

Les Wardenaar

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

Please vote to eliminate "Conditional Use" application requirements for Churches planning shelters to match those for the building of affordable housing. Because of their property--dispersed throughout the City--and their faith-driven imperatives, churches can contribute to temporary sheltering just as they have dominated the "serving the hungry" segment of Portland's houselessness challenge. But "time is of the essence" and "conditional use" requirements represent a huge obstacle. As an active member of Congregations in the area for nearly 40 years, I can assure the Commissioners that Churches are extremely sensitive to their neighborhoods and especially their immediate neighbors. They absolutely can be trusted to plan and conduct "Sheltering" with that sensitivity in mind. Please help the Faith community help the city by voting to eliminate "conditional use" requirements. Les Wardenaar, member of Fremont United Methodist Church and Chair, Interfaith Alliance on Poverty, Co-convenor of Shelter NOW

Testimony is presented without formatting.