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

To whom it may concern, As a city with such progressive funding for homelessness, I'm surprised and honestly saddened by how bad the problem has gotten. I feel empathy for those who find themselves without a home and think there are many ways we can more effectively support those in this situation but sacrificing our parks is not the path forward. It's perhaps a bandaid but what happens in 6 months? How many more tents will there be in park spaces at that point? How will we possibly relocate hundreds (thousands?) of people? What about the schools and children who frequent the park's? What about the increased needs for additional resources that will come with this? For many of us, parks are what we love about living here. We've had a tough year but the parks have been our refuge. Some parks have already been taken over by tents, by trash and even by excrement. These aren't areas that we are able to utilize at all now. If we want to fix this problem we need a full strategy. We also need to continue to see funding, which happens today with tax dollars. If the residents of Portland continue to have less to love about the community, they will leave and their tax dollars will go with them. Then how will we solve any of these problems? So please, on behalf of my family and my neighbors, do not use parks as temporary shelters. That is not what they are for.

Testimony is presented without formatting.