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

As a resident of East Portland for 30 years and I have seen first hand that dispersed camping and temporary shelters have led to large amounts of trash, increase in rodents and new and used drug needles littering our walkways and roadways. This has interfered with my children's ability to walk to and from school, play in our neighborhoods (formerly Parkrose), and has led to increase in public violence and lack of safety. I worked from home for many years and witnessed numerous violent acts and had to call the police several times. I believe housing is a human right and I want our city to work hard to help those that do not currently have access to adequate and or permanent housing. However I feel the language in this draft is too broad and doesn't have safeguards in place to ensure the viability and success of this project. Broad ideas and intentions will not secure the success of this project nor contribute to the tax payers support. Please re-structure this draft to clearly lay out with specific language how this project will be successful, how tax dollars will be spent, the way in which land will be used in order to avoid a heavy concentration solely in East County, language that states our community parks and shared outdoor recreational areas will not be used. The health of our community as a whole truly demands a more well defined draft/proposal so established families and those seeking assistance in finding adequate housing will be able reside more harmoniously and enjoy our beautiful city as it should be. Thank you

Testimony is presented without formatting.