

Lydia Larson

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

I fully support the idea of an allowed, regulated and monitored tent community in Gabriel Park. These tent communities exist already in our backyards, whether we want them to or not. By providing the tent community with structure, access to sanitation and some kind of internal justice / regulation body to enforce rules, these communities become so much safer. We need to end the 'camp sweeps' that only serve to disrupt and set back these people and their communities. By giving them a safe and consistent place to call home, people are given a big advantage to get themselves out of poverty. This is a great idea! Additionally, in my work as a nurse, I have heard one horror story after another about conditions in shelters. Personally I do not find any fault in someone who would rather live outside in a tent than in a shelter they must vacate every morning, that they get assaulted and stolen from in and that often are infested with scabies and lice. Regulated tent communities are a perfect alternative to shelters and endless camp sweeps.

Testimony is presented without formatting.