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

NO using our parks for houseless camps! 1. These parks belong to the community and are utilized mostly by the immediate area. The children in that area are entitled to a safe place to play. The houseless do not respect the children nor the space. They do their drugs and drinking and bodily functions in these parks and leave their garbage all around. Portland used to be able to take pride in their parks. Tax payers and the children deserve a SAFE park...Move the houseless away from the neighborhoods! People who have invested in their neighborhood are entitled to their investment being protected. We are not being protected. The police force is on break evidently....They don't respond to crimes on the neighborhood, why would the neighborhood want to invite more crime in???? 2. "Mass shelters are in buildings but do not provide individual bedrooms. Examples: Laurelwood Center, Harbor of Hope, Willamette Center and Bybee Lakes Hope Center. " These existing shelters need to be remodeled because the homeless do NOT want to go to the shelters stating they are nasty, their possessions are stolen and there's no privacy. The city needs to provide remodeling plans for these facilities so they can be utilized to address the problems the houseless have with them..Neighbors can volunteer their help in the remodel (like Habitat for Humanity) Habitat used to remodel homes, I don't know if they do that any longer, but if they do, the City of Portland needs to engage with them on remodeling the shelters. 3. Why would the citizens think these camp sites are going to be safe because they are "sanctioned". The police are not responding to regular neighbor issues, why would we think they would respond to a houseless camp?? 4. What are the police going to do about "informal camping" ??? MANY of the houseless live that way because they do not want any rules. Expect the houseless to set up camp on the outskirts of a sanctioned camp site so they can utilize the provided facilities yet not be bound by the rules!!! As a homeowner I don't want anyone who can't follow the laws to be in my neighborhood or around my children. Portland has become lawless...and we don't have a police force who will protect law-abiding citizens. 5. The city is allowing developers to build "affordable housing" which has nothing to do with the low income housing....and because the city is letting developers get away with not providing low income housing, the law-abiding tax-paying citizens are saddled with cleaning up the houseless problem! by allowing them to camp in our parks! 6. I don't believe for one minute that this "resolution" will only last 6 months. Get their foot in the door and it'll never end. 7. And what about all the \$ from the measure voted on in Nov, where is that being utilized. I can just see that money being pissed away and nothing changes.

Testimony is presented without formatting.

