

Jack Kerfoot

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

Homelessness in a national crisis. Homelessness is far more complex than affordable housing. I support our city taking the following actions - 1. Benchmark what other cities have done to address homelessness. San Antonio, TX is an interesting case study, 2. Provide designated areas across our city for our homeless and provide basic services in these areas (toilets, trash pickup, showers, etc.). Providing designated areas allows the distribution of food, medicine including Covid vaccinations, etc. from faith based groups and nonprofits. 3. Develop a digital database of all groups, nonprofits and faith based groups that are helping our homeless. Each nonprofit with whom I have spoken have their own network but are aware of all the different groups and organizations attempting to help our homeless citizens. This is a start at our city trying to coordinate all the nonprofits to maximize the impact of our cities resources. 4. The faith based groups (Christian, Jewish & Muslim) have formed a group called the "Open Table." The group tries to identify how they can work together to provide aide to people in need. I would recommend that someone in our city respectfully ask to meet with members of the Open Table to seek their ideas and potentially seek a seat at their table to listen to their concerns for our city.

Testimony is presented without formatting.