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

It is my understanding that the City of Portland is considering siting homeless camps in City parks and on City golf courses, which have been paid for by taxpayer and user fees as areas for green space, recreation, and contemplation. This is madness. The City is in the process of turning its entire downtown area into a homeless camp. Every major road, overpass and trail area, and many intersections are plagued by tents and the trash of unhoused individuals. Isn't that enough? The same intersections, roads, overpasses and trails are no longer safe for citizens. Why--if homeless people including drug users and mentally ill individuals are moved into parks and onto golf courses--would they remain safe? They wouldn't. In fact, the City needs to protect its parks and other recreation facilities, and invest in new parks where there are few of them. Destroying parks and golf courses will not solve the homelessness "crisis." Providing indoor congregate living, access to mental health and addiction services, and stricter regulations on garbage and sidewalk camping will solve the homeless crisis.

Testimony is presented without formatting.