

# Robert Lewis

**#278668 | March 20, 2021**

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

Having lived and worked for a number of years in the downtown and NW area of the city, I greatly oppose relaxing the zoning requirements for shelters. We've all seen what the shelters have done to Old Town. It has been impossible to revitalize the area as a direct result of the rampant tents, wandering individuals in the streets, and drug use. The pandemic has amped up this many times greater, and further reaching. I now have massive camp sites within 2 blocks of where I live. Tents fill the scenery, needles flood the grounds of the parks, and cars get broken into on a weekly basis without recourse. This lawlessness behavior is not something I wish to promote in more neighborhoods of our city. I don't want to see other areas start to decline and become another Old Town. I agree that Portland has a homeless problem, but allowing it to distribute into more arteries of this city is not the solution. Otherwise, I fear the city will continue to decline as people move into the suburbs or leave all together.

Testimony is presented without formatting.