

Stephanie Savage

#279247 | March 29, 2021

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

My children are 7 and 11, born and raised in Portland - proud frequent users of Portland Parks and regular summer time campers at the Portland Parks and Recreation camps and pool users. We've had birthday parties at Peninsula Park and "Symphony in the Park" is a favorite summer event. I am a former Portland Public School teacher and my husband a firefighter. We choose to live in the city on a 5,000 square foot lot to reduce our footprint. The parks are our backyard. We strongly oppose the use of city parks as refuge for the homeless. We would like our parks to be reserved as safe and clean sanctuaries to relax, enjoy the beauty, ride bikes, and throw balls, without the concern of walking through trash or human feces and/or fear for our safety and health. We are saddened by the homeless situation in Portland. We believe the homeless need help and we are willing to support efforts in which to help, but utilizing our city parks does not solve the problem. We believe, the use of city parks for homeless camps creates a stressful situation for tax payers, who believe tax dollars should be used to improve and beautify the city making Portland a desirable place to live instead of degrading the city making it a less desirable place to reside.

Testimony is presented without formatting.