

Holly Manno

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

As a citizen of Portland who relocated here ten-years ago and invested by purchasing a home, and who worked and paid the exorbitant property and income taxes imposed by the state, city, and county, I must speak out about the status of the city that has lost all pride in itself. I was shocked and alarmed to learn that further encroachment into public areas is seriously being considered by the city leadership to permit homeless camps at more parks. If it isn't enough to leave your home and see frequent—literally, every block--"camps" which are mainly comprised of junk and rusted debris and waste of all sorts' now the city is going to take away the parks that have been paid for BY TAXPAYERS AND ARE SUPPOSED TO BE FOR THE DAY USE AND ENJOYMENT OF ALL-LET ALONE THE CHILDREN WHO DESERVE A CLEAN AND SAFE PLACE TO PLAY! What kind of leaders make decisions that benefit only a few while decimating the land, parks, and city for all others. We all deserve to live in safety. In neighborhoods when a sexual predator moves in, they are tracked and found on various websites. This allows people to know who they're living near. The city has permitted people to just lay down anywhere, and now the idea to remove parks from all citizens, making a utopia for the predators, criminals, homeless, and mentally ill, (and by utopia - I mean their version). My words may sound heartless but facts are facts. The people who are "camping" are destroying everything around them and leaving trash strewn about without regard. Most toddlers are taught to throw away trash and if adults are incapable of managing something as basic as a central repository for waste, then they are not capable of caring for themselves. The solution is not ruining more of the city but creating permanent locations for which "camping" is allowed. Include dumpsters and toilets and even services, but designate a location. EVERY CITIZEN has rights and the people who are paying for the city workers, the parks, and everything else here, are not unreasonable by expecting the city to use common sense and an approach that is for the BETTERMENT OF ALL CITIZENS. I strongly urge you to ADDRESS THE HOMELESS AND RIOT/VANDALISM THAT IS RAMPANT IN THIS CITY - WITHOUT FURTHER PENALIZING THOSE WHO ARE PAYING FOR EVERYTHING AND TRYING TO RAISE RESPONSIBLE CHILDREN. If kids are playing in a park while a man pees on a tree, is this the example we hope to set for our children? Just yesterday I watched a naked man change pants on the ground of a busy intersection. I took a video but your site won't allow me to upload it. Enough is enough with the disgusting sub-par standards that have been allowed to happen here. I've traveled to the middle east during wartime and TJ Mexico many, many times and I've NEVER SEEN CONDITIONS LIKE THIS. Your job is to take care of everyone, EVERYONE! Please do so swiftly

and wisely because if this persists, the city will be losing the folks who are paying taxes.

Testimony is presented without formatting.