

# Luke Voytas

**#278270 | March 17, 2021**

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

Already, we are unable to enjoy Laurelhurst Park, our neighborhood park due to the large number of tents scattered on sidewalks and even on the children's soccer field. The playground is unsafe due to frequent needles and the presence of people experiencing homelessness who need help with their mental health. Our parks have taken on added importance during the pandemic, as one of the only outlets for families in urban areas. Allowing campers to fan out into the parks would be a devastating blow to our communities. This acknowledgment of a totally failed homeless policy would be even more egregious after raising several hundred million dollars of taxpayer money to combat this problem. Sacrificing our parks is not a solution.

Testimony is presented without formatting.