

# Brent Hoffman

**#278714 | March 22, 2021**

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

Three weeks ago, my sons and I went to the park a few blocks away to play soccer. After stepping past the garbage, tarps, and most concerningly, used needles, our game was cut short when my son accidentally stepped in human excrement. It's terrible that we can't use our neighborhood park. While I am supportive of creative solutions to the homelessness epidemic in our city, and supported recent initiatives to increase funding, allowing open camping in our parks is not a viable solution. Aside from the fact that open camping seriously impairs usability for local citizens, there's no way to provide needed services for garbage disposal, sanitation, substance abuse and mental health treatment, and job training to small scattered groups of houseless citizens. This initiative fails Portland citizens and the homeless. Please remove the recommendation to use open spaces, which would include parks, natural areas, trails, golf courses, and parks-related parking lots and community centers, as temporary shelter spaces, except in the case of natural disasters and short term emergencies. The use of these spaces should not be allowed during a Shelter Shortage as defined in the proposed code.

Testimony is presented without formatting.