

Marie Fisher

#267545 | March 15, 2021

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

I am writing to express my opposition to shelters in Portland City public parks. Public parks are used by all Portlanders for day use, and should not be set aside for living quarters. Allowing shelters in parks will disproportionately prioritize their use for and by the homeless and prevent use by dogwalkers, pedestrians, cyclists, and tourists (should they ever return). As it is, tents and temporary shelters already prohibit pedestrian access on sidewalks. Using the public parks for this purpose will only increase the number of tents overall and decrease the areas in which Portlanders can recreate outdoors. The homeless tents located under the overpass on NW Johnson between 15th & 16th and on Glisan at 23rd are examples of areas in which pedestrians are forced to either cross the street, or walk in the street, as direct access to the sidewalks have been severely limited due to tents. For the past several years I have voted in favor of tax increases directly related to addressing Portland's homeless pandemic and its related addiction and mental health crises and yet, the situation continues to grow worse year by year. Portlanders should no longer be forced to sacrifice our collective quality of life in the name of this problem. Portland City Council and elected officials must solve these crises without continuing to require Portlanders to accommodate and make adjustments.

Testimony is presented without formatting.