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

Do NOT open our public parks for camping for the homeless. Those of us who still live in Portland and support the city, parks, schools, small businesses want to use our public parks too. The homeless have destroyed with trash, human waste and off road driving and drug paraphernalia most of the unprotected public spaces in Portland. Surely you can agree that the rest of us deserve to have an area we can use without having to feel in danger of a needle stick or stepping in trash/waste. Our beautiful rose gardens, walking paths and green spaces will be wrecked in short order. If you want to divert public funds and space to take better care of those folks than you do our public space, then set aside paved parking lots of abandoned big box stores that can be set up as refugee camps with toilets, trash receptacles and some kind of order. Your inept handing of this crisis is ruining home values, neighborhood cultures and the beauty/desirablity of our city. Don't be fooled by high housing costs. Those prices will soon follow your homeless leadership into the cess pool if this crisis is not handled with organization and boundaries. KD

Testimony is presented without formatting.