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

Portland is going to be turned into a Hooverville. The whole city. The kind of town where any shack would do because of a homeless crisis that was allowed to keep growing by such ideas as this. This proposal should be scrapped and replaced with a more thoroughly researched approach. The homelessness in Portland does need to be addressed. It should not be addressed by allowing permanent structures to be built on church lots or parks throughout the entire city in a completely decentralized way. I just voted for a parks levy. I like going for bike rides or walking a dog in my local parks. Two of my local parks are now targeted for building homeless shelters on them. I know that if that happens I will never feel safe walking a dog there any more. One of these parks happens to be a city water reservoir. I can only guess what is going to happen to that water. How many times will it need to be drained per year after homeless people move in and use it for a latrine? Temporary? You're joking. The Mayor said words to the affect that this proposal does not mean permanent shelters but called them temporary. Temporary is on the order of weeks and two or at most three months. 180 days that can be consecutively counted from one year and reset in the next is not temporary. That adds up to 360 days of so called temporary shelters. Make no mistake, the only thing temporary about these shelters will be how long property tax paying homeowners who live next to them will believe the camps will be taken down. I worked in a building overlooking R2D2 when it was next to Chinatown. I could not walk in that area without passing smells of human waste and without feeling unsafe. It was also very sad to see human beings living like that. I made it a point to avoid the area. When my relative from Philadelphia came to visit Portland and we drove down Burnside in downtown, he could not help but stare in complete shock at the homeless camp in the middle of the city. Portland was never a perfect city but when I grew up here, it was a place that was so much better and full of so much more hope for the future than today. Now there is a homeless tent or camp along too many sidewalks in downtown. R2D2 was a temporary camp for 5 years in downtown before it moved to it's new location. And the "lease" was just renewed for another year. That is not temporary. That is an establishment of poverty. That is the making of a slum. The glory days of Portland tourism are over while this is going on. Homeless shelter camps are not food carts. Scrap the idea to bring in a baseball park and team to Portland. Use those closed Port of Portland spaces in NW for a centralized, clean homeless camp with real structures. No RVs or tiny homes on wheels. Real living spaces that are at least 400 sq. feet that have running water, a toilet, a shower, a bed, an address, a phone service, a computer center, and a door. Centralized, so it can be regulated in a cost effective way. Do not think that driving all over the city pumping sewage from

RVs will be sustainable for one second. Make a homeless community that has some human dignity and services. Get people who need help in there. Then get them off drugs and into Section 8 housing or new homes. Then get them opportunity to get into a better situation after that. People who cannot get off drugs or need mental care services should be taken to either the jail system or mental facilities. Remove the sidewalk tents and move those people into a more humane hopeful living situation. This camp expansion would be the continuation of the bad idea it was to allow tents on sidewalks in the first place. More bad ideas to increase our property taxes and increase homelessness are all we are getting from leadership. I am disappointed that this proposal to expand camps throughout the city is the only and best solution to be found. Think of a better way, please. This is a bad idea.

Testimony is presented without formatting.