

Richard Ellmyer

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

Testimony S2HC Submitted 3-24-21 by Richard Ellmyer 9124 N. McKenna Ave. Portland, OR 97203 Author of more stories on the politics, players and policies of Public Housing in Oregon over the last twenty years than all other journalists and elected officials combined. Author of The Ellmyer Report, a newsletter that informs, educates and influences on public policy. Occasionally distributed to more than a quarter of million readers in Oregon and beyond. Facebook, Portland Politics Plus . Opinion contributor to Patch.com news. Please consider the following before you vote on the proposed Shelter to Housing Continuum legislation: 1. Metro/Oregon Public Housing Location Maps, <https://www.goodgrowthnw.org/maps>, and the data it provides and the issues it raises e.g. A. Equity. Parity. NIMBY. These terms can and should be considered with every decision to spend public funds on Public Housing throughout Oregon. WHERE Public Housing is located has not been a consideration in the placement of Public Housing because there was no authoritative source that all parties could use as a common factual basis. Now there is. B. Metro has declared Public Housing Policy to be a REGIONAL ISSUE for which it now has responsibility and accountability. All public jurisdictions within Metro's purview, including Portland, must acknowledge PARITY of Public Housing locations among the Metro Regional Government counties. C. Explaining and justifying the disproportionate percentage range of Public Housing units to total housing units within Multnomah county neighborhoods from zero to 100%? D. Determining which neighborhoods are overloaded and which underserved with Public Housing. 2. Which of these policies will your vote encourage? A. Equitable Distribution of Public Housing? B. Targeted, UNLIMITED neighborhood concentration of Public Housing which allows governments to load the neighborhoods of its choosing with up to 100% Public Housing clients, which includes the homeless? 3. Establishing Public Housing policy GOALS of a 5% minimum and a 15% maximum of Public Housing households within every neighborhood throughout Portland and Multnomah county. 4. Recognize that simply MORE Public Housing ANYWHERE at ANY COST is NOT a defensible Public Housing POLICY. 5. LOCATION and COST EFFECTIVENESS must be included in every public discussion involving the planning, funding, policy and distribution of Public Housing, which includes the homeless. 6. First priority and consideration for homeless outdoor accommodations must be given to Public lands that are NOT parks nor alongside public pathways.

Testimony is presented without formatting.