

# Stanley Scott Paker

**#279139 | March 26, 2021**

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

I strongly disagree with using public parks or their surroundings to shelter homeless peoples. It's obvious that this is the easiest way of addressing this problem, and this is not uncommon for our city government. But this easy solution will cause a number of problems such as : - Trash / garbage in parks that we have been told already are under stress and reducing employees along with trash collections. A casual review of current "camps" indicate a total disregard for the environment with discarded tents, bikes and other trash the norm. - It will most certainly hamper usage by people who pay for parks support. This may seem callous, but a recently passed bond issue of 250 million, or over \$17,000 per homeless person (14,476 estimated by KGW) should be used to purchase sites for this good cause. - Administration is not our city's strong point. What new administrative positions will be needed to track this project? - Who will insure that social norms are enforced? Will drug usage be allowed, fighting, fire arms, etc. Our police are already trying to bring our city under control even though their hands are often tied. - What is the sunset date for this program? Will it be in perpetuity? Is there a goal as to when this would cease to necessary? These are just a few of the concerns. With a population in Portland of over 560,000, why are 2.6% of the population forcing the other 97.4 into a situation that is not well thought out, unacceptable to a huge majority, and sets a dangerous precedent! I am not a NIMBY, I'm just tired of Portland City government spending and not providing the services I pay a large amount for. Sincerely,

Testimony is presented without formatting.