



OFFICE OF MAYOR  
TED WHEELER

## City of Portland

**IN THE MATTER OF THE LOCAL EMERGENCY WITHIN THE CITY OF PORTLAND DECLARED ON MARCH 2, 2022** ) **Emergency Declaration to Improve the Health and Well-Being of Portlanders Experiencing Outdoor Houselessness by Expediting Implementation of the New Street Services Coordination Center**

**WHEREAS**, along with the State of Oregon, Multnomah County, and other partners, the City of Portland are responsible for helping to provide services to improve the safety and well-being of houseless Portland individuals and families, along with managing encampment impacts and vehicle camping through multiple City offices and bureaus; and

**WHEREAS**, the decentralized organizational structure of the City of Portland government hinders City programs and services' ability to effectively and efficiently coordinate services to houseless Portlanders and to manage encampment impacts and vehicle camping; and

**WHEREAS**, across the 145 square miles within the boundaries of the City of Portland, there has been a significant increase in encampments from an estimated 225-275 unsanctioned encampments in 2019 to 300-350 unsanctioned encampments in 2021 that last year generated more than 98,000 campsite reports; and

**WHEREAS**, the current level of urgent unmet needs constitutes an unprecedented humanitarian crisis for houseless Portlanders and those experiencing houselessness and vehicle camping; and

**WHEREAS**, current first responders and outreach workers experience challenges to connect unsheltered people to available shelter beds; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council has already asked the Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) to work with first responders to find the appropriate number of shelter beds dedicated to Portland Fire, Portland Police Bureau, Impact Reduction Program, Parking Enforcement and navigation team programs. This proposal will provide funds to implement and expand this coordination effort through staffing in the Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS); and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Portland needs to reorganize itself to address the citywide houselessness emergency and maximize results from its limited resources and personnel, it is imperative that the City of Portland pull together its decentralized City houselessness-related programs and services into a collaborative team under a coordinated emergency incident command structure; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council approved the creation of a Street Services Coordination Center. As the 2021 Fall Budget Monitoring Process (BMP) budget notes:

The Street Services Coordination Center is being developed to better coordinate the many city and county agencies involved in addressing unsheltered homelessness and unhealthy street behaviors. Structured as a unified command with representatives of City of Portland and Multnomah County departments which direct, plan, and coordinate responses to street behaviors and homelessness.

**WHEREAS**, the City of Portland can learn lessons from existing programs that coordinate services for those experiencing houselessness and the impacts of encampments and vehicle camping in San Francisco and Seattle that enable them to coordinate houselessness services from a centralized command structure under one point person, increasing the efficiency, utility and functionality of their efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Portland City Charter Section 2-302, the Mayor is authorized to assign and reassign bureaus and liaison responsibilities during non-emergencies including assigning City bureaus to the administration under the Mayor as the commissioner-in-charge; and

**WHEREAS**, under Portland City Code Chapter 15.08, the Mayor has authority to centralize control and authority over all bureaus, departments and other offices and vest power in the Mayor upon declaration of a State of Emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Portland City Code Chapter 15.08.020, with a State of Emergency Declaration, the Mayor is authorized to direct the coordination of the City's resources, including its programs and personnel, to work collaboratively under a centralized manager who serves as the designee of the Mayor; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Portland City Code Chapter 15.08.20(11), the Mayor is authorized to hire staff and contractors in an expedited manner as may be necessary to protect the life, safety and health of persons, property or the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, along with the approved funds from the Fall BMP, the City bureaus and programs will continue to use their own funds, where appropriate, to expand and provide for shelter, as well as removal and cleanup of dangerous camps, to ensure efficiency and avoid unnecessary waste; and

**WHEREAS**, transportation services for unsheltered houseless individuals wishing to move to an open shelter space needs to be funded.

