

Todd Littlefield

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

Having lived across the street from the multi use path (MUP) for nearly four years now and having lived all across Portland for 45 of the last 50 years and grown up in Portland, went to Lincoln High School, class of 88'... I can say, what is being allowed and enabled to occur in SE Portland, particularly in Lents and other areas, is a travesty that would never take place or be allowed in any other neighborhood I have lived. What I and my neighbors have lived with is hell. We live with constant tension, threats, intimidation and basically terrorism. It is so sad. I have been in communication with a lot of people at the city, all very nice, very stressful and busy jobs with a ton of responsibility.. but none seem able to help. I have called the mayors office dozens of times, my calls were never returned. I have others in similar top positions and the results were identical. It is beyond words frustrating. I live in as diverse of a neighborhood as there is in Portland. A large majority is Hispanic. Everyone of us do not feel safe. Everyone of us is not safe. The laundry list is very long of behavior offenses we are all victimized/terrorized with daily. These are not homeless people, they are drug dealers, they are criminals, they have rejected and declined shelter for days, rejected shelter for weeks, rejected shelter for months and in some cases years. There has got to be a bullet proof plan to address and remove the people who do not want to live under the same rules and follow the same rules as everyone else. These are anarchist. I have as much compassion as anyone when it comes to someone who is homeless, who wants help... lets get them help asap. Whether that be addiction help, mental health, or a job, as a lot of these people are skilled, they could be very productive members of society as we have massive skilled labor shortages. I was unable to visit Bybee Lakes recently but from what I was told, it is excellent, it is truly helping people and should be repeated as much as the resources allow. Thank you for that. Not to keep getting sidetracked and I believe Commission Ryan is looking into this but the amount of money the city is spending on a monthly basis, is astronomical so I wish him the best in reallocating these funds for there true best uses possible. It is imperative. Clearly, I am talking about the people who reject and decline shelter repeatedly and just want to do damage to themselves and anyone they are around. And that the city, with our tax dollars continue to enable and allow this behavior to take place and to leave in place these destructive individuals is a shame, it's dangerous and if allowed to continue, pray for your neighbors. I voted for Mayor Wheeler twice and am thrilled Councilman Ryan and Mapps along with Councilwoman Rubio are in place. Please, put all your energy into this problem. There are many solutions, I didn't say easy solutions but this can not sustain. I have talked to many folks who live along the MUP, again, this can not or will not, sustain. With regards to Housing to Shelter, as I

have talked about those who refuse shelter, PLEASE PLEASE before placing any shelters in our communities, make sure there is funding and responsible and very well trained behavioral management experts to properly address the problems our neighborhoods will face. The economic, physical, mental, psychological and environmental consequences to each of my neighbors is great. Again, the examples we have all experienced are alarming and unlimited. I want to thank you for taking the time to read my neighborhoods story.

Testimony is presented without formatting.