

# cami heade

**#278486 | March 17, 2021**

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

I really don't know where to begin on this testimony. Before I begin I would like to comment on the flyer that was sent out. Everyone has a right to their opinion not a flyer that could sway a persons opinion and I don't believe that was the objective to the flyer. Joanne Hardesty's comment about parks spaces that were not needed. Let the public voice their feelings and not hers. She stated she lives in a park deficit area and put shame on people for wanting their parks and the beauty they provide. Shame on her. I would rather see a tree as I walk in a park then needles, tents and homelessness in order to get a taste of nature. There would not be just a few homeless in these areas. They would fill up the space in a matter of months and where would the people go that need space to exercise or enjoy the sun or go for some peace and quiet. I have lived in Portland for over 60 years and I can only say SHAME on you for bringing this beautiful city to a halt. No one wants to live in Portland due to the filth, crime, and lawlessness that happens in the city. I have had many people say they have moved out of the city due to these situations. I could go on about these issues but the main question today is using green spaces. I realize times are changing and I realize there is a homeless crisis in the city. I do not live under a rock but I do not want others to live in filthy situations either. Let's go back maybe 10 years ago when there was a law if you littered you could be given a fine . I now see our city workers taking their lives in their hands to pick up needles, urine, and other disgusting items and we just keep doing this over and over and over and over again. Thousands of tax dollars spent picking up after others. I needed to make that point. If you had to pick up after your own I think the solution would be much quicker. It's called making one accountable for their actions Now then, how are you going to eliminate that problem in the green spaces. People that have lived in Portland for many years paid taxes and created these spaces so we and our children could enjoy them for years to come. We paid our taxes and we contributed to society so that others could rest and enjoy the city of Roses. We have become the city of sidewalk boulders. Is that what you want for our green spaces too? The city of tents. From the commission's remark she indicated a few homeless would take over the parks. I have personally seen the homeless digging holes by bridges, cutting down trees, fires started and etc. I guess she had not seen what happened at Laurelhurst Park. The city would be creating an even more difficult situation if green spaces were taken over. We all need a safe place to enjoy this city and taking the green spaces is not the solution. I have traveled in European countries and did not see homeless 'anywhere.'. It was a simple solution: controlled housing and no tents are allowed. Those countries respected their citizens and gave them homes and enabled their cities to keep their beautiful green spaces. I have seen beautiful and wonderful clean

places in Europe with no harm coming to the homeless. We can no longer treat people like animals that are subjected to the elements and living in conditions that no human should be living in. The tax payers paid for a jail that was never used. Sold for almost nothing . There was land that could have been used for the homeless right there. Why did this not happen? We need to respect the homeless and actually give them a home that does not breakdown when a wind storm approached or an ice storm is coming. We need to have our city become beautiful again-where tourism is created again-and where we are not inviting those that want to do us harm as we have done in this past year by national attention. We need to support our businesses that are fed up and are leaving the city because they can not make it into their workplace due to homeless sleeping in their door ways. You have heard these complaints many many times & now its your time to do something; and green spaces are not the answer. Put the money that the tax payers gave you and figure out a better solution. Do not take away the green spaces that have been paid for already. You have the money do something correct for a change and do not punish the tax payer that believed those spaces would be available for them and their children's children. If this happens there will be no green spaces and sharing those spaces will not work as seen at Laurelhurst. Park. Do the right thing for everyone including the parks Cami Heade

Testimony is presented without formatting.