

# Bill Opray

**#277957 | March 16, 2021**

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

The homeless dilemma is a challenge for us all, both public and private and requires a partnership between many parties and of course the homeless themselves, at least those that want help and are willing to participate in solving the problems. Taking and repurposing any existing public park spaces within the city of Portland into temporary or permanent housing to help solve the problems seems to only create more problems for use of scarce public resources, especially in times of the current pandemic. Even without the virus, the situation is challenging. Even today, parks seem to be underfunded to adequately maintain them with public use increasing. Adding housing to open spaces needs to focus on providing adequate resources to establish and maintain them, a level of funding that given budget issues is lacking and has been lacking with Portland schools, a prime example. I support removal of current open spaces/zones from consideration for either temporary or permanent homeless shelters as an amendment to the S2HC Recommendations. and to amend the language in the new provision 33.296.030.H to add an exception for the Open Space Zone. Maybe such a proposal, as being considered, should be considered in planning new open spaces to address all the required infrastructure and funding. Thanks for your consideration.

Testimony is presented without formatting.