

Aja Crocker

#277941 | March 16, 2021

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

I would like to express my disagreement with this proposal. As a Portland native and a resident of St Johns, I would like to point out that having safe and designated options in my area, our parks and neighborhoods are still flooded with homeless people. In our downtown area, it has drastically affected businesses and the ability for people and families to walk through the town (and frequent said businesses) In neighborhoods, we have countless parked vehicles with tents and trash surrounding them. In parks and wooded areas, there are mounds of garbage, abandoned furniture, tents, drug needles and other debris making it unsafe to use. The use of more public space, such as parks or golf courses is an unacceptable option. We have already seen evidence that use of public space by the houseless community can and will not be kept clean and accessible to the tax paying residents of Portland. We need to preserve our beautiful outdoor areas now more than ever as Covid has prevented us from having our usual option to access indoor businesses and social gatherings. I understand the reality that we have very little available land to use in the city limits, but using parking lots of closed businesses, or space just outside of the city that is not being used for anything else would be a more fair option than to further impede on our beautiful and much NEEDED parks and outdoor recreation options. sincerely, Aja Crocker

Testimony is presented without formatting.