

Mandy Duh

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

As a native Oregonian, and resident Portlander for the past 10 years I take great pride in knowing I live in a beautiful, clean, and accepting community. After living in the north end of the Pearl District for the past 4 years, I and my boxer dog have always felt safe, and welcomed by the diverse neighbors and visitors that flock to the neighborhood or visit The Fields park. However, the growing homeless camps along NW 16th Ave along the 405 freeway have reversed that sense of security and cleanliness that was once a welcoming benefit of residing here. The heaping piles of trash sprawled along that road, the unsightly feces engrained in the sidewalks and landscaping, and needle-laden pavement have made that stretch of road a horrific and unsettling area that connects the Pearl to Slabtown, as well as the other major freeways in Northwest Portland. I don't feel as though it is unreasonable to presume that a major corridor in Northwest, one leading to many other condo and apartments should be well-kept, free of needles and garbage considering the amount of money and tax dollars invested by residents of the area. Just this morning, while watching The Today Show on NBC, Portland was called out as one of the "best places to live post-Covid" and a beautiful photo of The Fields park with the Fremont bridge in the background was featured as a main attraction for what Portland has to offer. The result of this proposal could alter this picturesque view of what makes Portland a top city to live in. In order to revitalize the prominence Portland once had, we must preserve the intention of these parks as clean, safe, public spaces for all to enjoy and not shelter or make their home for 180 days at a time.

Testimony is presented without formatting.