

Bernadette Janet

#278515 | March 17, 2021

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

Portland City Council Ted Wheeler, Mayor Jo Ann Hardesty, Commissioner Mingus Mapps, Commissioner Carmen Rubio, Commissioner Dan Ryan, Commissioner Dear Elected Officials, I support code changes meant to expanding shelter and housing options for those who are homeless or are facing homelessness throughout Portland. It took far too long to recognize this problem and I appreciate your efforts to improve the City Codes. Please remember that the homeless population could include our mothers, fathers, siblings and children. Viewing them this way should inspire the commitment necessary to affect real change. Of special concern to me are that you: Eliminate any laws that would criminalize homelessness due to illegal residential occupancy. Create sufficient permanent hygiene facilities exist throughout the city to assist all Portlanders and improve public hygiene. Reopen public toilets permanently to improve hygiene options. To the degree that Parks & Rec does not have sufficient funds to operate such facilities, that the money be allocated from funds created through taxpayer support for affordable housing, or any available CARES funding [in support of health and welfare to prevent the spread of disease] or funds for health in general. A bathroom is part of a home even if it is free standing [like former outhouses]. All Oregonians benefit from ensuring that homeless people are provided with adequate bathroom and washing facilities. It is my understanding that the decision of churches on the South Park Blocks to provide a public toilet, eliminated their need to clean feces off their properties before Sunday services. Downtown businesses should be willing to financially support such efforts if presented in this way to save downtown business from collapse. Support all efforts to create “meal programs” by removing any conditional use impediments/requirements as applied to schools, colleges and community service providers that want to provide meal programs. Allows religious institutions and businesses to host more than three vehicles, including potentially a THOW for homeless camping if there is reasonable space on their to accommodate such hosting. Permit any changes to the code impacting Group Living from Household Living to allow the existence of Boarding Houses and remove relationship requirements for multifamily living under one roof. Amend prior code changes to permit accessory dwelling unit (ADU) be amended to prohibit the use of such ADUs [intended to relieve our affordable housing problems] from use as market rate housing or for airbnb usage. Sincerely, Bernadette Janét

Testimony is presented without formatting.