

Cyndy Gillis

#278715 | March 22, 2021

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

I am opposed to the S2HC project. While homelessness/houselessness is a complex problem, the proposed project is a short-sighted "band-aid" that will not solve any of these issues. The concerns revolve around safety and cleanliness. Regarding safety, crime continues to increase in the way of theft and damage to property. Cleanliness is a true concern in that trash piles up and attracts rodents. Human waste, needles and garbage are common at the camp sites. Allowing homeless camps in our parks is completely unacceptable. Our parks are for all of us to enjoy. As a home owner, I am concerned about our property values in our neighborhoods. As I read through the project proposals, there is no mention of how these areas and structures will be monitored and managed. Without a clear and focused plan, this is a recipe for disaster! I support building/improving shelters and facilities that can house this population. In addition, care needs to be given in respect to medical, mental health/rehab, nutrition, education and child care for this audience. Truly a complex problem and no easy solution. The current proposal is not the answer and will only lead down a road of more problems. Portland has endured many challenges since the pandemic and the protests. Approving S2HC will be yet another obstacle in the way of returning this city to her once beautiful and vibrant spirit.

Testimony is presented without formatting.