

Merrie Miller

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

My name is Merrie Miller and I live with my husband, Barry in SE Portland up against the north side of Powell Butte. We were relocated here as a swap with the city for our property along Johnson Creek. My Husband and I have lived in outer SE Portland since 1972 and have raised four children here when it was beautiful and safe. I walk the butte nearly every day from the 148th and center entrance, over the butte to Ellis street, up 136th ST and back home to center and observe every day just how degraded our part of the city has become . Outer Southeast portland doesn't seem to get its fair share of attention in the form of development fees such as sidewalks in neighborhoods, traffic calming structures or even adequate attention from the park bureau. We are park poor and now you sneak in a proposal to use OS for homeless camp communities. We all know where you think those communities should be constructed. I say go put them in Gabriel Park as you have dedicated a lot of money to that park lately and surely the neighborhood could show its gratitude by housing hundreds of homeless campers. Outer SE Portland has never gotten an equal share of services and it shows in the way you have destroyed neighborhoods like ours with relaxed building regulations, misappropriation of development fees to the "Pearl" and SW Portland and now we have members of city council salivating over our little bit of OS so they can make neighborhoods more unlivable and push this humanitarian crisis of homelessness on a part of the city that has been a dumping ground for all the city's problems. We need more areas where families can play, not less. We need more attention paid to neighborhoods out here not just paving of major streets. I am a former land use representative from Lents neighborhood when we fighting the city to act equitably toward those who lived along the Johnson Creek corridor and by heaven I will stand on my soapbox again and start yelling if you don't stop treating Outer SE Portland like an unwanted step child.

Testimony is presented without formatting.