

# Yolin May

**#279129 | March 26, 2021**

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

Portland City Council, I strongly oppose the Recommended Draft, Re: Housing Continuum Project. Opening green corridors, public golf courses and PUBLIC PARKS to temporary homeless camping will do nothing to address systemic problems facing folks experiencing homelessness and is a radical “slap in the face” to Portland voters. Last year, Portlanders voted to fund Measure 26-210 to provide additional funds for homeless and mental health services. And while COVID may have changed the metrics of revenue, the greater voting public will see tented encroachments into our common green spaces as a MASSIVE betrayal and extreme negligence on the part of local government. Secondly, we passed Measure 26-213, a five-year tax levy, with the aim to provide \$48 million each year to the parks bureau, on average, according to the city. This tells you that Even in tough times, Portlanders deeply care about our public parks and park services. During this pandemic, I have watched from my window as young and old people get outside for fresh air and increase their usage of Alberta park by at least double. It has become a very usable space over the last 15 years and has helped our local taxpayers keep their sanity and provide a valuable safe play-space for children. I’ve seen what has happened to the school park at Sunnyside Elementary School, I can’t imagine that happening here. How frightening would it be for parents to have to send their kids to that school and deal with that playground. It’s not right. We voted in two distinct measures that tell the city we love our parks and we’re willing to invest in proper shelter housing For our homeless residents. If Portlanders do not want to see them on the side of the road, We sure as hell don’t want to see them in our parks or sensitive natural areas. We’ve agreed to give you more funds for these issues, now do your part and keep our common areas livable for taxpayers. Sincerely Y. May

Testimony is presented without formatting.