

# Alexis Garbarino

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

While I understand we are experiencing a housing crisis the solution of Open Space Zones is a horrendous idea. There are multiple vacant and underutilized land spaces throughout the city - even empty buildings at this point - that could be used as temporary shelters. Utilizing the public parks for this removes the public's use of these spaces, which is what they are intended for. There is a serious safety risk allowing people experiencing homelessness to camp, use tents, or "shelter" in a public park. Not to mention the garbage and destruction of the public park that we pay tax dollars to keep clean already. These parks are a fundamental piece to the beauty of our city and allowing them to be destroyed by changing them into shelters is a shame. Finally, think realistically, the idea that this is a temporary solution is just not true. Once we allow homeless camps in parks they will always be there. Do not make this change, our city is falling apart and a change like this will not help solve the problem, it will only hurt it.

Testimony is presented without formatting.