

Bart King

#267386 | March 15, 2021

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

Hello, I've lived with my family in Portland since 1995. In that time, I've observed the evolving homelessness crisis, and I appreciate the problems it poses for city agencies. I've volunteered to walk in the parks and clean up trash. At Laurelhurst Park, I've disposed of liquor bottles and syringes from the playground, and admired the hearty families who are willing to make use of it despite the health and safety issues posed by campers. The mission of the parks department is to provide "safe places" where city residents can "play." Hearing that the Bureau of Planning, the Sustainability Housing Bureau, and the Joint City-County Office of Homeless Services are looking to retool City codes to allow people to LIVE in the park is baffling to me. Whether the officials are considering luxury high-rises at city parks, or a tent encampment, my response is the same: Are you kidding?
Sincerely, Bart King

Testimony is presented without formatting.