

Jo Simpson

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

Our parks and golf courses should not be used to shelter the homeless. Currently I do not feel safe walking alone or with my disabled husband at Laurelhurst park because of the homeless encampments along the perimeter. We have been yelled at, hit, and threatened so we have stopped using the park. We have lived in this area for over 21 years and have never seen it so unsafe. Our home has been broken into four times, as have many of our neighbors, since the homeless encampments. It didn't help that the city council chose to dismantle the police force and we don't have enough police officers to respond to our calls. The city council needs to represent the citizens that pay taxes to make this a livable, law abiding city not the pet projects of council members. Turning our parks and golf courses into homeless encampments will only make the problems worse. Soon you will have concerned groups and citizens start to question how you're using our tax dollars if we can no longer benefit from what we're paying for.

Testimony is presented without formatting.