

Dale Robards

#278209 | March 16, 2021

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

I live in the Pearl District, and am asking you not to permit camping in our public parks. Portland's current policy of allowing camping on sidewalks and in public spaces is not working - not for the homeless, not for Portland residents, and not for tourists, ALL of whom are victims in this situation. Adding more encampments will make it even worse. I encounter homeless people every day, on sidewalks and in doorways, preparing drugs over fires and then injecting them. This inevitably results in unpredictable, frightening, and even dangerous behavior, as well as even more mounds of trash, bottles of urine, solid human waste, hypodermic needles, and drugs on our streets and sidewalks. In the past month, the small building in which I live has twice hired a hazardous waste disposal firm to clean up human feces that homeless people left in our entryway. We have also had intrusions into the resident hallways of our building, resulting in stolen property. The parks are one of the few places residents can mostly escape what I describe above. They are also a big reason tourists visit our neighborhood, shop in our stores, and dine in our restaurants. Tax revenue from residents, as well as tourist dollars, will be severely impacted by such a decision. People will move out of the neighborhood, and tourism will decline dramatically. Portland's homeless problem is real and growing and requires action. It will not be solved by making our neighborhoods still more dangerous by adding homeless encampments to our parks. That will result in an even more intractable problem to solve.

Testimony is presented without formatting.