

# Gretchen Caplener

**#279177 | March 28, 2021**

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

I was unaware of the this proposal and am grateful to our neighborhood association for bringing it to our attention. As a mother, taxpayer and member of the community that loves and uses our public parks, across the city, I am concerned about the fire, trash, human waste and safety hazards could ensue should this move forward. This will directly impact the ability of city residents to use their parks feeling safe and secure. As a mother, it will impact the limited places I have to take my kids during the pandemic. I urge City Council to find meaningful solutions to the housing crisis that does NOT include allowing people to camp on our streets and parks. Below is from the Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association and I echo their comments. "The houseless crisis is tragic and heartbreaking, and it requires immediate solutions that are smarter and more dignified than this. Taxpayers have generously funded city parks with the intention that they be green spaces open to everyone in need of relief from the dense city. Turning parks into residences allows highly intense use by one group that will be present 24 hours a day, and that does not sound like sharing to us. Ask taxpayers to fund real housing projects, and we feel certain they will give generously also to that need. But do not break trust and use our park funding to create a feeble, fractional-solution to the housing crisis."

Testimony is presented without formatting.