

# Robert Kavanaugh

**#277920 | March 16, 2021**

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

I ask you not to authorize homeless camping in city parks. For residents of The Pearl and adjoining neighborhoods, our parks are especially important. We live in a high-density area where most people don't have backyards. We use our parks extensively as child playgrounds and for safely socializing, exercising dogs and just relaxing. At present, our parks are more important to us than ever. This is because our neighborhoods are already experiencing an influx of homeless people who sleep in our doorways or camp on sidewalks and in open spaces. This has resulted in an increase in trash, including hypodermic needles, discarded drugs and human waste. It has also resulted in public drug-use, intoxication, an increase in crime and in scary encounters with people who are intoxicated or suffering from mental illness. Under these circumstances, we need safe, clean public recreation areas more than ever. This is especially true for our large elderly population and our children. Thank you.

Testimony is presented without formatting.