

# James Puterbaugh

**#267265 | March 13, 2021**

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

The proposal allows "the temporary siting of shelters in parks and open space for no more than 180 day." This is an incredible misuse of public funds. It effectively changes park usage into free living space. It does nothing to alleviate the problems of the homeless, creates immense problems for park safety and disenfranchises the very people who stand to benefit from the parks. "Parks are a tangible reflection of the quality of life in a community. They provide identity for citizens and are a major factor in the perception of quality of life in a given community. Parks and recreation services are often cited as one of the most important factors in surveys of how livable communities are." In addition, "Parks and protected public lands are proven to improve water quality, protect groundwater, prevent flooding, improve the quality of the air we breathe, provide vegetative buffers to development, produce habitat for wildlife, and provide a place for children and families to connect with nature and recreate outdoors together."(<https://recreation.eku.edu/importance-parks-and-recreation>). This changes all of the above, and at the same time, helps no one and manages to hurt everyone. Housing first occupants, in one study, had 5 times the death rate of those simply left on the street. <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/wjdd20/current> This action also severely damages what remains of public trust in city and state leadership. The little political capital left should be spent helping somebody. J.S. Puterbaugh M.D.

Testimony is presented without formatting.