

# Kathy Weeks

**#267152 | March 9, 2021**

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

I understand the need of the BPS and city and county agencies to take drastic action in this area, but I strongly oppose any use of park space for tent/RV camping on even a semi-permanent basis. Please fill up city maintenance yard lots, church parking lots, the Expo Center lot and other areas long before permitting tent camping in city parks. The housing emergency emerged in 2015, and is going into its sixth year. Has there been an effort undertaken to determine how many of the city's homeless population have arrived within the past one to two years? It's definitely a nationwide issue revolving around mental health and drug addiction, a serious lack of affordable housing and, of course, a pandemic. Does the city know what percentage of the nation's homeless end up in Portland and why? Unless we answer that last question, I fear the emergency here will not end any time soon, no matter how many hotels, open camp spaces or tiny house pods the city allows. In regards to exploring a range of alternative housing configurations ("Expanding the options in the shelter-housing continuum are also being explored, such as campgrounds with tents or sleeping pods, tiny house villages, and micro-apartments with shared kitchens as well as other group living or housing arrangements."), once built/allowed, what is the impetus/parameters for residents to transition to renting? Are there enough affordable rental units if everyone temporarily sheltering were able to rent? This issue brings my thoughts back to the paragraph above. Thank you to all the agencies working hard on this issue.

Testimony is presented without formatting.