

Dani Goodman

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

Hello, I'm writing in support of the Shelter to Housing Continuum Project, Recommended draft. Addressing housing affordability and opportunities to shelter currently unhoused populations is crucial for the long-term viability and livability of this great city. All people deserve to be sheltered and no one should be burdened by housing costs, which is all too frequent within Portland's city limits. I have couple of items to note: 1. It is really important to locate shelters near social services, job opportunities, transit, and amenities when at all possible to provide people access to the resources they need to transition out of houselessness. 2. It is also important that we find means of diversifying where the shelters are located. I understand that current analyses indicate that outer east Portland has the most opportunity for development of shelters due to available land, development affordability, etc., but it is also home to many of the city's diverse but also disenfranchised residents. I do not want to see more prolific, wealthy, white, east and west neighborhoods to be able to utilize their power and resources to skirt away from the responsibility of caring for each other, which will lead to disproportionate impacts on vulnerable communities. So in essence, yes! Pass this! I just hope that there are ways that we can help ensure that wealthy neighbors with loud neighborhood associations can't disproportionately shift the responsibility to already burdened populations in the process (which they are very good at doing). I also recognize that the code changes are meant to bring additional flexibility on where and how development occurs and not necessarily mandating that these be located near these resources, but I hope that additional conversations are had after adoption to consider these comments. Thank you reading

Testimony is presented without formatting.