

Betty Reiss

#277967 | March 16, 2021

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

I am a long-time Portland resident living near Laurelhurst Park. I write to strongly suggest removal of Open Space Zones from consideration as either temporary or permanent houseless shelters EXCEPT for a declaration of emergency by the City Council due to a catastrophic natural disaster. Laurelhurst Park was increasingly used during this past year Covid year by Portland residents from all over the city (in addition to the usual neighborhood persons who walked to the Park, there were large numbers of persons who drove to park.) Yet portions of the park could not be used at all during most of this pandemic time, due to harassment of passersby by persons in homeless camp, scattered needles, human feces, trash, rats.... Open Space Zones should not be used as temporary or permanent shelters because increasingly, Portland residents need to use our parks and public spaces as population increases and city densifies. In addition, outdoor shelters have significant environmental impact. There is ample vacant and underutilized land available as an alternative (see BPS report to the Portland City Council) Please amend language in 33.296.030.G to remove the Open Space Zone from consideration as either temporary or permanent houseless shelters EXCEPT for a declaration of emergency by the City Council due to a catastrophic natural disaster such as an earthquake.

Testimony is presented without formatting.