Michael Rosa

#278876 | March 24, 2021

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

I oppose S2HC as written and the following must be incorporated/changed: 1) All public parks and open spaces must explicitly be disallowed as places of shelter at any time – both temporary and permanent. These places were never intended for people to live in, nor should they ever be. All property owners and businesses have overwhelmingly supported these places via taxes for decades for the explicit intent that they be used for their intended purpose, not as places for anyone to live. 2) An enforcement plan must be delineated and expressly coupled to this action so that as new managed shelters are established, random camps are shut down, cleaned up, removed and monitored so they are removed immediately. 3) A detailed management plan is needed for each site discussing who is the entity responsible for its implementation and day-to-day management and what are the remedial actions that will be taken to enforce any deviations. 4) Since the S2HC proposal will not bear fruit until a number of years out, a plan is required to address the immediate (i.e. today, if not sooner) relocation of individuals from hundreds of random, self-made camp sites, parks and open spaces throughout the city, to centralized, limited locations so that the city can better utilize limited resources to serve the houseless community and begin enforcing no camping laws everywhere and begin cleaning the city. In addition, Title 15 housing emergency must also be allowed to expire. I reference a recent article that highlights how any effort to use our parks and public spaces is a complete waste of taxpayer money (past and present) and a complete dereliction of duty by our elected officials trying to take the easy way, rather than a carefully crafted long term solution. Thank you Amanda Fritz. Portlanders Are Furious at the Prospect of City Parks Being Used as Temporary Homes https://www.newsbreak.com/oregon/portland/news/2189564742873/portlanders-are-furious-at-the-prospect-of-city-parks-being-used-as-temporary-homes?s=oldSite&s It's a reality, homeless camps in public parks and open spaces are damaging to the areas in which they are located. In many cases, these individuals are also dealing with mental illness and drug addiction – individuals who should not at all be in highly public places. The examples are all around you (Sunnyside Park and Laurelhurst Park, for instance)!

Testimony is presented without formatting.