

# Herb Ozer

**#267136 | March 9, 2021**

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

At this time I oppose the code changes proposed because it doesn't actually address the need for shelters and housing. The code changes being suggested would put at risk open spaces and park spaces - making them permanent shelter areas for the homeless. We already have a diaspora of houseless people living in spaces not designed as shelters and this is destroying those spaces - specifically because there is not a sustainable means of maintaining those numbers of people in the spaces they occupy. I agree we need to develop solutions to the problem and I believe in home first approaches - I do not believe our parks and open spaces should be co-opted for that purpose. I also believe that it is the need for adequate assistance, support and proper facilities that will eliminate this growing problem - just making space available is not a solution it will create a disastrous result to our parks and open spaces without reducing the growing number of houseless living on the streets in our community.

Testimony is presented without formatting.