

Michael Palomino

#278011 | March 16, 2021

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

I have lived in the Laurelhurst neighborhood for the last 10 years. Laurelhurst Park is an integral part of our community. Over the past several years, the homeless encampment by the children's play structure expands and contracts yearly. Park users are negatively impacted by the trash, hypodermic needles, and human waste left behind. As a result it is not a safe place for children to play and adversely impacts the communities use of the park. I have compassion for the plight of the houseless but there must be other solutions than that of opening our parks or golf courses. I would suggest designated areas where facilities are provided and social service agencies are able to interact and assist the homeless find housing or treatment. The City must take positive steps for all community members. The current situation is untenable for both the houseless and the community.

Testimony is presented without formatting.