

Missy Lowes

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

While I understand there are no simple solutions to our homeless crisis I am astonished that the prospect of turning our parks and green spaces into camping zones would be considered a viable option. These days, it feels as though that's all we have left! I'm heartbroken as I drive through my once beautiful city where I grew up and then raised my family. I'm disgusted with the level of leadership in Portland with no end in sight as to the radical policies that enable lawlessness and chaos. It's time to address the root causes of homelessness such as addiction and mental illness. Many people on the streets turn down help and shelters because they don't want to abide by the rules. A tough love approach must be considered so that our citizens on the street take some responsibility. Making mental health services available and creating opportunity zones will go further if the alternative is jail time. Laws are being broken with no consequences. Law abiding citizens who are paying taxes aren't receiving the services and protections they pay for and you'll be losing your tax base as people leave the area. I know countless people who have already left or are planning their relocation. So sad! I back our police 100% and am sickened by the abuse they have encountered. But I digress. My vote is a very loud NO on the recommended draft proposed by our city council.

Testimony is presented without formatting.