

David Goldwyn

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

Parks should not allow temporary structures for the homeless. Taxpayers have paid for these spaces for specific uses. Allowing people to live in them in temporary structures is not one of these uses. The parks budget is already stretched. How will city employees be able to keep up with the amount of garbage created by allowing people to live in the parks? It's easy to see what will happen. Just look at all the encampments along the freeways and you'll see garbage everywhere. As a Portlander, it's embarrassing. Also, it's a huge safety issue. Taxpayers should be able to use the parks and feel safe while in them. I doubt taxpayers will feel safe or want to use the parks if they're filled with temporary structures, many of whose occupants have mental illness. What about the parks next to schools? Portland needs a comprehensive plan that includes treatment/counseling for those with mental illness, housing and compassionate guidelines regarding our rules and laws. If these are not followed, there needs to be enforcement. This plan is just another bandaid. Please do not allow temporary structures in our parks.

Testimony is presented without formatting.