

# John Fischer

**#267672 | March 15, 2021**

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

I am very strongly against this proposal. I do understand that a solution to the challenges of homelessness is of great importance and high priority, and this is a well-intentioned effort. I do not however think that it is a good solution. Our parks in Portland are precious, and it would be a travesty to put "shelters" in them, with all the accompanying problems (unnecessary to enumerate). The parks would just not be the same; if not entirely ruined, their beauty and serenity would be diminished. That's unacceptable. Frankly, Portland is really going downhill--no other way to describe it. There is crime, filth, trash, homeless people everywhere. The "protests" turn violent and there are evidently no consequence, even though many of the businesses and homes are those of immigrants and people who have been disadvantaged in various ways. We are getting an increasingly bad reputation, and homeless encampments in the parks throughout the city might just cement for a long time. The city is dying, but we can save it. PLEASE do not allow us to go down this road to further destruction of what is beautiful and special about our beloved city. My daughter and her fiance are leaving Portland because of these problems--they live in the Pearl but near downtown, on the river. They are fed up. Our friends ask us why we are staying--I am flexible as to my residence. I always reply that I very much hope that Portland will make a comeback. There are too many creative, smart, caring people who have a stake in the success of Portland. PLEASE don't put another nail in the coffin.

Testimony is presented without formatting.