

Marc Zemp

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

PLEASE STOP Shelter to Housing Continuum Project In Its Current Form! What happens if these changes pass? Is it considered pencils down and no more work is needed? I sincerely wish/hope the same effort and hours that have been put into creating this plan are being put into a long-term plan. Before anything is passed, I'd like to see the following: 1) This isn't a long-term solution. What is the longer-term plan to address the needs the houseless and specifically, the "hard to house"? What is the framework for this plan? Is a team in place? Are organizations working together with the same effort that was put into this plan? What is the timeline? How will progress be measured? 2) Existing Camps. What is the enforcement plan for shutting down existing camps? How will clean-up be managed and on what timeline? What enforcement will be in place to make sure these existing camps don't re-establish? Lack of resources and enforcement of existing camping rules didn't just start during covid. This has been a growing problem since 2016. How will it be managed going forward? 3) Camp Management. How will camps be managed? Allowing camping in open spaces with no infrastructure to handle the number of houseless we are seeing is creating another crisis. How will sanitation, health and safety, needle disposal, fire hazards and trash and cleanup be managed? Who (what organization) is responsible for camp management? How will that organization be held accountable? The management plan described here is very vague. A detailed management plan needs to accompany this plan. 4) Camp locations/distributions. This plan expresses the desire to evenly distribute camps throughout the city. The argument that most of the designated areas are on the east side is due to the fact that there's more available land is not good rationale or policy. Fair and equitable distribution needs to be found. Before any changes are passed, I'd like to see concrete answers to the above questions. Please don't implement another plan that will exacerbate existing problems and create more problems in the future. This will have long term impacts on the economic viability and livability of this city. I am begging you, please pull the necessary resources and organizations together and treat this as the crisis it is. This cannot be treated as a zero-sum game. Please research Rockford Illinois. Sincerely, Marc Zemp

Testimony is presented without formatting.