

Miriam Counts

#267445 | March 15, 2021

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

I strongly object to any change to city code to allow tents, recreational vehicles, or living quarters of any kind in Portland's Parks or on the streets surrounding them. A change such as the one proposed would effectively make them unusable by the public and turn our Portland Parks Bureau into a garbage and trash service bureau. Parks are for children. Parks are for the elderly. Parks are for people to experience nature in the city. While my sympathy and my wallet is strong in support for people experiencing homelessness, the answer is not to ruin the facilities that exist throughout our city that are meant to be appropriately used by the entire public. We must continue to find ways to alleviate the homeless crisis. Surrendering our park space to a small segment of the population is not the right thing to do and it is not how I want my taxes to be spent.

Testimony is presented without formatting.