

# Craig Purdy

**#267626 | March 15, 2021**

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

Upon reading the Shelter to Housing Continuum Project I can say that this has to be some of the most backward thinking to solve homelessness I have every seen. There is no denying that we have a homeless epidemic, that has brought on many other issues with it like crime, garbage, and many safety issues. There is no way that opening up parks to public camping for the homeless will alleviate any of these issues, it will only make them worse and increase the issues that the homeless camping brings to even more areas. If the city continues its lazy and failing policies on addressing the homeless it will NEVER get better. Being homeless isn't a crime, but it should not be a free pass to commit crimes, litter, and have open fires and such. Perhaps the city should consider leasing warehouse space and set up cots and portable toilets, then the city would have the homeless in an area to extend services and help those who want help. Those who don't should not be allowed to camp where ever they want. Plain and simple, homeless people should not be camping period. Those with out homes should only be in a transition facility, a mental health facility, drug treatment facility, or jail. A transition facility can simply be a warehouse with toilets, or even better a closed school with showers. If people are allowed to camp in parks then were would taxpayers who pay your salaries and elect you go. Would you take your children to a park filled with homeless campers, full of garbage, and drugs. I for one can not believe this option is even up for a discussion, what is becoming of this city I have lived in for 50 years. Is is shameful. Thank you for your time.

Testimony is presented without formatting.