

# Ann USHER

**#278538 | March 17, 2021**

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

I was shocked to hear the city council is thinking of allowing camping in parks, natural areas, and open spaces. This news came to me from a friend on Sunday, the same day the Oregonian had an article on the garbage crisis in the city. If the city is not able to clean garbage in homeless campsites now, I can't imagine letting people camp in parks and natural areas too. I really think suggesting that Portland will have more areas to camp will bring more and more people to our city. Remember what happened when a former mayor allowed the homeless to camp on sidewalks. The homeless population ballooned, and we have not been able to manage before or since. I certainly don't have the expertise or knowledge to offer any solutions, but I certainly don't think allowing people to camp in our parks and natural areas is worth trying. That may be reserved for times of natural disasters like earthquakes when our total infrastructure is broken. Also what is wrong with having curfews and time limits for demonstrations. What I have seen lately are not real demonstrators but vandals with a free pass to create mayhem. It does not make sense to me that our city has been taken over by ruthless vandals.

Testimony is presented without formatting.