

Stephanie Stewart

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

Dear City Council, The Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association respectfully requests an extension of the comment and testimony period on Portland's proposed Shelter to Housing Continuum. At our March meeting, few neighbors were aware of or understood the code changes proposed. Specific confusion arose over the use of City parks for temporary camps or shelters. A major concern is that fire, trash, human waste and safety hazards could ensue. Other questions about the proposal include: 1) How will the project be managed to the high standard proposed? 2) What safety measures will be implemented to protect children and other park users from the erratic behaviors of those among the houseless that are mentally ill or intoxicated? Will City staff verify no residents are sex offenders? 3) What measures will be taken to stop unsanctioned campers on the sidewalks and front stoops of the businesses and residences near these sanctioned camps? 4) What services will be provided to the houseless to help them into more dignified housing? The houseless crisis is tragic and heartbreaking, and it requires immediate solutions that are smarter and more dignified than this. Taxpayers have generously funded city parks with the intention that they be green spaces open to everyone in need of relief from the dense city. Turning parks into residences allows highly intense use by one group that will be present 24 hours a day, and that does not sound like sharing to us. Ask taxpayers to fund real housing projects, and we feel certain they will give generously also to that need. But do not break trust and use our park funding to create a feeble, fractional-solution to the housing crisis. -- Stephanie Stewart On behalf of the Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association
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Testimony is presented without formatting.