

# J. Gordon

**#267427 | March 15, 2021**

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

While I absolutely agree that the homeless situation is complex and difficult to manage, camping in city parks sounds like a terrible solution. While I absolutely agree that the homeless situation is complex and difficult to manage, camping in city parks sounds like a terrible solution. I am sure you will get many types of testimony. I'd like to make a suggestion for an alternative to city parks. Use the EXPO Center buildings and parking lots. No usual events are likely to take place there for a while, and could be postponed for the greater good, – use it! 1. They are equipped with electricity, plumbing and with some creativity, mobile showers, cooking and food serving arrangements would be possible. 2. Tents, plastic ‘bubbles’ and like could be set up, not dissimilar to what booths are like during events. 3. If people would prefer their own tents outdoors, the parking lot could have designated areas for them. 4. Separate areas could be set up for families and/or separate sections for women (with or without children) 5. Mobile health services and social services could also be set up in the parking lot, perhaps even some skills training for future jobs. 6. Have a work exchange program set up so those being housed do useful work to maintain the cleanliness and services at the site. 7. Maybe a temporary address or P.O. Box could be set up so those searching for work would have an address to use. 8. Security could be part of the set-up. 9. Trash collection could be managed. 10. When the site has to revert for post-pandemic use, it would be much easier to clean. NONE of the above would be available in a city park AND none of the downsides for the public who, especially in these pandemic times, would be impacted by lack of safe use of our only, free open spaces.

Testimony is presented without formatting.