

Gregory Larkin

#267567 | March 15, 2021

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

I oppose S2HC in its current form. The proposal is an attempt to make life better for homeless people living in the city, a worthwhile goal. I believe not only will it fail to do that as written, but it make life worse for everyone who lives and works here. The city needs to find a permanent, well thought out compassionate solution to homelessness. Ideally, homeless need to be housed or at least allowed to live in sanctioned areas with proper facilities that include showers and toilets. Houses on wheels, (RV's,etc.) should be included in sanctioned areas and not allowed to park on residential streets. There needs to be regular trash collections in these designated places where food and medical services can be provided, not spread out all over the city where it becomes an impossible and expensive task. The city needs to patrol streets, parkways, roadways, to make sure homeless only reside in sanctioned areas. The city needs to do its best to enforce no dumping laws. No tents, camper possessions or trash should be allowed to block sidewalks or obstruct streets. We don't want someone to get hurt and the city sued. I have read many of the testimonies here and agree with concerns about camping in our parks. My family currently lives directly across the street from one of the campsites and have seen the damage that camps cause. The dirt in the parkways have been pounded down so hard nothing will grow there, not even weeds. Existing shrubs have been damaged or have died. We were fortunate that none of our parks caught fire last summer. Campers start fires. They use them to cook, to keep warm, and to have social time with others. Sometimes they use charcoal and dispose of it near trees. If we allow campers to live in our parks, they will cause lasting damage. And then there's the rat problem. Eventually, people will stop coming to the parks, which is a shame as they still are some of the biggest assets of this city. If things do not turn around, there's a good chance that many people (that is, those paying taxes) will decide to live elsewhere. Thank you, Greg Larkin

Testimony is presented without formatting.