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#278347 | March 17, 2021

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

I am concerned about this proposal, as it does not outline a long-term solution that addresses the root causes of Portland's escalating houseless population, including those who need mental health and addiction support. How will that be addressed and how will progress be measured? What is the plan for the many, many existing camps? How will larger efforts be managed, when the current situation is out of control? On what timeline? How will camps be managed? Allowing camping in open spaces with no infrastructure to handle the number of houseless we are seeing is creating another crisis. How will sanitation, health and safety, needle disposal, fire hazards and trash and cleanup be managed? Who (what organization) is responsible for camp management? How will that organization be held accountable? The management plan described here is very vague. A detailed management plan needs to accompany this plan. The use of public parks for this also creates another issue, as it removes a valuable resource and outlet for children, adults and families, particularly during times when most other activities remain limited. Camp locations- The argument that most of the designated areas are on the east side is due to the fact that there's more available land is not good rationale or policy. Fair and equitable distribution needs to be found. There are increasingly negative impacts of "solutions" like dropping porta pottys in random places and dealing with tents on sidewalks. Parks are already more dangerous. Before any changes are passed, I'd like to see concrete answers and long term solutions.

Testimony is presented without formatting.