

Laura Feldman

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

re: Proposal to put shelters in Public Parks (S2HC) The city needs to act on providing safe and adequate housing opening parks for houseless camps. There are already two park areas in my neighborhood that I no longer have access to. One is so trampled and chaotic it's sometimes difficult to even cycle past it safely. I'm not impugning the campers I do not feel threatened or angry at these folks (there but for the grace of God...); it's not wanting to intrude or invade on their campsites--their homes. Why with all of the empty living units speculated on by developers which are not rentable, are these people needing to camp in the parks? I worry that this is the first step towards developing and monetizing our parks and public spaces, that after the houseless communities come the condos. The town square in St. Johns is going to be erased by a huge condo, not to house the people sleeping out on this site currently but for the financial elite the city keeps trying to lure here. Greenspaces are ever more important for residents as we've seen with the pandemic, and climate chaos has just begun.

Testimony is presented without formatting.