

Barry Tonkin

#278373 | March 17, 2021

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

With respect to the proposed S2HC Project, I hereby ask the Portland City Council to exclude from this proposal the temporary siting of shelters in parks and open spaces for any period of time, with the exception of a declared disaster emergency. Beyond the uses of our parks as mandated by bond measures, deed restrictions, etc., our parks have always been intended as places of refuge for our all of our citizens to enjoy. For many years the City has advocated for high-density urban housing, and as many neighborhoods such as the Pearl District have been developed in this way our public parks have taken on even greater significance as outdoor spaces to be enjoyed by all. The reality, unfortunately, is that if our public parks are allowed to become temporary sites for shelters, our parks will no longer be places of peace and refuge for all to enjoy. Please protect our parks, and the right of all Portlanders to enjoy them .

Testimony is presented without formatting.