

# Leslie Johnson

**#278902 | March 24, 2021**

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

Dear City Council, One only has to drive around the city to see what a problem housing and places especially for the homeless to reside has become for our city. I support exploring many options being discussed to help ( such as campgrounds with tents or sleeping pods, tiny house villages, and micro-apartments with shared kitchens as well as other group living or housing arrangements). However, I do not believe the city parks or natural areas should be allowed to be considered to place these. I would like to see an amendment that would specifically declare these areas not allowed. Many parks are already made unsafe for families and individuals to spend time in because they are already being utilized for some of these purposes. As proven during the covid restrictions the outdoors spaces are necessary and utilized by individuals and families exploring and doing recreational activities. Opening them up for the purpose of 24 hr living for tents, or mini-campgrounds with the additional requirements of expanded necessary facilities would likely significantly limit their use by others and also change the very nature of what the park or natural space is. Park bonds and tax dollars in the past have been voted on and approved because people want to ensure the parks remain and to upgrade them with accessibility and installations of playgrounds or other features to make them more appealing to the people of the city. It would be easy for the city to reallocate space in parks for this purpose- it's not like you are kicking someone out of their actual home for a different person to move into. But just because the space is there does not mean it is the right decision. -leslie

Testimony is presented without formatting.