

Harold Carlston

#279249 | March 29, 2021

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

As a lifelong resident of Portland, I would ask that the Council does not allow homeless camping in any and all Portland City parks. Since 2016, there have been tax measures in Portland and Metro to address the homeless/housing crisis. Portlanders have dutifully passed these measures in hopes of some relief for the homeless AND housed residents. When might the taxpaying residents of Portland expect a return on their investment? To expect Portlanders to continue to fund these initiatives with no end in sight and no improvement to the situation is short-sighted. The situation is fact, deteriorating. In addition to the financial cost, now there is a potential that we may lose the option of using our parks (that are funded separately) because they've been repurposed. Please don't characterize my testimony as a "Not in my back yard" argument. It's already in my back yard and everyone else's to varying degrees. I would ask that Council does better with the tools (money) they've been given by the taxpayers before they take another item out of the "livability" column of Portland. Portland is not just about brew pubs, restaurants, and bicycling when it comes to livability. Portland has received major black eyes over the last year locally and nationally. We need to get this one right. Focus equally on all of Portland's residents needs, not just the homeless. Sincerely, Harold Carlston

Testimony is presented without formatting.