

# Sue Rideout

**#279253 | March 29, 2021**

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

Dear Members of City Council, I am up late writing this because I can't sleep. I work hard, I'm tired and I need to get up early but this is too important. I heard about it today and know the deadline is tomorrow. I love Portland. I'm a bonified lefty loving liberal. I work at a non-profit for housing, I donate to my local food bank regularly, I volunteer on community projects, I leave my cans in a separate bag for the woman who comes around on garbage night to collect them named Anna. In short, I'm Portland through and through, and I'm saying, "enough". I feel that agreeing to the Shelter to housing continuum will make a temporary problem an even bigger permanent problem for Portland. I know that people are struggling but we are at capacity. Portland has taken on more than its fair share of the homeless population already, and appears poised to roll out the red carpet if it makes this permanent. The past year has shown us that we are frayed. Our police force is stretched thin and given no teeth to deal with the issues they're asked to handle. We have little to no mental health facilities. We just made some very terrible drugs legal here. We are pretending that we can handle the problems of the world, and we cannot. We can only do our part. We are doing that already. I have watched many neighborhoods allow one person to put up a tent in the area. Then there's two or three. Now every little spot has has about twelve tents, 2 burned out cars, a mountain of trash and no one feels safe walking there anymore. When do the needs of the homeless take over the needs of the people already living here any paying to do so? I'm too tired to give this a well-constructed answer. Many people who live in parts of town most affected by this are probably too tired to do this too, so I hope my voice is heard. I'd love to see answers on a Federal level, not just left to the left leaning cities. I'd like to see some mid-level solutions, such as the kibbutzes of Israel where people needing a place can work, belong and have their basic needs met while they find stability. What is happening here now feels like codependency and enablement on a city-wide level. I do not want to lose the city I love. I do not want to further endanger my kids. I do not want to lose my kindness and generosity. Enough. Sincerely, Sue

Testimony is presented without formatting.