

# Pamela Plimpton

**#278742 | March 23, 2021**

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

Dear Mayor Wheeler and City Council members: Regarding the current proposal for potentially using open space in Portland for homeless shelters and small houses, I am much in favor of creating new options for our houseless population. However, the current proposal being considered by City Council concerns me--I believe the language the Council is considering adopting is too vague and should expressly exclude parks, trails and community centers as sites for homeless shelters. Essentially, 1. I support the effort to find solutions. 2. I ask that the city 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. 3. Rethink assumptions related to siting temporary shelters. Shelters should be sited so that they can remain in place if they are successful. 4. Remove consideration of community centers and their parking lots from consideration for use as temporary shelters related to the Shelter Shortage. Once the pandemic is over, all community centers should return to their primary purpose. 5. The City should investigate the experiences of other cities that have sited homeless shelters in parks. 6. Intent does not make law. If you have no intent to site shelters on parks or in natural areas, the code needs to reflect that intent. Sincerely, Pamela S. Plimpton Resident, N.E. Portland

Testimony is presented without formatting.