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

What possible good can come from this proposed Continuum? Nothing for park users and the surrounding neighborhoods and even for the "houseless". Previous attempts prove encampments of this sort ultimately create trash, unlawful activities and disorder resulting in relocation and the same happens over and over again. I have lived close-in metro Portland for over 40 years and have seen many attempts to improve conditions for the "houseless". The results are clear. Here we go again. The continued struggle and most of all the city's lack of attention to clean up and care for the people who reside/survive in their tents on the streets have been dismal. With the passage of Measure 26-210, funding is or will be available. Funding to expand the new Street Solution Project and to establish and oversee true infrastructure facilities in vacant City of Portland buildings and adjacent land. Funds to establish permanent mental health facilities. Currently these types of facilities are lacking for those who live on the streets and even for the general public who may need them and can pay their share. MENTAL ILLNESS FACILITIES, DRUG ADDICTION RESOURCES/STAFFING ARE ALL BUT NON EXISTENT IN THIS CITY! Programs are needed to provide evaluation, care and medication instead of moving people from one unhealthy, unsafe, trash infected area to another. If the existing small communities of monitored permanent housing work and are maintained by and for those who are capable of choosing and are willing and able to take care of a living space, continue that progress and use locations that makes sense for all concerned. NOT city parks! Homeowners pay hefty taxes to maintain parks for the enjoyment of all residents. How about getting to the real problem? The majority of people living on the streets are there because they CAN and/or are suffering from drug/alcohol addiction or are medically and mentally disabled and unstable. Many are not willing or even capable of entering a facility or asking for help. If any city council member saw Laurelhurst Park when "houseless" campers were allowed, they know the results. THAT is what each one of us who use parks and live in surrounding neighborhoods would be facing. I clearly oppose the Shelter to Housing Continuum proposal. Most citizens are compassionate and caring and want to improve conditions for the "houseless" but the real problems should be considered and addressed before any action is taken. Our parks offer a respite from the chaos and some things need to "remain sacred".

Testimony is presented without formatting.