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

The Shelter to Housing Continuum recommendations from the Planning and Sustainability Commission contain wording that would essentially turn Portland's parks into homeless tent camps and remove them from public use. This should not be done without a public vote. Large portions of the city are already de facto encampments and unsafe for public use. My disabled child attends both physical therapy and music lessons in the Foster/Powell and Johnson Creek corridor; her therapist's parking lot is now an encampment such that we've had to discontinue therapy; and her music teacher has put his house on the market and left town because his own daughter has been followed home. Mental health, drug addiction and un/underemployment deserve more definitive solutions for the considerable resources our city and its population--hard hit by COVID shutdowns and a shrinking economy--is already expending. Portland's long-term experience with such encampments shows that the ensuing increase in medical waste, fires, property crimes and assault only serve to create more victims and put more people at risk or into the system. Don't turn our parks into just one more place where people's lives come unraveled. Put our resources toward addiction treatment, law enforcement, and revitalization and employment.

Testimony is presented without formatting.