

# Gerald Heade

**#277960 | March 16, 2021**

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

As a life-long Portlander of 66 years (and the first time i have ever testified) let me be open, honest, and brief: I am now retired after having worked since the age of 14. My dad used to drive us kids past skid road (in old town) and point out if we didn't follow society's rules and ethics, we may end up on skid row. Those were the days when kids skated on sidewalks. And the most expensive homes faced the parks, or the golf courses. In the 60s there were strict enforcement of littering with the slogan: "don't be a litter bug". So now here we are in 2021. the proposal is to give away our parks to the homeless for their encampments. And sidewalks too. What happened? Where are the DISINCENTIVES to being a non-contributing member of society? Why are the homeless being given a free ride by taking away from the working class the joys of a park? Or the usefulness of a sidewalk? I don't remember the definitions for parks, golf courses, or sidewalks having anything to do with "encampments". I guess i have no empathy. I lived my life playing by the rules. And do not feel obligated to give away my access to the peace and beauty the local park provides, or to move aside on the sidewalk and into the street to allow some homeless camp. especially in these times. And by the way...we have strict laws called "distraction" laws aimed at keeping your attention to the road. Somewhere along the way we allowed the homeless to ask for money at busy intersections, where they have us stopped...a captive audience. Behind the wheel I am looking at the traffic signal, looking for oncoming traffic, mindful of pedestrians....and also bothered by someone looking for a handout. I am fed up with the homeless plague that has taken over the beauty of this city. the crime, the litter, the drugs, the graffiti. We all have rights; but a certain few don't play by the rules and aren't being held accountable and I do NOT think that is fair.

Testimony is presented without formatting.