

# Scott Pratt

**#277877 | March 16, 2021**

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

I object to these ordinances as written. You set a process for establishing encampments but you don't have an exit strategy for dismantling them. Once established, the campers begin to take ownership of the location. You need to set expectations at the outset. You also fail to provide for enforcement of the rules at camps. You must maintain minimal conditions for the safety and livability of campers and the people by whom they camp. The proposed distribution of encampments is highly skewed towards lower socioeconomic communities. The inner eastside of the City already has the greatest share of camps. You need to set rules to share the burden equitably throughout the city. Finally, public parks and other open spaces should not be used for encampments. These are for the benefit of everyone and provide many environmental benefits as well as emotional and psychic benefits to the entire community. Reserving a portion of parks and open spaces for camps prevents others from using those areas. I have heard that this would supposedly occur only in the event of an emergency but that means any emergency that is declared, such as the recent COVID declaration. Camping in public parks and open spaces should only happen in the event of a natural disaster. Thank you for your consideration. I know these are difficult issues but please take into account the safety and livability of all citizens.

Testimony is presented without formatting.