

# Jeanette Abich

**#277818 | March 16, 2021**

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

Thank you for including the Portland community in this manner with COVID19 requiring new ways of letting our elected officials know our concerns. As a resident of 10 years duration I am very concerned about the possible zoning code changes opening up encampments within our public parks and public golf courses. Why the concern? Parks and green space are vital to helping mitigate climate change. It is important to remember that these areas are allowing us cleaner air and habitat for wild life. All age groups enjoy the benefits of a space for distressing and improving mental health and physical wellbeing. Citizens from all over Portland have access to these parks. Setting up homeless camps in these areas will most certainly impact our livability. We have evidence of this with the Laurelhurst Park encampments. Concerns for safety and sanitation and the much needed spaces for families to use without anxiety. This proposal does not seem to provide a safe, hazard free, permanent or sustainable solution for those experiencing homelessness. It seems like a containment proposal, rather than providing a solution for those in need.

Testimony is presented without formatting.