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

I just learned that the City Council is considering allowing camping on all city parks. Is this true? Though I understand the intentions may be good, this would be devastating to our Portland neighborhoods and communities. It is saddening to see the amount of trash and graffiti already lining our streets. How can this be sanitary for anyone in our community? When this is allowed, everyone is affected. No one should have to wake up on a side walk and no one should have to step over someone lying on a sidewalk. Portland is beginning to feel like a third world country. I used to be proud to call Portland my home (I was born and raised here) and now I am thinking of moving (like many others I know). I understand the problems run deep with drug addiction, mental illness, covid, etc but somehow we need to find a way to help those in need while also cleaning up our city and making it livable and safe for everyone who calls this place home. Opening parks to camping would be a dangerous decision that would negatively affect those thousands of children who play in our parks daily. Children need a safe, clean place to run and play. Allowing camping would take that away from our most precious citizens. I would like to learn more about this situation and who I may talk with to learn more. Thank you!

Testimony is presented without formatting.