

# Jennifer Klemann

**#278763 | March 23, 2021**

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

Gabriel Park is an integral part of the SW community, that provides space for youth sports, youth day camps, and playgrounds all within walking distance of 4 elementary schools. Introducing a homeless camp, no matter how temporary, will change the accessibility of the park to our community. Not to mention the lack of facilities for the proposed camp. We've seen in years past how allowing camping in parks has caused severe damage to trees and the surrounding area. Just take Occupy Portland and Laurelhurst Park as examples. I suggest the city revisit the Amory site on Multnomah Blvd as a shelter that can allow camping and social services in and around the building, along with providing potential bathroom and shower facilities on site. It's also close to a major bus route on Barber Blvd and Safeway. I sincerely hope the city of Portland can do better than a fenced in area in our beloved community park for the amount of the most recent homeless tax increase I've been required to pay this year. This is a complex issue that demands complex problem solving.

Testimony is presented without formatting.