

Shera Sinell

#278202 | March 16, 2021

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

I have been a resident of the Laurelhurst neighborhood for 35 years. I am not a wealthy person and struggle to pay the high property taxes to stay in the community I love. I realize that many people in our city do not have housing and struggle just to survive. This has to be addressed by the City of Portland and should be a priority. I have become increasingly disheartened by the the garbage and filth on our streets, lining freeways, in our parks. Much of this has be caused by homeless encampments set up and then abandoned. I have observed first hand the growing camps across the street from me bordering Laurelhurst Park. In the past year there has been noise, loud altercations, garbage piles, needles in the playground and blocked sidewalks. I have been hesitant to bring my young granddaughters to the park fearing that they might encounter a needle or human waste. I believe that all people are entitled to a safe, clean place to live, but using our beloved Portland parks which are a haven of peace and quiet and natural beauty for everyone is NOT the answer.

Testimony is presented without formatting.