

Tim Davis

#289283 | April 8, 2021

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

Hello City Council! I enthusiastically support the amendments made by Portland: Neighbors Welcome. Rather than putting up barriers, Portland should make it EASIER for churches, temples, mosques, nonprofits and other institutions (both community-based and faith-based) to help support people struggling to find housing. This also aligns our Shelter to Housing Continuum code with our Expanding Opportunities for Affordable Housing code. The EOAH code has made it easier for institutions like those listed above to help. And this will apply that same lesson to providing immediate housing for those who need it most. Tiny homes **on wheels** (very important to consider and respect) and RVs are important housing options available **right now** that should be expanded in the future. They should be formally legalized in code. We also need to codify the current rules from the Bureau of Development Services for utilities, rather than making them more **restrictive**. I can't believe this actually needs to be stated. Council should codify the BDS guidelines regarding sanitation. A one-size-fits-all approach (including, for example, requiring sewer connections) risks displacing people for whom that "one size" doesn't fit at all. BDS could also issue permits for alternatives to sewer hookups. This would even provide additional revenue for BDS. Regarding electricity, the City's current guidelines can safely power an RV or a tiny house on wheels without adding significant costs to either the tenant or the property's host. Campground-style posts can cost \$thousands to set up. Codifying the current rules and following a BDS permitting process will provide flexibility and lower barriers to entry for folks who are housing insecure. Thank you so much for your consideration, Tim Davis

Testimony is presented without formatting.