

Erin Yoder Logue

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

I am writing because some neighbors shared this link inviting us to offer comments on a potential houseless people shelter going up in Gabriel Park. I understand and feel terrible that the houseless situation is out of control in Portland. I've seen camps all over the city, as I've worked and lived in downtown and on the east side. The conditions are truly heartbreaking. That said, I really hope that the city can come up with a better solution than simply dispersing folks to the quieter outskirts of the city. Isn't there a building like the armory that can keep them safe, dry, and warm? I feel awful admitting this, but we bought our home in Southwest near Gabriel park because we didn't want to live in the city with all the drugs and crime that tend to come with it. I feel safe walking my dog at night now and I don't worry as much about property theft. I do not want to insinuate that all houseless folks bring those issues wherever they go, but as it is in every case there are always going to be a few bad apples, or more realistically, dealers that will follow the downtrodden out of the city to sell their product to those who are struggling. I am really uncomfortable with the idea of moving a camp to Gabriel park, especially right after we just moved here to get more of a quiet and clean suburban life as opposed to a loud and dirty city life. However, I understand that something must be done. If the city does approve this camp, I just ask that you have an officer or someone like cahoots on site patrolling the area and making sure the people there are getting the services they need so they aren't just left on the outskirts of town and forgotten about.

Testimony is presented without formatting.