citizens of Portland. For this proposal, is this really the best ideas you can offer? I can't leave my home without seeing people in a daze in the streets. It is common to see people physically in harms way. There also seems to be unlimited daily growing trash and filth littered throughout the city and along the highways. Now are you asking us to accept unsanitary parks and recreation areas where anyone can camp and behave as they wish, and no one can ask them to leave or clean up the camp? You also propose in other ways that the citizens and tax dollars clean up this fifth indefinitely - as if we could keep up with your bad policies? This proposal takes the abilities of the parks department to keep our parks clean. Trash and camps were scattered throughout the park, needles were in the grass by the pool in addition people passed our with needles in their arms, branches from trees and picnic tables were being burned for illegal campsites. What about our children, what about the environment, what about safety, what about the people that aren't being helped – those you somehow pretend we to be advocating for? Why are you advocating for leaving them out there in these conditions, and not calling out the county officials that are spending money on programs without results? The last time I spoke at a city council meeting it lasted 5.5 hours. This time I feel compelled to provide testimony in writing as giving up this amount of time during my workday is unreasonable. Reading 300 pages is also unreasonable for someone who has another job to support their family. In many cases I am noting you are not reaching out to the community, and in some cases you are having small meetings with a few activists and declaring you sought community feedback. Your collective behavior suggests you don't want our input. Please start thinking about what legacy you are leaving in Portland. Your current collective behavior is absolutely suicide to Portland.

Testimony is presented without formatting.