



**RESOLUTIONS ADDRESSING
HOMELESSNESS AND THE
AFFORDABLE HOUSING GAP
ITEMS 899-903**

Portland City Council
Wednesday, October 26th, 2022

TODAY

Overview of Resolutions →
Next Steps

Item 899

Establish key actions to increase affordable housing construction

Item 900

Assess options to increase coordination and enhance unhoused access to paid non-standard work

Item 901

Connect mental health and substance abuse recovery services to unhoused individuals

Item 902 – More information next week

Set City budget priorities for implementation and request assistance from County, Metro, State, and Federal partners

Item 903

Create a diversion program for individuals experiencing homelessness

ITEM 899

ESTABLISH KEY ACTIONS TO INCREASE AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

Background

Presenter:
Christina Ghan, Mayor's Office

- Since Council's Housing Emergency in 2015, prices have continued to rise
- This increases the number of households at risk of homelessness and fuels gentrification and displacement
- Portland needs more housing of all types, including over 20,000 affordable homes
- Building this would cost ~\$9.8 billion, the City's share would be \$3 billion
- In addition to directly financing affordable housing, the City influences housing with:
 - Financial incentives for affordable housing
 - Zoning and other local regulations
 - Providing public land and pursuing partnerships with property owners

ITEM 899

ESTABLISH KEY ACTIONS
TO INCREASE
AFFORDABLE HOUSING
CONSTRUCTION

Overview

What it does:

- Sets a goal of catalyzing development of 20,000 units of affordable housing in the next 10 years
- Recognizes the need for partnerships with the private sector and non-profits
- Identifies immediate actions to increase housing production, including:
 - Maximizing our use of public land for affordable housing
 - Seeking partnerships with the state
 - Addressing other barriers for affordable and mixed-income development
- Provides a timeline for related City efforts

ITEM 900

ASSESS OPTIONS TO INCREASE COORDINATION AND ENHANCE UNHOUSED ACCESS TO PAID NON- STANDARD WORK

Background

Presenter:
Andrew McGough, Worksystems Inc

- Over 1/3 of adult workers in Portland want or need work that fits around other circumstances in their lives (e.g. medical issues, parenting, unstable housing)
- This kind of work is skewed towards communities of color, women, and the lowest incomes, including those living unhoused
- There is currently no local public mechanism to organize non-standard work, protect workers who engage in it, or build opportunities for people to advance
- Beyond Jobs and the Workers Lab have created an on-line system to better organize non-standard work built around protections, control and progression of workers
- A group of local government leaders across the Portland metro area are partnering with Beyond Jobs and the Workers Lab to explore whether the model could work here

ITEM 900

ASSESS OPTIONS TO
INCREASE COORDINATION
AND ENHANCE UNHOUSED
ACCESS TO PAID NON-
STANDARD WORK

Overview

What it does:

- Expresses the City's commitment to work with regional partners to explore a new web-based platform to better organize, coordinate, and track non-standard work
- The platform would be designed to prioritize the needs of workers so more people can successfully participate in, benefit from, and advance in the labor market
- Directs City bureaus who typically offer these types of jobs to participate in the exploration process
- Requests a report back to Council with potential next steps

What it does not do:

- Directly fund or create new jobs
- Commit the City to implementing this program once the evaluation is complete

ITEM 901

CONNECT MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE RECOVERY SERVICES TO UNHOUSED INDIVIDUALS

Background

Presenter:
Skyler Bocker-Knapp, Mayor's Office

- There are currently over 700 self-sited unsanctioned campsites around Portland
- We've seen a 50% increase in unsheltered homelessness from 2019-2022 on the streets of Portland
- There are cheap, synthetic, and even more potent drugs on our streets: P2P meth and fentanyl (overdose deaths are skyrocketing)
- 95% of homeless Portlanders reported in February that they had not been offered services

ITEM 901

CONNECT MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE RECOVERY SERVICES TO UNHOUSED INDIVIDUALS

Overview

What it intends to do:

- Lays out a vision for how to better connect people to sanitation, navigation to housing and existing physical, mental, and behavioral health services along the continuum of care
- Commits to increase shelter capacity, in partnership with Multnomah County:
 - Open all 2,400 shelter beds that are already funded
 - Create designated camping sites for up to 150 people per site initially, with an option for growth after initial phases
- Commits to partnering with Multnomah County on data, navigation to outreach, and behavioral and mental health services
- Prioritizes City funding for these efforts

What it does not intend to do:

- Criminalize homelessness

ITEM 903

CREATE A DIVERSION PROGRAM FOR INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Background

Presenter:
Dakotah Thompson, Mayor's Office

- We are experiencing an epidemic of mental illness, drug addiction, and homelessness.
- The City has limited authority to provide behavioral health services and implement enforcement making partnerships vital.
- The collateral consequences of homelessness and legal barriers often perpetuate the isolation and prevent participation in services.

ITEM 903

CREATE A
DIVERSION PROGRAM FOR
INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING
HOMELESSNESS

Overview

What it intends to do:

- Bring stakeholders together to design a program to remove legal barriers and provide an offramp from the criminal legal system.
- Emphasizes an approach that honors the individual person and their agency.
- Focuses resources to programs that lead to sustained stability.

What it does not intend to do:

- Punish people suffering from poverty and homelessness

NEXT STEPS

Today

Overview of Proposals

Public Testimony – over 200 people signed up

Tuesday, Nov 1

Proposed Updates/Amendments Posted

Thursday, Nov 3

More information on Resolution related to budget priorities

Overview of any updates/amendments

Public testimony on updates/amendments

Council vote