

Nancy Chilless

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

I have been a downtown condo owner since 2008, first at the Benson Tower and now at the Encore. Even the suggestion of allowing homeless tents to fill The Fields Park for up to 180 days is flawed thinking. There is only one one stall toilet and zero available facilities for showering or eating. This is hardly a functional living space for any human. I am a senior citizen. Following a year of rioters and gun violence in our downtown and the Pearl, I no longer feel safe walking outside. Add a multitude of tents and hundreds of people with significant mental, physical and social issues and you have destroyed a much needed green space for countless condos and their residents and young families. I have participated in maintaining a clean neighborhood by volunteering with the Foot Patrol. There is no way the City can look to our group to pick up an expected exponential increase in trash and human waste. The City Parks Department doesn't have a large enough budget to maintain a clean environment nor does the City. If tents are allowed in our parks, you will have reduced livability and recreation to a dangerous low level. I participated in neighborhood meetings when the City determined where on our sidewalks people could sit with bags and dogs. I was a volunteer at Travel Portland at the time and I related how many visitors from out of town said they were intimidated by people asking for money as they navigated our city. An unbelievable number said they wouldn't be back. It wasn't taken seriously. With this possible move to allow tents in our parks, you're going to drive tax paying residents out of the city. Please don't allow our city to be further decimated than it already has been. I hope you will take my points into consideration. Thank you.

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Testimony is presented without formatting.