

Erika Wilson

#267439 | March 15, 2021

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

My biggest concern is that houselessness is not a temporary issue, it a long term issue. I am concerned temporary shelters will not be temporary. This plan does not account for longterm actions, as permanent shelter plans will be placed based on "as needed" and "per the budget": neither are guarantee a permanent solution will be obtained. The proposal is also confusing regarding use of schools: stating schools would not be used, then later stating schools could be used as shelter or food. I presume this means abandoned schools, but this is not specified. Finally, we just passed increased property taxes to improve the parks, but having people live in the parks will further damage the parks. I believe Ms. Hardesty is incorrect in assuming people will continue to use the parks in the same manner, with encampments in place. I know from personal experience with an encampment two blocks from my house, the biohazards resulting from encampment (feces, used syringes, garbage) has made me reroute my usual routes, unable to access all of my neighborhood, and made me seriously consider moving.

Testimony is presented without formatting.