

Cathy Elizondo

#278596 | March 18, 2021

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

To Mayor Wheeler and Portland City Council Commissioners, Thank you for allowing me to testify on the Shelter to Housing Continuum Project. I am deeply concerned with the City of Portland proposing to allow our homeless population to temporarily camp in parks and open spaces. Please do not allow this - even on a temporary basis. I am a property owner, I pay my property taxes, which go to support our parks. I also have two kids, which as a family we should be able to enjoy our parks free from navigating homeless populations, free from the uncertainty of who we may encounter - someone with untreated mental health, untreated addictions - which could and can put my children and my family at risk. We as tax payers deserve to visit our parks free of homeless camps that create unsanitary conditions, garbage and a safety risk. I have lived in Portland for 30years and recognize we have a serious homeless problem and I am in support in creating solutions - such as the Kennton Womans camp...but I don't feel giving our homeless population the ability to camp in our parks is a good, safe, clean solution. Am I able to just camp in the park any time I feel like it - the answer is no. Our parks were not meant to be campgrounds - that is why we have campgrounds. Please do not allow this proposal to move forward. Sincerely, Homeowner, tax payer, family who loves to visit our parks Cathy Elizondo

Testimony is presented without formatting.