

Kelly Dixon

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

Public input is extremely important as this is a public matter. Parks are for everyone to enjoy, not to be used as a place of residence that cultivates a public health hazard with dirty needles, trash, human waste, and crime - including violence and stolen items from the community. This proposal will allow outdoor shelters to obstruct our sidewalks, and have personally experienced an "outdoor shelter" on our front lawn, which resulted in violence towards us (as homeowners), my neighbors, and eventual arrest due violence towards police officers and destruction to our (and our neighbors') property. The language around the ability for Council to site temporary shelters in any location during a declared emergency needs to be more restrictive so that allowance of outdoor shelters aren't abused during "any" declared emergency. Furthermore, taxpayers are having to pay additionally to clean up after "outdoor shelters" as those living in the outdoor shelters are not clean and respectful people. Why aren't dedicated/established shelters being used to their capacity for homelessness? The use of our tax dollars is dictated by those who are not paying taxes or even involved with finding some common ground with the community. This proposal allows the needs of a few to outweigh our public safety. This city code change is a slow decay that is already showing it's destruction to our city (and our personal properties)!

Testimony is presented without formatting.