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

As a female citizen who has had many run ins with a criminal and drug abusing Portland house-less Population, I would like to testify the changes in zoning up for discussion. I moved to Portland from Chicago in 2005 to seek a safer city as a young woman who has experienced many life threatening run ins with criminal populations over the years. Portland has since become more unsafe for women steadily over recent years, and especially during the pandemic. In recent years I have almost been Physically attacked by members of our criminal house-less population, yelled at, threatened, etc. I have needed police involved on multiple occasions over the past few years. Portland allowing camping in our parks would absolutely make all of our parks more dangerous for women. The vastness of our parks will leave many hidden and unoccupied spaces for rapes, robberies, and other violent acts to occur. Please consider the safety of our female population and do not let this zoning change occur. I spend countless hours exercising at mount tabor. I feel safe in this park. This public space where I feel safe as a woman is a rarity. Please don't take the safety of Portland parks away from us as women.

Testimony is presented without formatting.