

# Donna Cohen

**#289295 | April 11, 2021**

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

Testimony to Portland City Council: S2HC Donna Cohen, St Johns, PDX. April 12, 2021 I support Amendment 2.2, the broadening of options without conditional review for religious institutions and similar groups to shelter up to 20 units in an outdoor setting. Recently, in St Johns, a transitional village with 19 pods plus community facilities/space was opened and I am very pleased with the arrangement. Even a well-regulated tent or car/RV community with sanitary facilities would be acceptable, imo. I also support Amendment 3.1 which would allow Tiny Homes on Wheels and RVs on residential property to have more flexibility when it comes to sanitation. I would lastly like to re-iterate my concern, as expressed in a prior testimony, that taking all Open Spaces off the table without a proper inventory or evaluation as to whether some portion of them might be appropriate for sanctioned shelter sites is premature and risks eliminating viable options. Housing is of the utmost urgency. I believe that most likely there are areas of open spaces/parks which could lend themselves to this purpose without unduly infringing on the outdoor alternatives of the public. Notice I say “unduly”. For the public to expect that they should in no way be inconvenienced while we have a housing emergency – especially, when some of the same folks complain about unsanctioned camping – is not acceptable as an excuse to avoid all consideration of open spaces and parks to alleviate the emergency!

Testimony is presented without formatting.