

Kristine Roley

#278870 | March 24, 2021

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

I object to using parks for homeless campgrounds, particularly Gabriel Park. The Gabriel Park complex with the Southwest Community Center is a hub of activity for the several neighborhoods in the area for all ages. It is also heavily used area for sports. The positive aspects would be utterly changed with a homeless camp in the park. This area of Portland waited a long time for the Southwest Community Center to be built. It is one of the most successful centers in the city. I'm afraid of the impact of a camp would have on the use of the center and park. I would hate to see services cut because of a decline in use. I took my then preschool aged granddaughter to the indoor park which was a highlight her. Her social skills grew from the time she spent there. I hope to take our grandson as well. The Gabriel Park complex is a very positive asset for our area. I am particularly concerned about the wooded area and use of fire by the campers. Fire would ruin this special area of the park. Folks use the paths through the Park as a path to access Multnomah Bl. due to the lack of sidewalks in the area. Walkers frequently use the wooded area as part of their routine walks. Seeing camp areas around the city reflects the disrespect for property. Garbage and trash as well as unsanitary conditions would create unhealthy conditions for those using the park, particularly for families with younger children. Has the council considered using the former Sears Center on Multnomah Bl. for serving the homeless? I drive by it regularly and see the empty parking lot. It is close to a grocery store and transportation on Barbour Bl. Sincerely, Kristine Roley

Testimony is presented without formatting.