

# Sarah Saito

**#278589 | March 18, 2021**

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

I live in NE Portland near 122nd and San Rafael. I am concerned about all of the illegal camping that constantly brings down the standard of living in our area. Trash and needles should not be what we have to look at every day. I wholeheartedly support the push to find equitable housing for the houseless, and I have voted for every proposal to fund such efforts. But then I should also have the right to a clean, safe environment for myself and my family. Homeless housing should also be spread evenly throughout Portland, not simply concentrated in NE. Also, as we are paying so much for all of these places for the houseless to go, that means that uncontrolled, unsanctioned camping in the streets and next to people's houses on private property and etc should be ended. Parks should return to their original purpose. the the Springwater Corridor and other bike networks should be returned to a place where you can actually ride your bike without without fear. Otherwise, how will we know that we are being successful in our efforts? IN order to have all eyes and focus on this, there should be a "housing czar" whose total responsibility is making sure that success is reached. In particular, these points should be included in the final plan: 1. Title 15 emergency housing declaration be allowed to expire, thereby disallowing random camping within city limits! A new emergency declaration should then be declared so that these new codes may be implemented-- only for the duration of this new emergency declaration, not to exceed one year. In that time, we can begin to see changes and that we are moving in a positive direction, or that we need to again make changes in order to do so. This needs to be an ongoing effort. 2) A new proposed shelter site map be drawn and posted for community review, that shows an equitable distribution of proposed sites in ALL communities of Portland. This is not just East Portland's problem, yet East Portland is being made to bear the brunt of the cost in space and resources. 3) An enforcement plan needs to be explained and attached explicitly to this proposal such that as new managed shelters are established, random unsanctioned camps will be shut down,removed,cleaned up and monitored so that they can not be reestablished. A continuous progress report should be publicly available and regularly updated. There needs to be accountability for the money we are spending and the resources that we are using in this effort. 4) The management plan should be detailed for these new sites and naming who, specifically, is responsible for its implementation. In this way, it will be clear when we are making progress--that progress will literally show in less homeless crowding our streets, less needles and other garbage strewn through our neighborhoods, and more people transitioning back to normalcy and a better way of life. We are all tired of the same old thing. Managed solutions, visible changes, and a responsible enforcement plan will help those changes stick. Thank you.

Testimony is presented without formatting.