

Janet Cubar

#277759 | March 16, 2021

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

As a member of two neighborhood groups that pick up litter in Portland's Pearl District at least 2-3 times per week (including partway under the 405 along NW 15th) for the past 5 years, I am well aware of the voluminous dangerous debris generated by homeless campers and individuals who travel to and from them. I am very concerned about having any parks being used as potential homeless housing locations, except in a dire emergency. The City so far has done a poor job over the years in handling regular trash and litter as well as the trash that results from the homeless. Any program that the City puts in place must consider the broader effect on neighborhoods. Debris left by camps and campers includes, significant human and animal feces, bottles of urine, bloody cloths, needles, needle caps, broken glass, discarded clothing and rotting food. We cannot have these in our parks in greater volume than now exists and we cannot have them on the sidewalks used by residents and children leading to/from camps. The City must have measures in place to address the debris fields created by camps and campers. Residents are also sitting ducks for break-ins by some elements of the homeless population. A local group is now paying campers \$1/bag of trash collected. An incentive program by the City may also help. The homeless should be part of the solution. We need these issues addressed regardless of the locations that City decides upon. The issue is not just housing locations, the direct environmental impact on the community at large must also be addressed. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Testimony is presented without formatting.