

AC Martin

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

As a home owner near our parks (by the Oregon Zoo. These places are our last sanctuary for families to be safe and our visitors to explore our beautiful city. Using the parks for homeless shelters will provide zero guarantee for safety for the tax paying citizens of our city. All we have to do is look at the state of streets in downtown Portland to see that the homeless are not being held to their civic responsibility as members of the community. Like most portland citizens, I do not want to see us criminalize addiction, but I do believe we should criminalize a lack of civic responsibility. We need to keep our parks safe and closed off from homeless encampments. It is not a solution that solves the issues, it just increases the danger and the instances of crime. Protect our last great treasure of a once magnificent gem of a city. Use permanent camps in areas that are not part of the heartbeat of our residential communities. Find real, long term solutions that frees up our urban core, our parks, and our treasures. Portland will only remain one of America's great small towns if we protect those that live and visit here. The parks are one of the draws for tourism. If those are deemed unsafe, we will be lost. Civic responsibility is all of our duty, no matter where or how we live. -AC

Testimony is presented without formatting.