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

Bureau of Planning and Sustainability Housing Bureau and Joint City-County Office of Homeless Services, It is obvious that the homelessness situation in Portland is significant and needs to be addressed. We, as tax payers, have contributed substantial amounts of money to help remedy the situation, and have not only not seen improvement, but in fact the situation has become worse. We used to travel all over the city to go out to eat, shop, etc. and now tend to stay in our neighborhood, due to not only COVID, but also due to the filth and concern about our family's safety. I am a democrat and pro helping society, but we actually have to do something, to make some progression, and get the city to a point where we better serve those that are homeless, but also the entire rest of the city, including businesses currently suffering due to the overtake of homelessness throughout the inner city. So, first of all it is time to make some progress, so we can see our tax dollars actually being put to an effective use. Second, I am very glad to see a proposal, finally, with some plans to deal with the situation. But, to include our public parks for 6-month sheltering locations, does not seem like a wise move. During COVID, our public parks are one of the few places we can go and this would potentially take that resource away from the general public. Again, we have spent tremendous amount of tax payers money to support our parks, which are publicly owned, and we will see a huge loss in the quality, cleanliness, and safety of our park experiences. Plus, it will result in even more money for repair and clean up following each "temporary" use of each park. When there are so many vacant buildings and lots in the city, how can using parks even be a consideration? Quit wasting our money. Put together a solid proposal that doesn't further waste our money and take away public resources from the public.

Testimony is presented without formatting.