

Liz Walker

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

We have a housing emergency. However, instead of further fueling the divide between sympathetic folks who want the City to do more, and those folks who see people without housing as a nuisance, please consider this: Parks are a highly symbolic and visual product of the neighborhood. Taking something meant for child's play, a bench to onlook, a spot to eat lunch, a respite from the indoors—using parks, instead of vacant buildings or parking lots both alienates neighbors and frustrates advocates; the former because they now cannot their children out, and the latter because a semi-permanent shanty is NOT humane housing for people. This is the kind of project that offers an oversimplified solution to a complex problem: we need money, land, and compassion to fix this. Redirecting park use, removing outdoor space for kids who already spend all day on Zoom, frustrating neighbors, fueling divides, while **still** not providing an ethical option for housing....seems both impractical and imprudent. Please reconsider this. Thank you. —A Lair Hill resident who takes her toddler to Lair Hill Park almost daily.

Testimony is presented without formatting.