

# David Levey

**#267162 | March 10, 2021**

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

Look around our city and you can't help but notice the campsites, mountains of trash, feces Heroin needles and the utter disregard for Portland. I understand that there are those that have fell on hard times, but there are others that are riding the system and feel they are entitled to leave their camp areas in ruins. Our parks and natural spaces must remain open to the public or they will end up like these campsites and that is not acceptable to all the people of Portland that pay very high property taxes. As you consider the language for the Shelter to Housing Continuum Project, I strongly recommend the removal of Open Space Zones, including developed parks, natural areas, and trails, from consideration for the siting of either temporary or permanent houseless shelters EXCEPT for a declaration of emergency by the City Council due to a catastrophic natural disaster. You will hear testimony on this issue, and you should conclude that there is already vacant and underutilized land available. You can conclude that allowing shelters in Open Space Zones is inequitable as it disproportionately affects BIPOC communities living without yards or outdoor spaces. You can conclude that access to parks, natural areas, and open spaces is a fundamental necessity for the physical and mental well being of all Portlanders and should not be infringed upon. The houseless crisis in Portland needs solutions, and this is not one of them.

Testimony is presented without formatting.