

Ronald J. Clemenson

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

I am Ron Clemenson and a member of Parks East Coalition. I live adjacent to Parklane undeveloped Parks property, which is scheduled to start development this year. The last thing this community needs is for that property to be a target for a homeless (aka "houseless") encampment. It needs to be a much needed "gem" of a park for recreational use here in outer east Portland. I served as a member of the Master Plan Committee in 2008 and the more recent development team to get the ball rolling. To be brief and concise here, this 20 acre site is surrounded on three sides, north, south, and west, by single family homes and on the east by two public schools, Parkland Elementary and Harold Oliver Grade School. From a safety and health standpoint, it would not be wise, but senseless and thoughtless, to put in a "houseless" encampment, whatever form of "housing" that might entail. To do so would invite more problems than the City and residents already face out here. Do I need to elaborate further? I think not! To use our wonderful parks for "solving" the homeless calamity is not the answer, it would be as already stated, a horrible mistake and a break in the trust that taxpayers placed in the City Parks Bureau and City Hall! Right now, Portland is in need of common sense and thoughtful leadership. Please DO NOT BLOW IT!

Testimony is presented without formatting.