

Dion Marchi

#277826 | March 16, 2021

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

Dear City Council members, I live and work downtown in an urban Emergency Department as a clinical care manager RN. I work daily with homeless people and I care for all of the citizens and I work and invest time and energy into my community. Allowing this camping and shelters in parks will be the nail in the coffin for Portland, Oregon. Some of you may not understand the complex demographic of our homeless population. We have mentally ill, people down on their luck, people with serious addictions, and we have a large segment who are criminals and they blend and harm the first groups I mentioned. Daily new homeless arrive in Portland via bus or train and report to the Emergency Departments for requests for food and housing and then set up camp in our city. If you advertise our parks as an option you will simply overwhelm the city. Why not establish 4 large campgrounds (one in each section of the city NE, NW, SE, SW and require sanitation and trash control? Please do not further destroy our city by taking over our parks. No one likes to visit our downtown due to needles, trash, feces, and crime sprawled everywhere. You will simply attract thousands from the midwest. Why not invest in addiction centers and, shelters in designated places that do not involve parks, schools, sidewalks, and private businesses and private residences. I am a centrist left-leaning politically and I live and work and volunteer in downtown Portland and I might need to depart due to this type of proposal. I respectfully request you consider the critical point we are in Portland, Oregon. I am willing to help find solutions and offer to volunteer to be part of a solution. Please do not destroy the last remaining places in our city. This step will harm homeless people as citizens such as myself who provide services and stability and will no longer be able to reside in this city. This is not the solution. Please contact me if you would like further input or help. Respectfully, Dion Marchi

Testimony is presented without formatting.