

Matt Job

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

As a native Portlander, I strongly oppose the proposal to allow camping in public open spaces. Parks should be for children, recreation, exercise and an outdoor space for taxpaying citizens to enjoy. Do we want our city parks to look like the Springwater Corridor, our freeway on ramps and off ramps, Delta Park and the countless other locations that are riddled with garbage and filth. I think a temporary allowance in large open parking areas or closed down business lots is ok for the short term, but we are 5 years into to this. Long term these will turn into slums, this is America! Why is money not being redirected for more permanent housing that also provides job training, rehab and mental health services? People need a purpose, not more handouts to continue an untenable lifestyle. There is no mention of solving the root causes of these problems. The City of Portland and its taxpayers cannot afford to house and take on the problems of the masses of homeless people who move here. It's truly ironic we all just paid another art tax to just have our city continue to look like a dump.

Testimony is presented without formatting.