

Edward Zaron

#289299 | April 11, 2021

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

Dear City Council, (1) I am opposed to allowing public parks or vacant land in Portland to be used as ad hoc homeless shelters. I do not believe this can be managed effectively, and it will eventually lead to a favela system within Portland with all the negative consequences for the homeless and the broader community. (2) I urge you to consider using the power of eminent domain to condemn already-existing privately-owned buildings within Portland, within 5 blocks of public transportation, to create socialized (public) housing adequate to meet the needs of the homeless in this area. The land-owners and developers are the primary beneficiaries of a system of land use decisions and rule-of-law, and they should be asked to make the sacrifices needed to maintain rule of law with regard to property rights and homelessness. (3) I am seeing more permanent structures being created on public property. By building these structures, e.g., the cabin being build today (4/11/2021) near NE 39th and Dekum, the homeless are demonstrating their resourcefulness, resilience, and competence. It is a shame that they are not economically viable in the present system. As City Council, you need to use your power to change the rules so that these people can participate meaningfully in our society. We all benefit from our rule-based system, and if you systematically alienate these people from it, they will doubtless organize and extract their revenge in due time. With respect, Ed Zaron

Testimony is presented without formatting.