

Ross Lienhart

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

Considering that the facts on the ground are that thousands of homeless people are camping in Portland, I believe that we need to take a compassionate, but systemic approach to deal with the current situation until the new homeless initiative has a chance to kick in and deliver longer term solutions. #1.) There should be designated places where people are allowed to camp. Those places should have portable restrooms and garbage containers. Camping should not be allowed in other areas. Campers should register to camp and be part of the data base aimed at tracking and resolving homelessness in Portland. #2.) We should not open up parks to camping. There will be no way to control or provide portable toilets and garbage services. The city needs to conduct an inventory of potential public and private spots that would be suitable for camping. The campers are already out there. This would at least provide some ability to control the undesirable side effects of having our homeless population camping. #3.) We should utilize funds from the Biden relief legislation to accomplish the above. I live in the Pearl. I see that we could make a major impact in my neighborhood by taking this approach. Right now there is zero effort to manage the homeless situation as it is. I have seen some people suggest that the answer is to dump everybody where services currently exist. That is wrong. The problem belongs to all of us. Take the services to the people in all neighborhoods.

Testimony is presented without formatting.