

stacey Kaie

#278573 | March 17, 2021

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

You cannot win this battle this way. You are killing the city with your sympathy but without any real solutions. Tent camping is illegal but we do not enforce. I've had to accept that's our choice as a city. At the same time, by doing this, we are making our city less attractive to tourists, families and taxpayers who bring the city the most revenue. How many years until we are a desolate slum? The homelessness will drive out the taxpayers and that's basically what will be left. Sadly, this is the OTHER virus plaguing our city. Shelters are merely "bigger bandaids" than tents. If Portland wants to be the most inclusive city in the country then we must raise the funds and provide holistic treatment. Dispersing the homeless to appropriate avenues with solutions for drug addiction, mental health and safe shelters is the only solution. However this level of treatment (for so many) is expensive and could only be financed on a federal level. Portland will never afford it and the longer we let it continue the more we are eating ourselves alive. This city will die. Sadly, I know I will have to leave soon myself.

Testimony is presented without formatting.