

Val Thorpe

#267388 | March 15, 2021

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

Commissioners, You must be kidding about the use of City parks for housing. It's bad enough that our streets, open spaces, and sidewalks are already turning into toilets. Crime has gone rampant and there's no police to respond to theft, larceny, auto theft and gun violence. Now the tax paying citizens of this City along with businesses cannot utilize the parks that they pay taxes for to maintain. If you label this "temporary emergency" we all know that means permanent. The City owns lots of property. The city can afford, with the new bond measures in place and the already accumulated funds to provide housing and more importantly: treatment for addictions, to the non-housed population of Portland. Frankly, we are sick of this. Many long-time Portlanders are moving out of this town. Myself included. I simply cannot deal with it any more. You don't listen. Non-tax paying vagrants rule your decision making. Homeless is not caused by high rents. It's caused by a lifetime of drug or alcohol addiction, poor decision making over many years, and a lifestyle choice in a City that caters to their every need. The few people who are legitimately homeless (due to job loss or abuse) have access to housing, food, and monetary assistance thru the many charitable organizations here, many of whom I donate to. Enough. I say Enough! Use the tax money to build housing, utilize motels, provide more of the the type of temporary shelters like Water Ave. and N Argyle. These are clean and safe and not eyesores to our citizens and visitors. Val Thorpe

Testimony is presented without formatting.