



CULLY ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORS

Central Northeast Neighbors
4415 NE 87th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97220

The Cully Association of Neighbors is delighted to endorse the Shelter to Housing Continuum. This package of proposals will make life better for Cully residents and people throughout the City—the well-housed, the houseless and those housed in ways not sanctioned by City Code.

Many of my Cully neighbors are among 40% of Americans, residents of the richest country in the world, do not have \$400 in savings. They are one minor emergency away from indigence—possibly houselessness. I am ashamed that we have made choices as a society to allow this to happen—that we have not established housing as a human right.

And I am proud of my City government that in a remarkably short time has pulled together a complex and far-reaching set of amendments to seven sections of the City Code, involving at least ten City Bureaus. As a City employee for 25 years, I have some understanding of what a challenging task this was.

The Shelter to Housing Continuum project liberalizes shelter regulations and streamlines their approval process. Of particular importance to Cully is the legalization of tiny houses on wheels, of which there are as many as 100 being occupied in our neighborhood. Also legalized are some of the other clever ways that Cully residents and other Portlanders have adapted to the high cost of housing including group living, and outdoor shelters. Organized outdoor shelters are an improvement over the informal tenting that lacks sanitary and garbage services. What's crucial is to get more people indoors. Thanks go to the Council for assigning this project, to the staff who developed it and to the PSC who improved it. Now what remains is to adopt it, which we urge you to do.

Once you have adopted it, I hope you will consider extending the declaration of housing emergency. Unarguably there is a greater housing emergency today than there was when Council declared it in 2015, and the emergency does not end with the passage of this package. We urge you to extend it at least through the end of our public health emergency which makes housing more essential and our economic emergency which makes it more difficult to afford. An extension will allow City Bureaus more flexibility in responding to the new clever ways that Portlanders will find to house themselves.

David Sweet, Land Use Chair
And the board of the Cully Association of Neighbors