

Rudolph Barton

#278504 | March 17, 2021

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

I am writing in opposition to the proposed City Ordinance that would allow siting homeless encampments on park property. While recognizing the urgent need for shelter and other social services for this population, I do not think that this blanket proposal balances the rights and interests of all residents of the city. There is no explanation of the process that will be used in identifying the location of these camps nor is there detail on the cost of providing services, the maintenance of the sites, and the way in which public safety will be ensured. As residents of downtown Portland, we have seen the decline in the quality of life in our neighborhood and the threats to public health, safety, economic viability of the CBD, and environmental harm caused by informal camps, particularly adjacent to the riverfront and other sensitive areas. Ceding our public parks to the homeless will only further diminish Portland's biggest asset. Thank you for your consideration.

Testimony is presented without formatting.