

# Elena Burlando

**#278252 | March 17, 2021**

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

Hi there, We live in Laurelhurst neighborhood, a block away from Laurelhurst park. We love going to the park where we would walk our dog and bring our nine years old daughter. However, in the past year the situation with homeless encampment got really out of control. Homeless camps have been blocking the entrance to the playground section of the park. Few times when I tried to bring my daughter to the playground, they were drinking and taking drugs on the tables right by playground. One time I saw drug dealing happening at the side of the dance studio. Rats have been running out next to the playground which is extremely unsanitary. We stopped going to the playground as we felt it was not safe. Few times I found syringes by the lake (main section of the park) where little kids and dogs usually play. Some dropped off their toiletry possessions with a syringe right next to our house a week ago. I don't feel safe anymore to let my daughter play outside on the front yard. When driving through Portland I see tents and surrounding garbage everywhere. This is not a result of increased housing cost, but rather homeless people (heard about our tolerance and all the free stuff that is provided to similar fellows) coming from out of state to enjoy these benefits on the expense of our children and family wellbeing. Encampment in the parks, golf parks and near by areas should be illegal. The housing has been provided for most of them. If they refuse to go to a housing, then they should be sent back to where they are coming from. Portland residents should not be paying for out of state fellows who decided to make homeless their lifestyle.

Testimony is presented without formatting.