

Dispelling some of the common myths about women, violence, homelessness and services:

Myth #1: *There are not many homeless women in comparison to men.*

Reality: Women (including transgender women who are extremely vulnerable on the streets) are less visible as a homeless population due to a variety of complex factors including continuing to stay with abusers/traffickers due to lack of other options, not accessing general homeless services due to harassment/going to great lengths to hide their homelessness due to being frequent targets of predation (a woman has a 50% chance of sexual assault her first night on the street). **Due to the above factors, many methods of tracking homelessness i.e. "one night counts," etc. are not reliable indicators of the number of women who are unsafe and unsheltered.**

Myth #2: *There are more shelters and services for women.*

Reality: There are fewer homeless shelters for women than men. While there are a number of nightly shelters for men in Portland, there is only one nightly emergency shelter for single women. That shelter is currently operating on a waitlist system.

Myth #3: *A woman (or any Domestic Violence survivor) in danger will be guaranteed safety.*

Reality: Domestic Violence shelters are almost always full. (One in Portland recently shut down). There are occasionally hotel vouchers available, but more often than not, there are no immediate shelter options available for survivors ready to flee their abusers.

Myth # 4: *Women with children, homeless, or in domestic violence situations automatically receive shelter or hotel vouchers.*

Reality: Families are frequently turned away from services due to lack of space, regardless of children/age of children

PORTLAND CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION REQUEST
Wednesday Council Meeting 9:30 AM

Council Meeting Date: 7/24

AUDITOR 06/14/13 PM 3:27

Today's Date 6/14/2013

Name Shasta ~~Leming~~ Smith

Address Homeless Advocate

Telephone 503 473-1052 Email shastaleming@gmail.com

Reason for the request:

For a year round shelter for women

Shasta Smith
(signed)

- Give your request to the Council Clerk's office by Thursday at 5:00 pm to sign up for the following Wednesday Meeting. Holiday deadline schedule is Wednesday at 5:00 pm. (See contact information below.)
- You will be placed on the Wednesday Agenda as a "Communication." Communications are the first item on the Agenda and are taken promptly at 9:30 a.m. A total of five Communications may be scheduled. Individuals must schedule their own Communication.
- You will have 3 minutes to speak and may also submit written testimony before or at the meeting.

Thank you for being an active participant in your City government.

Contact Information:

Karla Moore-Love, City Council Clerk
1221 SW 4th Ave, Room 140
Portland, OR 97204-1900

(503) 823-4086 Fax (503) 823-4571

email: Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov

Sue Parsons, Council Clerk Assistant
1221 SW 4th Ave., Room 140
Portland, OR 97204-1900

(503) 823-4085 Fax (503) 823-4571

email: Susan.Parsons@portlandoregon.gov

Request of Shasta Smith to address Council regarding a year-round shelter for
women (Communication)

JUL 24 2013

PLACED ON FILE

Filed JUL 19 2013

LaVonne Griffin-Valade
Auditor of the City of Portland

By 

COMMISSIONERS VOTED
AS FOLLOWS:

	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Novick		
Hales		