



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

Dan Saltzman, Commissioner
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REPORT TO COUNCIL

DATE: September 11, 2013
TO: Mayor Charlie Hales and City Council
FROM: Commissioner Dan Saltzman
RE: Accept report on the Women into Housing Now initiative (Report)

I am pleased to submit for your consideration and acceptance a brief report on urgent actions that I have directed the Portland Housing Bureau and its partners to take in order to meet immediate needs of highly vulnerable women experiencing homelessness under the Women into Housing Now (WIHN) initiative.

As a Council and in partnership with our colleagues at Multnomah County, we have a long track record of supporting effective strategies to end homelessness. I was honored by my recent appointment as the Commissioner in charge of the Portland Housing Bureau, and this is the challenge that I set out to address on my first day: The recent street count in Multnomah County showed a 22% increase in homeless women since two years ago. A large percentage of homeless women report that domestic or sexual violence was an immediate cause of their homelessness. Being on the streets automatically puts a woman at increased risk for violence.

Currently, the City funds two women's shelters and both have 130-190 person wait lists. If a woman needed somewhere to sleep tonight, it would be weeks or maybe even months before she could find refuge in shelter. Under my direction, the Portland Housing Bureau will immediately initiate a two-pronged approach to address shelter wait lists and to keep women from entering shelter at all.

Through WIHN, I have directed the Portland Housing Bureau to allocate \$300,000 within its existing FY 2013-14 budget to provide more than 90 vulnerable women experiencing homelessness with immediate safety off of the streets and rapid placement into permanent housing. These funds will be directed to existing highly effective nonprofit partners engaged in this work.

This report provides background on the urgent needs of women experiencing homelessness in Portland, details the immediate actions that I have directed the Portland Housing Bureau to take under its existing budget and contract authority, and describes additional resources urgently required to free up other "bottle-necks" in our system of emergency shelter and supportive housing services.

Agenda No.
REPORT
Title

Accept report on the Women into Housing Now initiative (Report)

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| <p style="text-align: center;">INTRODUCED BY Commissioner/Auditor: Dan Saltzman</p> | <p>CLERK USE: DATE FILED <u>SEP 13 2013</u></p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">COMMISSIONER APPROVAL</p> <p>Mayor—Finance and Administration - Hales</p> <p>Position 1/Utilities - Fritz</p> <p>Position 2/Works - Fish</p> <p>Position 3/Affairs - Saltzman <i>[Signature]</i></p> <p>Position 4/Safety - Novick</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">LaVonne Griffin-Valade Auditor of the City of Portland</p> <p>By: <u><i>[Signature]</i></u> Deputy</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">BUREAU APPROVAL</p> <p>Bureau: Portland Housing Bureau Bureau Head: Traci Manning <i>[Signature]</i></p> <p>Prepared by: Amy Trieu Date Prepared: September 11, 2013</p> <p>Financial Impact & Public Involvement Statement Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amends Budget <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Portland Policy Document If "Yes" requires City Policy paragraph stated in document. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>City Auditor Office Approval: required for Code Ordinances</p> <p>City Attorney Approval:</p> | |
| <p>Council Meeting Date September 18, 2013</p> | <p>ACTION TAKEN: SEP 18 2013 ACCEPTED</p> |

AGENDA

TIME CERTAIN
Start time: **2:00 PM**

Total amount of time needed: 45 minutes
(for presentation, testimony and discussion)

CONSENT

REGULAR
Total amount of time needed: _____
(for presentation, testimony and discussion)

| FOUR-FIFTHS AGENDA | COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS: | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|------|------|
| | | YEAS | NAYS |
| 1. Fritz | 1. Fritz | ✓ | |
| 2. Fish | 2. Fish | ✓ | |
| 3. Saltzman | 3. Saltzman | ✓ | |
| 4. Novick | 4. Novick | ✓ | |
| Hales | Hales | ✓ | |