

Mark Martin

#278652 | March 19, 2021

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

While I am in agreement with most of the S2HC Proposal, I am adamantly opposed to and gravely concerned about the provisions to convert public parks into supposedly "temporary" housing for the homeless. I am particularly concerned about the enforceability of these measures and very skeptical of their temporary nature. These provisions should be removed from the proposal. 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. Such access has been critical over the preceding year of quarantine/lockdown conditions. I do not believe it is possible to safely maintain such access if our beautiful parks are to be repurposed as homeless shelters. There is, indeed, a homelessness crisis in Portland, and much of S2HC provides useful tools for dealing with this crisis. The public parks provisions is not such a tool. It should be removed.

Testimony is presented without formatting.