

Pamela Cogswell

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

Please . . . why is this even a consideration . . . ? Camp grounds have bathrooms and facilities which can keep sanitary conditions where people will not be transmitting diseases during a pandemic. This should be called the Shelter Housing to Continue Disease Transition Project. It is insane to think that the entire City of Portland is being asked to sacrifice their sacred open spaces, aka Parks to become "camp grounds for the homeless". What this portends is our parks becoming trash heaps and even more of a tent City than we have already become. How has this happened? The fact that the City Council of Portland is even considering having tent living in our City Parks is beyond belief. Yes, we have a serious homeless problem, but sacrificing our wonderful parks is not the solution. And surely the funds that would be required to make the conditions for safe and sanitary living in the parks could be used for more productive help in helping the homeless population rejoin society--at least those who are willing and able. As for the mentally ill and drug/alcohol addicts those are different funds that need to be resourced to those who are being neglected by our society.

Testimony is presented without formatting.