

# Stuart Myers

**#278914 | March 24, 2021**

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

I strongly disagree with the City's proposed code amendment that would allow temporary camping in public parks and open spaces for up to 180 days. As a citizen of the City who has spent tax dollars for multiple bond measures and levies to restore, enhance, and improve parks and public spaces, this proposal comes across as a breach in the commitment the City and Metro have made to focus on the accessibility and ecological health of our public green spaces. I do not deny that the homelessness situation in the City is at an all-time high in terms of the extent of unhoused people living within the City limits. I also acknowledge that addressing this issue is not simple. However, City leadership has had ample time and resources to address the problem in a proactive way without allowing the creep of homelessness to extend to every corner of public property and right-of-way, and the bureaucratic deadlock on this issue without a focused plan is appalling. The proposal is a dangerous band aid that will result in more problems than solutions to the City's homelessness problem. I urge City leadership to reject this proposed code amendment.

Testimony is presented without formatting.