

# Steve Caldera

**#279010 | March 25, 2021**

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

To whom it may concern: I am writing in regards to the proposed Shelter to Housing Continuum Project, and I am strongly opposed AGAINST this. In particular, the section stated here: (Shelters in open spaces zones) The Commission spent some time discussing temporary and permanent shelters as they relate to the Open Space zone and several natural resource overlay zones (e.g., environmental, greenway, scenic, floodway). They discussed several amendments, but ultimately the PSC supported the initial staff recommendation: to continue the present prohibition on permanent shelters in the Open Space zone, as well as prohibit permanent outdoor shelters in the environmental and scenic overlay zones and in the floodway. Council would retain the authority to site temporary shelters in any location during a declared emergency. My fear with this is placing the homeless in our public parks. During the pandemic that was our (and continues to be) place to go and to enjoy some type of normalcy with our family. Those are parks we pay for via taxes, which we should be able to use for recreation purposes and emergency situations (natural disasters). It is not an appropriate spot for homeless, and should never be. Have you seen what is happening with homeless in Public Parks in Los Angeles? Please see this link:

<https://www.losfelizledger.com/166-living-at-echo-park-lake-placed-into-housing-ofarrell-says/>  
Doing this will most likely create permanent homeless issues, and they will never leave no matter how many warnings the city, the police, etc give them. North Portland will most likely feel the brunt and burden of this issue, as I doubt they will be placed in parks throughout Beaverton, or West Linn or Lake Oswego. If the city is serious about this maybe consider the area in North PDX that houses the industrial complexes of Amazon prime and from what I can see miles and miles of Toyota, Jeep and various other new car inventory occupying a ton of cement in the area as well. I would feel a whole lot better with supporting that type of thinking vs "lets just place them in the parks." We all know the homelessness in PDX is out of control, and based on recent research the 7th worst in the United States. See here:

<https://worldpopulationreview.com/state-rankings/homeless-population-by-state> Please begin to consider smarter alternatives like what Japan or other foreign countries try to do help cut down on homelessness and mental ill. Portland is disaster zone currently, and if it doesn't get any better in the next few years my family will most likely leave PDX with not much good to say about what was once an amazing city. Thank you, Steve Caldera

Testimony is presented without formatting.