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#267521 | March 15, 2021

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

Dear Bureau of Planning and Sustainability Members: According to the City of Portland Parks & Recreation website: “Portland's parks, public places, natural areas, and recreational opportunities give life and beauty to our city.” “The mission of Portland Parks & Recreation is to help Portlanders play - providing the safe places, facilities, and programs which promote physical, mental, and social activity. We get people, especially kids, outside, active, and connected to the community. As we do this, there will be an increase in the wellness of our residents and the livability of our city. We accomplish this through: • Establishing, safeguarding and restoring the parks, natural areas, public places, and urban forest of the city, ensuring that these are accessible to all; • Developing and maintaining excellent facilities and places for public recreation and community building; • Providing dynamic recreation programs and services that promote health and well-being for all; • Partnering with the community we serve. Can you please explain how permitting camping in Portland City Parks will: • “give life and beauty to our city?” • provide “the safe places, facilities, and programs which promote physical, mental, and social activity?” • provide for an “increase in the wellness of our residents and the livability of our city?” • help in “establishing, safeguarding and restoring the parks, natural areas, public places, and urban forest of the city, ensuring that these are accessible to all?” • facilitate “maintaining excellent facilities and places for public recreation?” • be “providing dynamic recreation programs and services that promote health and well-being for all?” I fail to see how permitting camping in Portland’s Parks will further the mission of Portland’s Parks & Recreation. Camping in Portland’s Parks is not consistent with Healthy Parks. Healthy Portland. Why not work to support the mission of Parks & Recreation rather than trash it? It is simply wrong and irresponsible to permit camping in Portland’s Parks. How did such stupidity ever get this far? I will never vote for a Commissioner who supports such a misguided initiative. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Testimony is presented without formatting.