

Ally D

#277894 | March 16, 2021

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

I strongly oppose the changes put forth by the Shelter to Housing Continuum Project. Allowing the use of our public spaces and parks for homeless camps is not a viable solution. Our parks should serve as safe and clean spaces for everyone to enjoy. Allowing homeless individuals to live in them will ultimately lead to these spaces being less accessible to the public. Residents of Portland will no longer feel welcome or safe visiting the park. This also will have a negative impact on our environmental lands, waters and the animals that live in these areas. It is clear from the current state of our city that there is a need for better solutions including shelters or alternative living options for the homeless, but turning community parks into campgrounds would be a detrimental to the city and its tax payers. This proposal does a disservice to everyone including the homeless individuals who need a realistic long term permanent solution. The shelters should also not only be concentrated to the east side, and instead spread throughout the city to provide ease of access to the individuals who need these services. Thank you.

Testimony is presented without formatting.