

Marci Macfarlane

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

Dear City Council, I grew up in Portland Oregon and right now I'm very disgusted with the way we are handling the houseless situation in Portland. We have voted on at least 2 different bonds to build affordable housing in the last 5 years....and nothing has really changed. We still have large homeless camps in almost every area of Portland, we have trash waterfalls all along the highways and streets. In my area of Overlook we have the homeless driving their cars down the sidewalks & bike paths to park next to their camp in a green space. We have trash/plastic fires, in January we had a shooting (one of many in North Portland). Yet here you are asking us to allow the use of our lovely parks to house people. I did not vote on a bond measure for you to put tents in the parks. I voted for you to provide affordable housing to the community. Because of the infill City Council has proposed we have a lot more of the community in apartments or multi-family housing. The last place for these people to escape and get some fresh air or just walk around is our parks. If you start putting shelters in our parks you are talking away that ability for the whole community to be able to live, play and exercise.....you are giving the parks over to tent structures, trash piles and various rodents (as I have seen many more rats in my yard as the camp near me gets larger and more trash accumulates) . Yes we need shelters, yes we need better housing for the people that are living in tents on I-5...but shame on you for not doing your job and working on affordable housing for these people. Shame on you for thinking that putting up shelters in a park is a solution. There are so many buildings that will not impact the entire community if you use these building a shelter....you need to take the parks off the table as an option for anyone to camp. There is no reason for kids to have dodge tents and trash piles as they ride their bike through a city park, yet that is what will happen if you allow the parks to become a shelters. Please, Please reconsider taking the use of parks out of the Shelter to Housing Continuum Project. Thank You Marci Macfarlane I have attached a couple of photos of the recent fires and camps that I see every day.

Testimony is presented without formatting.