

Mark Rozanski

#278581 | March 17, 2021

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

If one of the aims of this complex proposal. Is to permit and further encourage camping and settlement of houseless persons in the city's public parks and greenspaces. This is not an appropriate use of our city's scarce public recreation resources. Portland's public spaces have never looked so dirty, unkempt and uninviting. Houseless encampments sprawl throughout the city now. You seldom walk or cycle a neighborhood park or green corridor, for example, without observing piles of trash abutting houseless encampments. Other cities also struggling to address the crisis of houseless persons. Focus on best practices to address the crisis through centralized provision of resources. Whether these be medical assistance, food, building of temporary or permanent shelter, social work assistance, etc., etc., for the houseless. Here in Portland, the city's approach is piecemeal and scattershot, encouraging encampments all across the city. Meanwhile the costs of this unfocused approach continue to balloon out of control. Portland's parks and green spaces were created as a public good, for the health, recreation, enjoyment and aesthetic benefit of the city's residents and visitors. This city badly needs to preserve these spaces for these purposes. For the health and safety of housed and houseless people alike. Houseless encampments should be brought out of city parks and greenways and gathered into supervised city-administered sites. For example, on PBH landholdings.

Testimony is presented without formatting.