

Erin Schmith

#279000 | March 25, 2021

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

As a business manager and Portland resident, I urge the Council to take action making it easier for houseless and homeless people in our city to find permanent housing. I urge you to realize the reasons people do not want to be moved long-term into shelters with no plan for helping them find stable housing. In these efforts I ask you to: Vote YES on the Shelter to Housing Continuum, because expanded shelter and housing options are the only way to get people off the street. Do not adopt any amendments that would reduce or limit the ability of the city or providers to site shelters across the city. Adopt the “Portland: Neighbors Welcome and Social Justice Coalition” amendments to ensure maximum flexibility for shelter and housing: -Give greater flexibility for siting Outdoor Shelters, on a permanent or temporary basis, including allowing permanent Outdoor Shelters on specific sites in Open Space zones with a vote of city council following a public hearing -Allow churches, religious organizations, and community organizations to host outdoor shelters serving up to 20 people by-right in all residential zones. -Allow RVs and tiny-houses on wheels on residential properties without a sewer hookup, if they utilize other safe sanitation options. Thank you.

Testimony is presented without formatting.