

Thomas Brooks

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

Utilizing Portland City Parks for homeless services even on a temporary basis is absolutely the worst possible solution. My wife and I are both over 75. We used to walk everywhere within 1.5 mile radius of our home in Goose Hollow, This is no longer possible as we fear for our physical safety and well being. No trip is possible without encountering the trash, threatening behavior, and public drug use of our homeless friends. This already extends from the streets, doorways, abandoned shops and empty commercial buildings of our neighborhood to our green spaces at Portland's public parks. It is hard to imagine the destructive and negative effect that permitted use would bring. Use won't be monitored any better than sidewalk camping. Garbage, human waste and sharps will accumulate. Temporary will extend or become permanent. Money is not available to effectively administer this proposal. All of this is reported daily in the news media and on-line. We know what kind of Parks and Recreation facilities we can look forward to. All one has to do is visit any illegal homeless camp to see what a legal camp will becomes. PLEASE DO NOT PURSUE THIS DESTRUCTIVE USE OF OUR CITY'S PARKS.

Testimony is presented without formatting.