

# Teresa Atkins

**#278294 | March 17, 2021**

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

I live across from Westmoreland Park and can tell you that having houseless people camp in the park and in the parking lot is not a victimless situation. The human waste, garbage, drug paraphernalia, fire hazards and transactions that take place there are not good for anyone, including the people who camp there. These people need a clean, safe place to exist. The City, State and Government need to fully put in place systems and supports to aid people in mental health interventions and drug recovery programs. They don't need to be allowed to live in squalor. This isn't doing them any good and it creates unsafe situations for people visiting the park. I no longer feel safe walking my dog, allowing my kids to play there out of my sight line. Nevermind the wildlife that are impacted by the garbage and activity that districts their habitat. People need to be housed in appropriate structures where they can get the services they need. At the same time, people who want to visit a park need to have access to it and respect the limitations set up to allow everyone to enjoy it.

Testimony is presented without formatting.