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

Greetings, I think it is a very poor and dangerous idea to allow tent cities ... whether they are officially designated or not ... to be set up in Portland parks. Parks are one place where the average person can get out, exercise, breathe the fresh air from their small residential spaces, and get a bit of relaxation by themselves, their family, their kids, and their pets. I think the parkign lots of large big box stores that are out of business would be an ideal choice for tent cities. To entice the owners /investors of the big box stores, entice them with forbearance of property taxes or possibly other taxes. At last resort, simply pay them for use of the lots. Some of the lots are absolutely huge and they are numerous. I think creating tent cities in outlying areas along Marine Drive near the Columbia River/ Airport /Expo Center might appeal to a lot of the homeless as well. There are a lot of homeless already in those areas so apparently some are fine with being a distance from the inner city. I think it is an awful idea to allow the homeless element to mix with families in parks. It will happen, and the results will be yet another black mark on the city and increase insecurities across the city. Not all homeless abuse drugs and alcohol or generally create trouble on their own. But there is no way to separate those who respect others ,, with those who do not. Every step the city and state are taking in regards to the homeless issue seems to be the wrong ones. Once COVID restrictions lift, society will be ready to wake up across the city. The spotlight will be very much on the homeless issue and the incredibly unsafe situation it presents to all in society ... both those with homes and those without. -- Chris

Testimony is presented without formatting.