

Christopher Lancefield

#278570 | March 17, 2021

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

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of the Council, As a recovering addict, I fully comprehend active addiction as being one of the challenges plaguing some people who are experiencing homelessness. I also suffer from depression, which is recognized as a form of mental illness. Mental illness can be another facet of daily life for many who are either living in active addiction, experiencing homelessness, or both. In the past, I volunteered at Hooper De-tox, which is run by Central City Concern. I have, from time to time donated food and clothing to the Portland Rescue Mission. I would also like to mention the Salvation Army for their work to rehabilitate people and to help others re-enter society. Could the Portland City Council and Multnomah County work together to increase funding for Wapato Jail and additional shelters? Permanent changes to the zoning code will not, in my opinion address the core issues surrounding homelessness: mental health and substance abuse. A number of social service agencies are currently available in downtown Portland. Could the city dedicate land and resources in downtown to build new shelters-to be operated by non-profits? What about a joint effort to build a high-rise, permanent shelter where the Modish is presently located (333 S.W. Park Ave.). Scattering the shelters largely throughout East Portland may only serve to force those in need to have to spend one hour or more each way on mass transit to get to downtown, in order to obtain services like treatment, counseling, acupuncture or prescriptions from the CCC Pharmacy on 8th X NW Burnside. Could locating more permanent shelters in downtown Portland make things easier for those needing services? It would reduce the need for clients to have to take MAX or the bus just to pickup an RX or get acupuncture. There are many 12 Step meetings downtown as well, which is also an important part of healing society.

Testimony is presented without formatting.