

Mary Lou Haas

#267762 | March 15, 2021

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

Even though I appreciate the desperation of our houseless population and I share the City Council's desire to find a temporary solution to make our neighborhoods safe and clean, I urge you to keep camping out of our parks. I don't envy you as you seek to find solutions for safe shelter for everyone. However, I believe that especially at a time when the parks are a great safe haven from COVID isolation for everyone, the parks should not be used for 24 hour use by anyone. Children, women and seniors would not feel safe in a park where tent cities abound and garbage and possibly dangerous substances and paraphernalia are present. I am an 80 year old woman and I already feel insecure in isolated sections of some of our parks. I know I would feel even less secure if you allow camping in the park. Not everyone has a yard of their own. Our parks are the only access to nature and the outdoors that some have. No one should call our parks home but everyone should be able to feel safe in them. I do not envy you for the difficult problems you are trying to solve for all of us but I urge you to think hard and long on this as I believe solving a problem for one population in this case will have a serious effect on the lives of many others. Mary Lou Haas

Testimony is presented without formatting.