

Allison Handler

#279376 | March 30, 2021

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

I'm here to register my support for the proposed zoning changes related to the Shelter to Housing Continuum project. I've been in the housing field as a practitioner (1999-2008) and as a consultant (2008-present). It's been obvious for a long time – obvious now even to those who chose not to see the housing need before 2020, the Year of Disaster – we need every housing solution and every housing tool at our disposal. We need tiny homes, ADUs, zero lot line and skinny and courtyard houses, inclusionary zoning (I know, unfortunately preempted), shelter, transitional housing, affordable rentals, group housing, apartments carved out from the inside of existing large houses, motels-to-homes, community land trust homes, all of it. We also need basic universal income, employment supports, and mental health and other supportive services... but we need housing first. I support code changes that can increase housing creativity and flexibility, especially around alternative types of housing and different kinds of group living. My understanding is that the proposal on the table does that. Our neighbors who can barely afford to keep a roof over their heads - and those who have none - deserve better. Everyone deserves a safe place to call home.

Testimony is presented without formatting.