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

The S2HC enables "outdoor shelters", which are fundamentally inhumane and damaging to the environment and neighborhoods in which they set up. We need more than ever to provide a path to a better life for our unhoused citizens, and to continue to improve our clean air and parks. The S2HC will reverse course for both of these objectives. Homelessness is a complicated human dilemma that requires extensive research and examination, with a goal for long-term success. Much of the Laurelhurst Park annex was inaccessible to park-goers this summer. The 100+ tent/vehicle camp that lined Oak St. and 37th St. became a health and safety hazard for our community in many ways: - Campers urinated and defecated on the sidewalk, playground, and park. - Campers disposed of used needles and syringes on the street and in park grounds. A recent article in Street Roots mentioned one of the campers to be HIV positive.

(<https://www.streetroots.org/news/2020/12/02/after-painful-sweep-laurelhurst-park-unhoused-residents-want-space-exist>)

- Reports of crime in surrounding neighborhoods increased, including threatening harm to passersby, theft of personal belongings, and break-ins into homes and cars. - There was a shigellosis outbreak in that camp. - There was a COVID-19 outbreak in that camp. - There was an increase in the rodent population. - Campers were dismantling electric boxes in the park, putting others in danger of electrocution. - Campers were lighting massive fires on the sidewalk and the park, sometimes under 100-year-old trees within Laurelhurst park. These are but a handful of incidents we experienced over the past few months. S2HC will set Portland up for long term damage. Consider the SE Water St. model instead - a centralized sanctioned camp in which services can take advantage of economies of scale.

Testimony is presented without formatting.