

# Laura Church

**#278093 | March 16, 2021**

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

Hello, as a resident of Portland, I do not believe it is appropriate to allow encampments in public parks or golf courses, as is being proposed. This is a safety and public health concern. The amount of garbage and human waste I have observed on many streets here in Portland can breed disease that could spread to the rest of the community. Some of these are Shigella, a waterborne bacterial disease, and Hepatitis B and C that are bodily fluid transmitted diseases. There are also many respiratory diseases such as TB that can be transmitted in an uncontrolled environment as well. The city is overrun with encampments that infringe on the safety and rights of many citizens as it is, and there is no reason to keep adding to this problem. It would be more compassionate to have programs to get people who want to be housed in better situations. There is also a lot of drug use and needles around encampments which is not safe for anyone including children and elderly. I personally will not go to a park that allows this to exist. I certainly think that most people here feel the same, and I feel I speak for many besides myself. I would encourage more permanent solutions that are workable to be discussed. I think that Portland is already unappealing to anyone considering moving here and visiting here. I do not want to reside in a city that is overrun and being taken over by encampments on a daily basis. The last year has been unbelievable in the way this situation is escalating with no solutions that make any sense at all. Please for the sake of all, including those that are house less, come up with more sustainable solutions.

Testimony is presented without formatting.