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

Portland's public parks are valuable commodities. If any city park is to be zoned and redesignated as "temporary or permanent houseless shelter" space—assuming this process is intended for humanely addressing the city's large homeless population—then it is vitally contingent upon the city itself to provide all necessary and humane infrastructure to support such usage out of its existing budget. Such infrastructure would include, but not be limited, to: Plumbing and sewage for toilets, showers and other sources of running water; regularly scheduled trash removal services; access to electric grid; and first and foremost, environmental impact and engineering surveys to determine the viability and effects of what an unknown number of "temporary or permanent" residents would be on the drainage, water table and natural environment of any given piece of land and its surrounding neighborhood. The city would arguably do better to invest thoughtfully and long-term, rather than in what appears to be short-sighted, superficial fix. Time is overdue for our city to confront the real issue and invest in permanent housing structures for our homeless residents. Those who are living on Portland streets, those who have no house, are experiencing pain every day. Simply moving them from a sidewalk storefront to a patch of green grass is an insult to their humanity. We can do better. I therefore wish to add my voice to others that there be proposed amendments to the S2HC Recommendations: 1. Amend language in 33.296.030.G to remove the Open Space Zone from consideration as either temporary or permanent houseless shelters -- EXCEPT in declaration of emergency by City Council. 2. Amend language in new provision 33.296.030.H to add an exception for Open Space Zone.

Testimony is presented without formatting.