

M. Dorrell

#278142 | March 16, 2021

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

I have lived in Portland all of my life, 66 years. I am completely against turning any of Portland's public, or private, parks into places for homeless to set up tents, tiny homes, vehicles of any kind (cars, trucks, campers etc). I live downtown near the South Park Blocks. While there are not tents (yet) in the actual park, there are tents ringing it and also derelict vehicles with ropes holding up tents parked alongside the park on the streets. What I used to consider my back yard is no longer mine. It has been taken over by the homeless, drug dealers, human waste, trash and drug detritus and it is no longer possible for Portland's citizens to even walk through the park safely, much less sit on a bench and enjoy respite. I am appalled at what has happened to Laurelhurst Park. This was an idyllic place that my mother and I used to go to to feed the ducks when I was a child. Now it is unsafe to even drive near it. It is way beyond time for Portland's city government to take control, remove these homeless squatters from our city streets and parks and move them to the Wapato site (which finally has been turned into a space to serve their needs) or other industrial sites that have been suggested.

Testimony is presented without formatting.