

Chris Hero

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

City parks are a great asset for our community, especially during this time of COVID when outdoor recreation is so vital to our health and spirits. Bringing my daughter to Laurelhurst Park playground had been an important part of part of our routine in this regard. That is until homeless campers were allowed to setup tents along Oak street adjacent to the playground. Now, we cannot use the playground because of the bio hazards from these camps. Routinely we see needles, human feces, and rotting piles of garbage. Also some of the people camping are hostile towards park goers , have destroyed part of the playground, and seem dangerous. Homelessness is a complex problem, but camps should NOT be allowed in any park, or near any school. The camp that was in the park of Sunnyside school was completely out of control and made that playground also unusable by families. Enough is enough. In trying to find a "solution" for a few, we cannot take these wonderful assets away from everyone else in the process. **NO CAMPS ALLOWED IN PARKS OR NEAR SCHOOLS.**

Testimony is presented without formatting.