

Mark Gold

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

As a resident of the Pearl District, I am extremely dismayed by a provision in the S2HC Project that allows noiseless persons to camp in city parks. I honestly don't know what thought process CSS can conceive of such an idea. Parks are for recreation, not camping or housing. I live across the street from Fields park and some of my windows face the park. I walk my dog in that park and go there to run and relax. Don't get me wrong, something more serious has to be done about the homeless situation in this city, but having them camp in a public park where children play and people go to relax is not the answer. We have witnessed these tent cities all over the area already. They are filthy and unsanitary. There are drugs (and needles) and also mentally ill persons in these concentrated areas. Would you want your children playing in a park where this situation exists? Finally, I can only imagine what will happen to the property values of all the homes near parks. Living near a park is now considered a perk. If this comes to pass it will be a disaster and resolve nothing. I am pleading to the city council's common sense and decency to not pass such a measure. We have dealt with much difficulty in this city in the past year. I am afraid this will be the last straw for us and we will look for another city to live in. Thank you.

Testimony is presented without formatting.