

Michael Wolf

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

While there are various good ideas in the Shelter to Housing project, the Open Spaces provision must be eliminated from the proposal. Homeless encampments around our city are already a blight, housing a large population of the mentally challenged and drug addicted, who seem to benefit from having no social responsibility but still can fully occupy public (and often any unmonitored private) spaces. The mounds of trash, drug and alcohol abuse, petty crime and aggressive "ownership" behavior that follow have absolutely no place in our parks. The idea that such encampments of a tiny minority would not severely impact normal use by the majority of people is ludicrous. Try feeling safe actually walking the sidewalks or around some of our parks even now. This provision would disperse these slum camps (and yes, I have seen actual slums in Asia) to every neighborhood, a real livability race to the bottom. And how would the proposed 6 month time limit actually be enforced? Sweeps with activists detailing them as police abuse? Get real! This does not dismiss the needs of our truly displaced citizens for a transition off of the streets! I support most of the proposals and hope that those who are presently "financially challenged" get the support to remain integrated in the society.

Testimony is presented without formatting.