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

Parks are sacred! This is the very reason we have created them. From National parks to green spaces to baseball fields, parks are supposed to be places that we can feel safe and free in. We have to find places other than our parks for the homeless and help them find opportunities...and make them accountable to the community. This city is degrading before our eyes because we offer a free ride to anyone who wants it. I am disgusted with the state of the downtown area (where I have worked and run businesses for 25 years) and the destruction, litter, feces, needles and tagging throughout my neighborhood (where people are allowed to plant their tents and park their cars anywhere they want and then leave them.) Thievery, litter, graffiti is now rampant all around Portland due to the lax policies of city hall. Get some backbone and find real solutions to this ruin enveloping our city. Find city-owned property other than land we take our children to play on for the homeless to start to rebuild their lives. NOT IN OUR PARKS.

Testimony is presented without formatting.