

# Joseph Myers

**#267405 | March 15, 2021**

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

besides voting.. this is my first time contacting city officials about a proposed change. I know it is a hard time during this pandemic. But I also know that the city and county have been trying to find a solution to homelessness. but regardless of all that has been planned and tax money spent on this problem. The results have been dismal. And now this proposed plan to allow outdoor shelters/camping (squatting) in Portland parks is like you have given up on getting these people off the streets. Even from some of your own reports. Some people do not want to get off the street living. Changing the city codes to allow street living in the parks is like you have given in to these people who don't want to change. If you allow this to happen. You will be taking away the parks that make this a desirable city. Over the years people have voted in added taxes to keep our parks open and taken care of. Do you think voter will approve future taxes for parks that are turned over to non tax (property owners) paying people? This proposed code change isn't a humanity change it is a give up change. As Mayor and city commissioners you are responsible to have the current codes enforced. If you made it harder for people to shelter/camp on the streets they would go to place that accept them or move somewhere else (Beaverton). If these people don't want to get off the streets. then make it harder for them to be here, not make it easier. This code change makes it easier for you and them. And in the long run will cost the city more to handle. Thank you for your time. Please do not make these changes to the current code.

Testimony is presented without formatting.