

Karl Lee

#279383 | March 30, 2021

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

As testified in the previous open-comment period ending March 17, I continue to object to temporary housing in or around Portland Parks. Even parking lots associated with Portland Parks are not suitable locations for even temporary housing. Temporary shelter in these parking lots will impact the surrounding parks and make the parks less usable by the broad population that needs them dearly. An example of this is the un-allowed, but un-enforced parking and camping that is occurring at Westmoreland Park in southeast Portland. This site is adjacent to Crystal Springs Creek and garbage and other waste are strewn about the parking lot and adjoining natural areas. Many parks contain sensitive habitat and are not the place for human residence. Park parking lots are dispersed through the city and are not well served by transit or social services. Another kind of parking area appears to be available in Portland: that is unused shopping malls, Portland Expo Center parking lots, and possibly Portland Airport parking areas. These sites are large, can be easily cleaned and managed, and when the current 'emergency' has passed, can be cleaned up and returned to their previous use. The same cannot be said for Portland Park areas. They are fragile and cannot just be powerwashed and returned to the countless wildlife that inhabit them and the people that take refuge in them. Thank you for your continued thoughtful discussion regarding this crisis of humanity. Protecting the people and the environment is critical and I am sure you strive to thoughtfully balance these needs.

Testimony is presented without formatting.