

Michael Haliski

#279252 | March 29, 2021

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

Dear Mayor Wheeler and members of the Portland City Council, My family and I live across the street from Creston Park and it's neighboring elementary school. We moved to this home from our old one in another part of the city to improve the quality of life for our family by adding into our everyday a wonderful city park where we can walk our dog, enjoy the wonderful trees and allow our kid to play outside of the house during a pandemic. Thanks to bond and tax initiatives we supported as voters, we have celebrated the opening of our new accessible playground. The amount of children using our park has increased substantially as a result and Creston Park is constantly filled with the sounds of happy children (and dogs). We are avid supporters of Portland city parks and open spaces, as shown in our constant support of tax and bond measures that ensure their continued health and vitality, an investment that our family finds well worth making. Taking note of these reasons, I am writing to strongly advocate for an important change in the language of Shelter to Housing Continuum recommendations from the Planning and Sustainability Commission. I ask that you remove "OPEN SPACE ZONES" from consideration for either temporary or permanent shelters EXCEPT for declaration of emergency by the City Council due to a catastrophic disaster. Many of my fellow Portlandians have already shared that there is ample space outside of our parks for the emergency shelter space that is required to help stem the houseless epidemic seen throughout our city. Please consider focusing your efforts on these spaces in order to preserve those places so important for our mental and physical health, our city parks. Sincerely, Michael Haliski Se Francis St.

Testimony is presented without formatting.