

# Karissa Dean

**#278770 | March 23, 2021**

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

Hello, First I want to start by saying I in now way understand how all the intricate details of running for, maintaining, and helping our city work happens. There are three sides to every story! Your side, my side, and the truth. I am well area that you can not appease all! But we have got to stop ignoring the destruction of our city. When we know better we can do better and it is heartbreaking because we have opportunity to do better and we are not! Instead we continue to perpetuate destruction, drugs addition, homelessness, and garbage. Homeless people need our HELP but allowing them to maintain life on public land is not the solution. We have a mental health crisis we are ignoring. I wouldn't consider myself a highly religious person but I would say Jesus said it best when he said "you can give a man a fish and he will always be hungry, or you can teach a man to fish and he will never starve again!" We need to teach these people how to live in society or allow them to live in a place that keeps them safe and our streets safe. I would hate to be a public worker. Police officer, garbage man, any city worker who has to help clean up and maintain peace! How is this okay? How is this creating a city of roses? Please, tell me HOW DOES THIS CITY WORK? Downtown is damaged. People don't feel safe. And you are looking to allow MORE of the homelessness to exist? Dear Mayor, council members and people in power, please drive around this city. Drive around and experience what WE SEE and deal with! Walk the streets, ride max, have a homeless man stare at you and your child while trying to cross a street. Be a business owner who has homeless people sleeping in the entry of their business. Please visit my neighborhood that I pay THOUSANDS of tax dollars to live in and feel the unsettled feeling of knowing that the corner park could become another homeless camp infested with disease and drugs. Has your child or loved one witnessed a homeless person pissing on the street? Have they seen someone inject a needle in their arm? Mine has... Tell me, What should I say to her? What is your advice? HOW IS THIS WORKING? Please, open your eyes. DO you even live in Portland? How do you not see it and know we can and should do better? I don't know it all... I would love more insight. Please share your reasons? Please tell me why we continue to live in a city of destruction? Please tell me you have walked or driven these roads at night and see how what we have created is not working? Please tell me, one of many people who help pay your wage, why we can't do better? We will not ignore this. We will not allow you to sneak under the radar and continue destruction! It is time for change! Change that will empower all, including the mentally ill and homeless. It is the responsibility of those in power to make Portland a city that works!!!! I'm here for it. Please, tell me why we aren't doing better for ALL of Portland? I support Portland City Parks, Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners Hardesty, Mapps, Rubio and Ryan,

As supporters of Portland city parks, I am writing to advocate strongly for an important change in the language of Shelter to Housing Continuum recommendations from the Planning and Sustainability Commission. I recommend the removal of Open Space Zones from consideration for either temporary or permanent houseless shelters EXCEPT for a declaration of emergency by the City Council due to a catastrophic natural disaster. Furthermore, this kind of change requires input from the public before being considered. We know better, lets do better! Cause what is happening isn't working!!! Sincerely a concerned member of society! Karissa Dean deanfambam3@gmail.com (503)9271496

Testimony is presented without formatting.