

William Thomas

#279257 | March 30, 2021

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

I live in the Lents neighborhood in SE Portland. I live within walking distance of large groups of RV's parked along 92nd Ave, and encroaching into the neighborhoods adjacent to 92nd Ave from SE Flavel St., to the I-205 freeway overpass. A community of campers occupy the I-205 right of way on the East side of the bridge on ODOT property, another large community of campers occupies the sidewalk (MUP) from SE 92nd Ave to the Flavel Max Station, and have campers that have settled in along the Springwater Corridor and I-205 bike paths. As I understand it, the goal of these code changes is to facilitate legal shelters and campsites, instead of the current "Housing Emergency" which has allowed outdoor camping and using vehicles as "temporary housing". I'm all in if the changes prohibit the use of Public Spaces for camps. City Parks and the multi-use paths should NOT be used as outdoor campgrounds or shelters. And city streets should NOT be used as RV campgrounds. If the goal is to equitably house people who are currently outside in tents and cars, to centralized camps, with kitchens and bathrooms, that would be great! I also wanted to weigh in on the siting of the future shelter areas. South East Portland has all of the amenities which the Zoning Board considers essential for the siting of these facilities. There is light rail, extensive bus lines, and Libraries, and a lot of open land. These amenities are unnecessary or scarce in the wealthier neighborhoods in Portland. I would urge the council to consider equity in the siting of these camps and shelters as well as looking at more industrialized areas and underutilized Retail spaces to site these facilities.

Testimony is presented without formatting.