

Joan Thompson

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

It's past March 17th but I just heard about this and wanted to comment. This is a terrible idea. Doesn't the city have enough vacant spaces/buildings at their disposal without having to resort to using our beloved city parks as a homeless dumping ground? We pay taxes for clean and safe parks that have become more important for recreation since the advent of Covid-19. Please stop with the one-size-fits-all solutions that don't benefit anyone in the long run. 1- concentrate on the mentally ill and get them into humane facilities. 2- focus on the drug addicts and get them into treatment programs. 3- help people who are too impoverished to find housing and sincerely want help, and 4- be ruthless with the remainder who simply prefer to be homeless. It would help if shelters had a place for people to store their belongings and keep their pets. It's a lot to ask of them to give up everything they own in exchange for a temporary solution.

Testimony is presented without formatting.