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#278766 | March 23, 2021

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

This is a follow up to the March 17, 2021 City Council meeting discussion of the Shelter to Housing Continuum zoning rules under consideration. Homeless people are human beings that should be given the dignity of a roof, protection from weather (heating/AC), access to water and clean bathrooms, needle boxes, beds, and cooked food. A park is NOT a safe, habitable place to house people whether temporary or permanent. We're currently in a recession and if you drive around the city, you will see an abundance of for-sale, empty properties from vacant businesses to houses and apartment complexes, to empty lots. There is ample space to humanely house those without homes and provide not only shelter but programs to supply medical, mental, and addiction care for individuals without resources or access. Expanding the camps to public parks not only violates the purpose of parks in our cities, but violates the human rights of those without housing. This solution does not treat the core of the homeless problem, nor even the symptoms. It is simply expanding camps from the sides of the highways to more hidden places in the parks. Furthermore, it is an inhumane way to treat some of the most vulnerable people in our city.

Testimony is presented without formatting.