

David Tunley

#267523 | March 15, 2021

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

I am writing to you today in complete opposition to the proposed zone code changes through the Shelter to Housing continuum (S2HC) Project. While I understand the complex nature of our homelessness issue here in Portland, I believe that the proposed code changes fail to adequately address some of the most pressing underlining causes for homelessness—namely substance abuse and lack of pathways to economic independence. I am in total opposition to homeless encampments being considered in open spaces—like public parks. Open spaces are fundamental pillars of any community. One only needs to visit Laurelhurst Park to understand the devastating impact these camps have on parks. My concerns with the S2HC are as follows; 1. There is no exit strategy. The proposed zone changes clearly state how encampments can be established but fail to address how they will be dismantled. 2. The S2HC fails to provide services to address the underlining issues for homelessness, like drug abuse therapies or pathways for economic independence. 3. The S2HC fails to establish any type of structured enforcement mechanism for desired conditions. 4. The proposed distribution for encampments is highly skewed for lower socioeconomic communities. 5. Complete and total opposition to public parks being considered for possible homeless encampment locations.

Testimony is presented without formatting.