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#277680 | March 15, 2021

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

In response to the city's proposal to allow homeless people to occupy parks and golf courses: The trash, garbage, waste, drug paraphernalia, remnants of burnt materials, destroyed furniture, along with trampled down, cut down, broken off, burnt plants that you find ANYWHERE along Portland's highways and neighborhood should be proof enough that the homeless are not capable of keeping their areas in a condition that would be acceptable for any tax paying and law abiding REGISTERED OREGON resident, living in Portland. This city is deteriorating, downtown PDX turned into slums-like area, and neighborhoods are losing their sidewalks due to the trash and waste and 'structures' that already exist. There is ZERO REASON to believe that offering up public parks would change the homeless' respect for their surrounding and keep public recreational areas clean. The homeless crisis is often explained with mental illness. Now we have mentally unstable people congregate in areas that are not immediately visible from streets, and people will feel EVEN MORE UNSAFE to have to pass these camps. When was the last time you walked along SE Powell under rail overpass? if you're not familiar , try it, and think about that as a trial area for how homeless camps would feel to a pedestrian in a park. SCARY! Aside from the fear factor: Where are the people supposed to go about their natural urges - are you going to offer potta potties for every single park? the homeless crisis is also deeply inter-linked with drug use, and meth and any other drugs are eliminated through faeces. In a nutshell, we not only have a safety problem, but also a serious environmental problem. This idea to expand housing options for the homeless, along with any other option , is not a solution. It is a panicked attempt to put a bandage on an oozing wound that the failed state and city leadership has allowed to happen. the question should not be "how do we provide housing to the homeless'. The question should be 'where do the homeless come from, what attracts them to Portland, and how do we stop the vicious cycle of homelessness?'. family planning would be a start. I am outraged that my tax dollars go into this failed system, and that I can no longer utilized the public sidewalks that link neighborhoods - again, give it a shot and walk along Powell underneath the train overpass around SE17th. Millions of dollars went into that construction, and all we now have is a constant supply of trash on the road, and an unusable walkway. The idea that these camps are allowed in parks where people try to escape to to remind themselves why it's still worthwhile to remain in this city, makes me nauseous.

Testimony is presented without formatting.