

Patti Lind

#278340 | March 17, 2021

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

I understand that... The Shelter to Housing Continuum (S2HC) has proposed zoning code changes that would allow for public parks and golf courses to be used as places for homeless encampments. I went to your site to read more about that proposal but and found it impossible to understand as a member of the public. So, I will write my testimony to address what I believe is being proposed today on public parks and golf courses. I do not support this change because the city has still not found a way to address the encampments scattered throughout the inner city. Just a casual drive within a 1 mile radius of my home has been driving by encampments that each day has them increasing in size with debris, garbage, feces, etc. Just one encampment will grow in size from a tent to a hodgepodge dwelling 4 times that size in about 3 months. Eventually, everything is removed (perhaps that is what is meant by your 180 day. statement in your document. Mostly I can walk comfortably by these encampments but it is not uncommon to be stopped by someone who is suffering from mental illness and/or under the influence of drugs. As a 66 yr old woman, I'm not really in a good position to know just how to handle situations like this except to keep on walking and hope I'm not followed for a block or so. So, let's move that scenario to our parks (where our children and families gather).....encampments that start off clean enough but quickly grown with spreading of debris, etc....and the increased possibility of someone causing harm from their sufferings with mental illness and/drugs. Honestly, I wouldn't take my grandchildren to a park that has been turned into a homeless encampment. As far as golf courses are concerned, if people aren't allowed to walk on a golf course due to safety issues related to golf balls...why would you let people camp there full time? Anyone who plays golf knows that a considerably amount of time is spent looking for golf balls that have gone out of bounds...which is where I'm assuming you think homeless people would camp. Danger for them. Danger to the golfer. If Joanne Hardesty lives in an area without parks, let's spend money providing more parks for the residents in that area. That would bring a higher quality of life for all of those neighbors...unless you decide to turn even that over to homeless people who would actually benefit from a place that has facilitates like toilets, shower, mental health support, garbage clean-up and substance abuse support. Spend your money where the need can be most addressed.

Testimony is presented without formatting.