

# Lauren Perreault

**#267466 | March 15, 2021**

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

I am very opposed to the use of City parks for homeless shelters. Although I do have sympathy for the plight of the homeless, this is not the right solution. Our parks are for everyone to enjoy without fear. Too often the homeless camps, while mostly filled with nice (but down on their luck) people, also have one or two crazy, drugged out individuals who make me feel unsafe to pass on foot. Because of the lack of uniformity and in many cases, hoarding, it also makes these areas look horrible to visitors to our city. Portland has a reputation as a beautiful city and these camps are ruining that reputation; let's not make it worse by losing our parks. Camping should perhaps be allowed in areas such as under the highways, etc. provided that there are rules in place for this. Transportation to and from the city central could be provided. Most importantly, more financial, housing assistance and mental health assistance is needed. But allowing camping on the sidewalks, parks, etc, is ruining our city for those of us who do pay property taxes here. I'm more than willing to pay increased taxes in order to eliminate the blight on our city caused by the campers and we also need increased police presence to eliminate illegal activity in the camps.

Testimony is presented without formatting.