

# Constance Harvey

**#277882 | March 16, 2021**

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

NO do not allow homeless camping wherever the campers want to pitch their tents, discard their trash, and use the city as their personal port-a-potty. Homeless camping should not be encouraged to be a permanent situation. Homeless people should be provided a helping hand by organized services so they can return to self-sufficiency. If they can't be self-sufficient, they need to be moved to supervised shelters; not given a choice because they aren't capable of making good choices. Tax paying citizens are due a safe city, safe parks, and to know there are subsidized services to help those less fortunate. Subsidizing services will be cheaper than allowing homeless camping to totally destroy the city. Tax paying citizens might leave the city in droves or arm themselves to take matters into their own hands. Neither is a good option. I'm jealous of other cities I visit when I don't have to walk in the street to avoid tents or take a different walking route to avoid dangerous groups of homeless people or the destruction they have caused to businesses. NO, the answer is NOT to allow homeless camping wherever the campers want. Homeless camping needs to be discouraged not enabled.

Testimony is presented without formatting.