

# Kerianne McKeon

**#267212 | March 11, 2021**

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

I am writing to strongly advocate for an important change in the language of Shelter to Housing Continuum recommendations from the Planning and Sustainability Commission. I am begging you to remove the Open Space Zones from consideration for either temporary or permanent houseless shelters EXCEPT for a declaration of emergency by the City Council due to a catastrophic natural disaster. Our open spaces must remain open and available for ALL Portland citizens to access. Using it for other than its intended purpose does a serious disservice to our entire community. It is important to note that the Planning and Sustainability staff have determined that our parks and natural areas are not needed for this purpose. I do not understand how you, as the Mayor, of our previously beautiful well kept city can sleep at night knowing that this decision will cause the city to look and be even more trashy than it already is. I am fully aware that we have a problem with houselessness but why are we going to take away the beautiful parks that we have and instead make them full of needles and trash. Who will be responsible when there are needle sticks? Who will be cleaning up the trash? I assume no one since our streets continue to be an absolute mess.

Testimony is presented without formatting.