

# Michael Weitzhandler

**#278651 | March 19, 2021**

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

This is a follow up to the March 17, 2021 City Council meeting discussion of the Shelter to Housing Continuum zoning rules under consideration. While I am in agreement that additional space should be allocated to support shelters for those who are houseless, I reiterate that shelters should NOT be allowed to operate in parks or other natural spaces. The exclusion of parks and natural spaces should be stated explicitly in any new/revised rulings. There is a substantial body of evidence supporting the importance of green spaces and people's access to the outdoors to our health and well-being. Portland's existing parks and natural spaces provide that access to nature and the outdoors. As Portland evolves to address the serious issue of homelessness, it's my opinion that Portland's parks and natural areas need to remain accessible to all Portlanders. By allowing shelters (permanent or temporary) in parks and natural areas, frankly it precludes safe access to those areas. I would feel at risk walking in parks or natural areas used for outdoor shelters. Please leave Portland parks and natural areas as they are to support the livability of this wonderful city.

Testimony is presented without formatting.