

Matt C

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

NO. The city has demonstrated the inability to manage campers, enforce existing codes or laws in camp locations today. Opening more camping locations won't change that. When this fails the problem will then fall to police, as it always does, at a time when police are understaffed and overloaded. Police do not have the resources to enforce ordinances at unmanaged sites, now. There is a lot of crime in camps now, that won't change in managed sites without enforcement. This proposal must go hand and hand with a substantial increase in police headcount. Recruiting, vetting and training police takes time. Anything that takes time requires planning which is absent from the proposed change. There is no effort to address this as a regional issue. (It is a national issue) When people become homeless in Sandy Oregon or any other nearby town, where do they camp? Not in Sandy. When a homeless person fails from a program from other cities where are they sent? All communities need to shoulder their share during this crisis. Putting it all on Portland residents is unfair and wrong. Other zoning changes proposed will degrade the livability of Portland. Trashing Portland will not help people experiencing homelessness in either the near or long term. The proposal is not ready, much more needs to be done. Without additional planning, failure is assured. The failure will be of such proportions voters may not wait until 2022 to express dissatisfaction. I'm also a life long Portlander and know that when proposals like this are being pushed there is no room for inclusion, compromise or other ideas.

Testimony is presented without formatting.