

# Ann Romano

**#279201 | March 29, 2021**

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

Mayor Wheeler and Council Member City of Portland P O Box Portland OR March 29, 2021 RE: NO Opening a Homeless Camp in Every Neighborhood Dear Mayor and Council Members This proposal is a clear attempt to shame law abiding and tax paying citizens into recognition of the City's homelessness problem. How dare you ! Portland's citizens are all acutely aware of the crisis and have had to watch as City government wrings its hands and cloaks itself in sanctimony with a charade of concern while totally failing to address the real issues, all the while failing to rehabilitate the homeless. Now that downtown Portland and environs have been trashed by graffiti and garbage, you want to create the same in every neighborhood. An overwhelming percentage of Portland's homeless have stated they have no desire to accept public support predicated on rules, sanitation or abiding by the law. Drug addiction is the norm and trash is the by-product. You recently gave the excuse that the City does not have the funds or resources to clean up the mess. Have you considered the notion of the inhabitants of the camps clearing up their own garbage ? Have you considered how taking responsibility might help restore their dignity ? If they can pack the trash into their camps, they can pack it out. The intent here is not to criminalize (to the extent the law allows) but make responsible. The absence of such a requirement has been a cornerstone of the City's enablement of anti-social behavior. Then there are additional measures you can take: 1. The City could provide trash collection services to which camp dwellers would bring their garbage. Failure to comply would have consequences, such as mandatory rehabilitation in a City / County / State funded program which would include drug abuse supervision and assistance with re-integration into normal society. 2. Visit with neighboring cities to find out why they don't have the problem Portland does. Start with Vancouver and Lake Oswego. 3. There are too many people living on the streets but that is not a reason to change the zoning code. They have been allowed to move in and will not leave until they are driven to it by getting rid of the drugs and helping them re-learn social responsibility. 4. Concentrate on helping the 'working poor'. Those people who are working 3 jobs just to have enough food and shelter for their families. Help those who have children get into a place where they can succeed and provide them with good schools. 5. Eliminate the Joint Office of Homeless Services and its \$100 thousand plus per year director. 6. Hire people to supervise drug enforcement and clean up. For the past 5 years emergency and crisis have been the code words to raise more money. 7. Quit being an enabler. The situation is what it is because of your actions. 8. Be transparent about the use of funds. 9. End the 'studies' and take action. Jordan Schnitzer has done more for the homeless in Portland than all of you combined without spending years studying the situation. 10. Put them all at

terminal 2 and take the services to them. Sincerely Ann Romano

Testimony is presented without formatting.