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

Portland's city government must protect our parks, sidewalks, streets and multi-use public properties for use by the public, by defending these against individuals who would seize them for their private uses. The proposed zoning changes surrender that obligation according to Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty's remarks, "Parks are for everybody, and I don't think having a few camps in a park will somehow make the park unavailable for people to ... do all the other stuff". The parks, paths and green spaces are for everyone but by definition they are not for every use. Camps in public places have over-run our city with an unsafe, unhealthy and demoralizing environment. The proposed zoning changes will not correct this tragedy, and on the contrary they will endorse and sanction a profound failure to act in the public's interest.

Testimony is presented without formatting.