

Robert Anderson

#279349 | March 30, 2021

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

While I do not live within the boundaries of the City of Portland, I frequently visit Portland to partake in the rich and varied opportunities the city provides for personal enjoyment.. be it a concert, dining experience, events, or car enthusiasts pursuits. I buy gas, I purchase hotel stays, basically spend dollars within the local community and economy at large. I am only able to do this when there are reasons to come to Portland. If you take a dedicated use space, such as Portland International Raceway, and convert it into grounds for the homeless, many of those reasons to visit are suddenly gone. And with it my spending dollars in the local economy. There are so many other open spaces around town to allow the homeless to stay, that using a dedicated asset such as Portland International Raceway would be such a waste and have a negative impact to the local economy. In my mind its simple... either the City of Portland is open to do business with paying patrons that want to conduct business within its boundaries, or it succumbs to the wants and interests of malcontents, transients and others that do not have a vested interest in the long term health of the community. I have already stopped going downtown for the time being because visiting it feels like one is stepping into a war zone... with all of the graffiti, boarded up businesses, wire fencing, and tents on sidewalks. Don't make other areas of the city be the same way. Its not a solution to a problem, its just letting the problem spread out further. Thank you

Testimony is presented without formatting.