

William Paustian

#277769 | March 16, 2021

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

I grew up in Northeast Portland right next to Grant High School and spent many mornings walking through Laurelhurst Park with my grandmother- ducking under trees and playing hide and go seek, amongst many other fun childhood activities. Last year, I moved back to Portland after spending a year in San Francisco and was saddened by what I saw. Portland undoubtedly has a deep, deep homeless problem, however, I do not believe that changing the Zoning and allowing people to camp in public parks is the correct solution. Today, I go visit my grandmother and while she has not moved, she is afraid to walk through Laurelhurst Park for fear of stepping on a hypodermic needle or being robbed. I implore you to search for alternative solutions that will not have such a drastic impact on the community or people who live here. I love Portland more than any place in the entire world and I believe in a positive future. Changing the zoning and allowing people to camp in public parks is a shortsighted move that will have a lasting impact felt for many years. Let's use the bright minds that exist in Portland to be trailblazers and pioneers in this area to find a sustainable solution that everyone can get behind rather than putting a band-aid on the problem that leaves people feeling unsafe in the place they call home.

Testimony is presented without formatting.