

Mark Williams

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

To Portland City Council: Measure 26-213 passed in November 2020 - a levy to "improve" Parks. You should reconsider putting homeless in parks or green spaces on the tax payer dime. The ballot measure never said that our funding would potentially allow homeless to camp in our green spaces and parks. We are already going to pay 1% income tax for the homeless. You need to organize yourselves and find a different solution. How about the prison that never opened? Do you realize that many of our homeless are coming from other states because we are welcoming them with open arms? I travel to other cities and other than California, Oregon and Washington, I don't see the extent of this problem. That is on your watch and I am disgusted that our city leaders have let our community down. I am in favor of supervised homeless camps that provide more structure like the camp near OMSI. Allowing camping in neighborhoods is not only unsafe for the homeless but also for the residents. I hope that you would consider other solutions to this problem. I will remind you of the measure that was passed. I would think your new proposed solution is unconstitutional - almost fraudulent. Measure 26-213, a five-year tax levy, will provide \$48 million each year to the parks bureau, on average, according to the city. That money will go toward improving parks and natural spaces as well as safely reopening community centers, swimming pools and recreational programs after the pandemic. It will do so by implementing a tax of \$0.80 per \$1,000 assessed value beginning in 2021. That will cost the median Portland homeowner \$151 per year, or about \$13 per month, according to the measure filing.

Testimony is presented without formatting.