

# Lisa Long

**#267527 | March 15, 2021**

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

I strongly oppose the Shelter to Housing Continuum Project. Public space belongs to the general public. This proposal seeks to privatize parks and other public spaces for the use of private individuals. This is in direct conflict with the purpose and intent of public space. The fact that the private individuals seeking to take possession of public space are homeless does not in any way excuse or negate the private appropriation of public space. This is clearly a privatization of public space for personal use. If a developer sought to use a park to put his mobile headquarters and store his equipment, the effect would be exactly the same and equally in excusable. This is not an issue of morality, but an issue of law. To give some individuals more rights than others regarding public space is inequitable and bias. On a personal note, I live near Sunnyside Park and Laurelhurst Park. The ongoing illegal camping at these two PUBLIC parks has in many ways denied the public use of the park. Human waste, used needles, excessive garbage, fighting, shouting, and criminal behavior has made these parks places of fear and filth instead of places where residents can come together in a public space. Homelessness is a complex issue which needs to be addressed through multiple solutions including safe indoor accommodations, mental illness treatment, and addiction treatment. Simply warehousing the homeless population in public spaces serves neither the homeless individuals nor the community at large. I urge you to vote against this short-sighted proposal.

Testimony is presented without formatting.