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

As a Portland resident that believes the City of Portland needs to work for all residents, I trust that the City Council will not allow any kind of housing - temporary or otherwise - in city parks, open spaces or trails, including the parking areas and/or right of ways adjacent to these spaces. Especially in a time where parks and open spaces have been vital to the health and well being of Portland families, encroaching on these spaces with temporary shelters and the waste associated with them would be a slap in the face to Portland residents and businesses that fund "The City That Works." I recognize that homelessness is a major challenge, and one that is not going away any time soon. But allowing these temporary shelters and other camps to spread even further into our public spaces is only going to turn the residents against the city leadership and any efforts to solve this crisis. The issue of housing affordability needs to be addressed through structural reforms - such as making it easier and more affordable to build housing, removing NIMBY rules that favor established well-off homeowners (such as myself) and changing the tax structure so that new buyers in "Economic Development Zones" pay taxes that reflect their home's true market value, using those funds to support initiatives that address housing affordability. Allowing housing in parks and other open spaces is only a band aid for the symptoms of our homelessness crisis. I hope as a community that we can challenge ourselves by asking "Why?" as many times as necessary to get to the root cause of our problems, and then take the steps to help address them.

Testimony is presented without formatting.