

Amy Schutzer

#278749 | March 23, 2021

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

Thank you for reading and addressing my concerns regarding the proposal to allow shelters seemingly anywhere and everywhere. I am opposed to siting shelters in parks and open spaces. As a resident of outer East Portland, I am worried that this proposal does not have enough safeguards to prevent multiples of shelters east of 82nd Ave. Historically, this area has either been completely ignored or given short shrift. I urge you to consider the already tenuous livability issues facing East Portland, including the fact that there is inadequate open space/parks in the area. Below are points that I hope you will consider when debating this issue: 1. I absolutely support the effort to find solutions to the houseless crisis. But it must be done with all stakeholders involved in the decision making process. 2. I object to the use of open spaces, which would include parks, natural areas, trails, golf courses, and parks-related parking lots and community centers, as temporary shelter spaces, except in the case of natural disasters and short term emergencies. The use of these spaces should not be allowed during a Shelter Shortage as defined in the proposed code. 3. Rethink assumptions related to siting temporary shelters. The fact that there are already so many houseless camps throughout the city that are not adequately tended to by the city, i.e. garbage disposal, sanitation kiosks, etc., does not give me confidence that the city would do a better job letting even more shelters multiply, this time, in parks, along trails, etc. Shelters should be sited so that they could remain in place if they are successful. 4. Remove consideration of community centers and their parking lots from consideration for use as temporary shelters related to the Shelter Shortage. Once the pandemic is over, all community centers should return to their primary purpose so that all city residents can have access the the community centers. 5. The City should investigate the experiences of other cities that have sited homeless shelters in parks. 6. Intent does not make law. If you have no intent to site shelters on parks or in natural areas, the code needs to reflect that intent. Please make sure it is explicitly stated, not implicitly! Thank you for your time and attention to my email. Amy Schutzer

Testimony is presented without formatting.