

Monia Sayah

#278802 | March 23, 2021

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

To whom it may concern, Is this letter ever going to be read? I am a registered nurse and a parent. I came to nursing because it was my calling. Caring for people when they are in their most vulnerable state is what I do. I worked for a humanitarian organization for 7 years. Mostly in remote areas of the African continent and the Middle East. I witnessed misery, war, famine, epidemics, and fear. I care. I do. However, drug paraphernalia, heavy alcohol consumption, half naked intoxicated individuals, screaming bloody murder while waving a hammer in parks where ALL members of the community should be able to enjoy peacefully and mostly safely is simply not acceptable and worthy of a decent society. The challenge is immense. I realize that. And like you, I do not have the magic wand everyone expects you to have. But keep the parks (most importantly the ones by schools) safe. The homeless who are law abiding are the problem. And frankly these do not mingle with the drug/alcohol/unstable campers that are the problem. Do you realize that small children, as young as 1-2 y/o have to be swept away from playgrounds because there is disturbing behaviors happening right in front of them? These behaviors include individuals almost naked screaming they will kill whomever comes their way, or individuals throwing glass on the basketball court and side walk. Then they casually go back to their camp site right there in park. The police had been unresponsive to even calls that should warrant immediate intervention. It is scary to live in Portland today. And I have traveled and lived in New York City for 23 years. I do not say this lightly. Do not let the parks be sites for campers. This would be a terrible mistake. You go there and the city will still deal with this in 10 years. Parks are not the solution. Thank you for reading Monia Sayah

Testimony is presented without formatting.