

Zachary Ray

#278239 | March 16, 2021

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

Dear Mayor Wheeler and members of the Portland City Council, I just learned today that you intend to change the "Open Space Code" to allow permanent or temporary shelters (mass camp or shelters) in city parks or open/natural spaces. As I recall, the City Code allows for tents and shelters to be placed in city parks ONLY when there is declaration of emergency by the City Council due to a catastrophic natural disaster. I believe there are no current emergencies or natural disasters.

Therefore, allowance for this should end. Parks, natural areas and open spaces must be kept safe and protected for the physical and mental well being of all Portland residents to use and enjoy, especially families with small children, and BIPOC communities living without yards or outdoor spaces.

Therefore I strongly recommend you remove Open Space Zones, including developed parks, natural areas and trails from the Shelter to Housing Continuum Project . This means no temporary or permanent houseless shelters in these areas. I believe testimonies will reveal that there are already vacant and underutilized land available. The houseless dilemma in Portland needs a solution, but this is not one of them. Sincerely, Zachary Ray

Testimony is presented without formatting.