

Janis Carlson

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

I currently live downtown in a high rise condominium and have seen encampments grow exponentially over the last several years. One or two tents blocking city sidewalks have grown to a dozen. I have seen feces, urination and needles as well as garbage strewn in and out of tents. Residents have been advised to cross the street rather than walk by the encampments. There are camp sites that have grown into villages within the city. Campers burn wood and barbeques near city buildings which have causing a fire issue. Portland has lost its attraction as a safe and clean city. Our city parks are one of the reasons people move to this city. If the city opens its parks to campers, city residents, children and others in our community will not be able to enjoy the open parks. They will become what we see downtown, with garbage left outside of tents, rat infested, and growing in numbers. This will change the face of our city. Homeless shelters are the best option and answer with counseling centers for mental illness and drug abuse. This is the best solution not to further what we see on the freeway sides, streets, parking strips,

Testimony is presented without formatting.