

Robert Millis

#278020 | March 16, 2021

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

Portland absolutely cannot eliminate conditional use limitations for open space (e.g. parks) in densely populated neighborhoods zoned as EX and mixed use commercial. Without conditional use reviews for Group Living in mixed use zones, (see Tables 130-1 and 140-1), Portland opens a door that can never be closed again. This zoning change has the following crucial problems for the City of Portland : 1) Inequitably takes open recreation and green space away in dense communities, while preserving protections for less densely populated single family residential areas. 2) Transforms areas specifically intended for retail, restaurant, and tourism benefits. This takes away the peaceful enjoyment of outdoor space for visitors to these neighborhoods, undermining any effort to revive small businesses, and crushing tourism revenues for the city. 3) Sets a permanent policy for what should be a temporary situation, deferring or avoiding necessary long term solutions. Rather than dedicating resources to conditional use review, the city council is considering drastic action that would be exceedingly difficult to change for decades. I'm in favor of 90% of the proposed changes, but unlimited use of any and all parks for this purpose makes absolutely no sense whatsoever.

Testimony is presented without formatting.