

Audrey Yue

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

To Whom It May Concern: Recently there has been discussion of including public parks for camping (180 days) as an option for homeless individuals. I strongly disagree with this proposal. I live adjacent to Forest Park and have strong concerns about campers utilizing the space. In the past we have had campers start fires for warmth, as well dispose of trash and (human) waste in the area. The corridor under I-405 (NW Thurman Street) is unsafe to travel during certain parts of the day. In all these areas there are no bathrooms, no sources of clean water, nor facilities for the safe disposal of refuse and used needles. Before we use open spaces and parks, the city should come up with a plan to set up temporary shelters with appropriate facilities with the bond money that was already approved. Should camping on these spaces be approved, it will give the houseless population more reason to camp out in the open and less incentive to utilize resources that have been set up them. Resources and services need to be tracked so that effectiveness can be measured. I hope the city council will reconsider this camping proposal and think about the potential danger this poses to both homeless individuals and residents near our parks.

Testimony is presented without formatting.