

# Darlene Garrett

**#278496 | March 17, 2021**

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

Dear Portland City Commissioners: I am appreciative and supportive of the bold moves being made by the city to amend zoning codes to allow for alternative shelters and sanctioned campsites to be developed more easily within the city. We all know that the lack of safe, sanitary sleep areas for our houseless unsheltered population is creating a humanitarian crisis for our city, while simultaneously creating anxiety and disdain among housed residents, businesses, and visitors. While such bold steps are being taken, we all are worried that the new sites will not be managed appropriately and situations that have been allowed to exist in Old Town Chinatown will continue to occur around these camps. I believe that while zoning codes are amended to allow for the camps to be developed throughout the city, that zoning be in place to assure these camps are not overburdened with extraneous campers moving in around the borders of the camps and that trash pick around the camps be clearly prescribed as part of the new codes. For example, "campers cannot camp with 50 yards of a sanctioned camp area." I have been an advocate for engaging neighborhoods in serving our unhoused population for many years now. They can assist the camp's integration in a neighborhood and work with the camp residents in moving campers outside the boundaries on to other locations and take some responsibility for assuring trash created by the campers does not become a nuisance. Some zoning codes need to be developed to assure a neighborhood can remain safe and clean while still supporting sanctioned camps. These codes need not be complex but provide a "win" for a neighborhood willing to accept and support sanctioned camps.

Testimony is presented without formatting.