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

Hello, I'd first like to note that poverty is not a crime, and our elected officials managing our tax intake should invest in resources to help those in need. Part of that need is drug rehabilitation services. Our state voted to decriminalize drug use/possession, and then our Governor delayed the funding for appropriate treatment. Quite the bait and switch on voters. Many, including myself wish we had voted NO. We will not be able to help our houseless neighbors until the Drug Epidemic is addressed. Our sidewalks and public squares are already inaccessible to community members who are disabled and can't navigate the blocked sidewalks. There are those who fear for their safety of being harassed, assaulted, or passing through unsanitary conditions such as feces on the ground and drug paraphernalia spewed about. We can all clearly see the garbage spread through the City, and the City Government has not taken control of these unsafe conditions. Instead, the City has encouraged defecating on sidewalks, legalized and encouraged drug use, and authorized external organizations (PPOP) to distribute unlimited number of syringes, injection supplied, pipes, etc. without operating on a 1 for 1 model. Our Parks our a vital natural resource that Tax Payers already fund to keep clean and sustain the livability of our City. I am opposed to Public Parks being used for houseless encampments. Natural Wetlands are already being destroyed and contaminated at an alarming rate. Our neighborhood has been plagued by propane explosions and major tent fires.. do we want our Parks to burn down? Please reconsider the impact this will have on our City. Why not spend our resources on actual solutions instead of putting Band-Aids on this issue? We need drug treatment. We need houseless housing. Investors converted a Denver Hotel into 139- Mini-Apartments for the Homeless. Why is the City of Portland not pursuing a similar objective?

Testimony is presented without formatting.