

Jinnet Powel

#278663 | March 20, 2021

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

Seeing the rapid rise in houselessness in it's worst form (people living in make-shift tents and in doorways , I am in full support of giving city bureaus and their partners greater flexibility in addressing sheltering and service needs creatively and QUICKLY. I support changing the city code so that the City can take action without getting bogged down in expensive and lengthy public hearings that impede timely and feasible improvements. As a society, WE NEED to focus our financial and creative energy on putting more houseless people on a pathway to being permanently housed for their sake and community safety. I support the City in trying and then revising if appropriate different strategies towards that goal. That said, I share many of the concerns already voiced about changing the code that would open city parks to becoming long-term (180 day) temporary shelter sites, and the detriment that could have on community access and environmental heath. However, I believe in the political process and if the fears prove true about use of open spaces, those politicians will pay at the ballot box. I encourage the city to look at under-utilized hardscaped areas such as parking lots or graveled undeveloped lots, as well as low-occupancy motels, strip-malls and hotels that could be purchased and repurposed.

Testimony is presented without formatting.