

Cindi Rice

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

Both my husband and I greatly object to the idea of allowing homeless camps to be situated in public parks and open spaces in and around Portland. At this point we already have a massive homeless problem; allowing a proliferation of additional camps to flourish throughout the city will only create further issues. Tax-paying residents of the city should not have to shoulder the cost and maintenance of out-of-control homeless camps. The blight, drug issues and rodents caused by these camps are enormous, as is an ever-growing sanitation problem. These areas were created to be enjoyed by the public; there's absolutely no reason we as a community should lose this pleasure. It's ludicrous to assume women, children or families will feel safe trying to enjoy a day in a park while battling these camps, often inhabited by drug-addled, mentally ill and vicious individuals. This isn't the answer. Use the 250 million dollar new yearly budget created by the tax-payers to instead build another self-contained community such as McMenemy's Edgefield for these people to inhabit, which could include farming and other professions that could actually earn them and their community some profit. That idea worked very well back in 1911; it should easily work today as well. Do something concrete about this issue instead of handing money over to an advisory committee. We need a solid, permanent solution.

Testimony is presented without formatting.