

Rhonda Garner

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

Dear Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners Hardesty, Mapps, Rubio and Ryan, I am very concerned about the houseless community that is growing in all Portland, particularly East Portland and the proposed code changes S2CH. I'm leary of this decision creating unintended consequences. While we all want to solve the houseless problem, I do not agree or support the changes. I've lived in East Portland for 60 years. I've watched the decline of this area for many years. Time after time, decisions by the City created more challenges for working families, more poverty, more homelessness, less safety and lost property values.

https://www.oregonlive.com/portland/2012/06/portlands_section_8_clients_ar.html The City and Agencies have not followed their own rules. The temporary Hansen Shelter was a disaster for East Portland leaving us with more homeless issues and no help from the city to redistribute the population. Since the Hansen closure, the CCC identified the area as a sweet spot from their "heat map." and built the Blackburn Center (there are a handful of other larger housing or shelters very close to that location). The concept is solid and needed, however, now that area is extremely unkempt and unsafe. It's also an area of concentrated section 8 and other housing for families. I can't imagine riding Max to my job from that platform. Don't get me started on MAX. How is that good, equitable or equal? We've become the dumping ground for the city's no other option problems.... we have space and MAX. East Portland needs business moving in. Instead we get DHS, (after the city deems us needy from locating so many homeless here... setting up services) vacating retail and vacating grocery stores all because of theft. 3 grocery stores have closed in 3 years and the 'new' DHS is in an empty Target store. All that within a block of the Hansen debacle. Once the City sets up 'services' it's an easy excuse, it's a vicious cycle. Did you know we are a food desert? Did you know New Seasons, Trader Joes, or any other choice grocery will not come here because we don't fit their demographics? We need stability to improve our community. In our neighborhood, we constantly live with old trailers, motorhomes, cars and trucks parked as living quarters or abandoned. One of 'our' RVs was eventually sited and moved (thankfully) after months of running a human trafficking business and a few 'drug stores' NOT OK ANYWHERE IN ANY NEIGHBORHOOD. Many of the 'campers' have Washington license plates, many parked along 33rd Ave and Jantzen beach also have/had Washington plates, although by now, most have their Oregon license said a camper being interviewed last Summer! More will come and keep coming. Our neighborhood has 5 (that I know of) transitional or group housing of various varieties. Too many is not good for an area. How are these counted and managed? The homes I know of are not

maintained well and one has a security fence. Our serious crime is high, easy to see on the city map and hear gun shots frequently. I invite you to move and live here. I/we require these change to be part of the proposal 1) Title 15 emergency housing declaration be allowed to expire thereby disallowing random camping within city limits. A new emergency declaration be declared so that these new codes may be implemented only for the duration of this new emergency declaration, not to exceed one year. 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. Dispute the East Side having more potential sites, they should be removed from the map until it shows an equitable distribution in ALL communities. 3) An enforcement plan needs to be explained and attached explicitly to this proposal stating 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 one for one continuous progress report should be publicly available. 4) The management plan should be detailed for these new sites and naming who, specifically, is responsible for its implementation and results are to be published before any vote is taken.

Testimony is presented without formatting.