

# Robert Browning

**#278650 | March 19, 2021**

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

Introducing camps into family-oriented neighborhoods will be a destabilizing element. Neighborhood safety will be in question. No longer can we feel safe going out on scenic stress relieving walks. No longer can we trust our children will be safe, even in their own yards. Campers have no dog in the fight when it comes to camping on lands they don't own so they have no respect for our neighborhoods. We see how camps destroy areas with trash and needles totally disrespecting the very neighborhoods they camp in. We also see crime on the increase as well. Recently I experienced two incidents in which I had a verbal confrontation with individuals jumping my fence trespassing on my property. In one of these incidents the man was wielding a hammer. In the 30 years I have lived at my address I have never witnessed such activity. It wasn't until camps started showing up in the neighborhood that this activity started. In both these incidents police wouldn't respond so we can't rely on protection either forcing homeowners to sometimes take extreme measures to protect themselves. It's a bad idea to think integrating homeless camps into established neighborhoods is good. It will only destroy the integrity of our neighborhoods and in some cases force homeowners, especially those with families, to leave. It will also devalue properties within the area. Homeless camps need to be situated outside neighborhoods in a central area. They then can be monitored and even provide centralized services provided for those in need. For those who choose to not take advantage of these sites, they need to be dealt with under the present laws on the books. Destroying neighborhoods to provide a place for camps is simply a bad approach and will create even bigger problems to deal with.

Testimony is presented without formatting.