

Lidwina Rahman

#267121 | March 8, 2021

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

As a long time resident of Portland, within one block of Sunnyside School and a few blocks from Laurelhurst Park, and as a professional land use planner, I strongly object to the provision in the proposed Shelter to Housing Continuum project, allowing homeless shelters in our parks and open spaces. We see the unsanitary conditions and the environmental damage being done to our parks and playgrounds on a daily basis. Parents can no longer send their kids to play at the parks due to the presence of feces, needles, and the threatening behavior by some of the homeless people. In this time of Covid, the parks and open spaces are some of the few places we can safely escape our homes. I have to say, the city's practice of accommodating the homeless in our public spaces (streets and sidewalks) without any expectation for them to clean up after themselves is very upsetting to me, but legitimizing their presence in our public parks has really got me angry. What about protecting the rights of law abiding tax paying citizens to live in a peaceful and clean environment in and around their own homes?

Testimony is presented without formatting.