

Laura Linnman

#278983 | March 25, 2021

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

Mayor Wheeler and city council members, Please do not put homes camps in parks! Here are just a few reasons: 1. City parks are a lifeline for families and kids during the pandemic. Particularly since kids will not be vaccinated any time soon, they need a safe, outdoor space to play. Having homeless camps in public parks threatens their safety due to the unfortunate prevalence of mental illness and drug abuse amongst this population. 2. Opening the parks to homeless shelters would have a disproportionately negative effect on low income families, who generally do not have the same access to private yard space and are even more dependent on safe, public, outdoor spaces during the pandemic. 3. This sets a dangerous precedent. We are not going to solve homelessness in the next 180 days, and if we open up public parks to homeless shelters, it will be very difficult to reverse this decision. 4. Our taxes go to maintaining parks for our kids- not for the garbage and drug paraphernalia that comes with homes camps. 5. The city can't even clean up the rest of the city from all the homes camp garbage (which is everywhere!)- how will the keep our parks clean? Or safe? 6. I would not feel safe letting my middle-school age kids go to the park (Gabriel Park is on the list) if it was filled with homeless camps... 7. This would ruin our city even more than it already has been in the last several years. Thank you for listening. Sincerely, a concerned citizen, mother, & critical care nurse, Laura Linnman lauralinnman@hotmail.com 5037355883

Testimony is presented without formatting.