**THEREFORE**, pursuant to my authority under the Portland City Charter, City Code, and any other applicable law, I hereby Order as follows:

1. **State of Emergency.** A State of Emergency exists throughout the entire City of Portland under Portland City Code Section 15.04 to decrease human suffering and prevent loss of life and injury to people and to centralize City responses and services to address this emergency.
2. **Centralization of City Programs.** Pursuant to the authority of PCC 15.08.020 during a State of Emergency, and notwithstanding the Mayor's Executive Order directing the assignment of City bureaus and departments to specific commissioners dated January 1, 2021, City bureaus and programs with functions and tasks that are within the functionality and goals of the Street Services Coordination Center in addressing unsheltered homelessness and unhealthy street behavior will be under the Mayor's authority for purposes of expediting the implementation of the Street Services Coordination Center's work. Personnel in the relevant City bureaus and programs will have their work and assignments relating to homelessness be reprioritized by the Mayor's Designee:
  - Portland Bureau of Transportation, as to sidewalk use, parking management enforcement and public right-of-way maintenance related to public camping on city streets and sidewalks by persons experiencing outdoor homelessness and vehicle camping.
  - Portland Fire Bureau, as to its Community Health Division (which includes Community Health Assess & Treat, and Community Connect), or fire or paramedic responses to persons experiencing homelessness at encampments on public spaces.
  - Portland Parks and Recreation, as to bureau personnel's engagement with persons experiencing homelessness.
  - Portland Bureau of Emergency Management, as to its emergency role as emergency coordinating center and command support.
  - Office of Management and Finance, as to its Impact Reduction Program.
  - Portland Police Bureau, as to its neighborhood response team and other programs and services addressing homelessness issues.

- The commissioner liaison role to the County's Joint Office of Homeless Services, currently assigned to Commissioner Ryan, will remain with Commissioner Ryan.
3. Except for the programs specified above as being assigned under the centralized direction of the Mayor and the Street Services Coordination Center, the Bureaus remain assigned to the previously identified commissioner for all other administrative purposes pursuant to the Mayor's Executive Order dated January 1, 2021.
  4. This Emergency Order does not change the employment status of City employees directed to perform work for the Street Services Coordination Center; employees assigned to perform work for the Street Services Coordination Center shall perform the same type of duties as listed in their classification specification; additionally, assigned employee shall remain under their existing supervision and management for all purposes other than receiving direction by the Mayor or designee for work related to the Street Services Coordination Center.
  5. The Street Services Coordination Center will coordinate relevant City services to combine resources and personnel for addressing outreach to unsheltered individuals, cleaning encampments and vehicle camping on public properties, connecting unsheltered individuals to shelter options including available private and public mass shelters and alternative sheltering sites, and facilitating access to and educating unsheltered individuals regarding available social services resources.
  6. The Mayor's Designee will make a budget request that will provide funding for transportation services, for unsheltered houseless individuals to shelter spaces or other services, to the City Council for consideration in the spring BMP or Mayor's FY 2022-2023 Proposed Budget.
  7. **Mayor's Designee.** To effectively coordinate the work of the Street Services Coordination Center, the City's Community Safety Transition Director shall serve as the Mayor's designee. Each commissioner and bureau director shall cooperate and support the Mayor's designee in the centralization of City resources and efforts. In addition to other priority tasks, the Mayor's designee will undertake:
    - Collaborate with bureaus that report to the Street Services Coordination Center and command structure.
    - Ensure designated access to available shelter beds and other services.
    - Coordinate City's response both to unsanctioned encampments and vehicle camping that impact quality of life in Portland's public spaces.

- Ensure the Portland’s streets are safer for everyone, regardless of their housing status.
  - Coordinate with government and nonprofit partners to endeavor to provide services offered to persons experiencing houselessness, including but not limited to referrals to shelters, referrals to acute non-hospital settings, referrals to substance use/abuse treatment; transportation from encampments to shelters; medical triage and on-scene medical care; and public space and encampment cleanup and trash disposal.
8. The Bureau of Human Resources is directed to work with the Mayor’s designee to expedite hiring of personnel in support of the Street Services Coordination Center’s work.
9. The City Budget Office is directed to assist the Street Services Coordination Center to prioritize allocation of resources in support of its work, including supporting budget adjustments or identifying alternate funding resources.
10. **Other Provisions.**
- a. In addition to any other power that may lawfully be exercised by local government, the powers listed in PCC 15.08.020.B are vested in the Mayor.
  - b. This State of Emergency shall remain in effect through 5:00 p.m. on March 16, 2022, unless otherwise extended, modified, or terminated.
11. **Severability:** If any provision of the Declaration of Emergency, or any Emergency Orders, directives, commands, or other orders issued under the authority of the Declaration, or their application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, then the remainder of the duly exercised authority, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of the Declaration of Emergency, or any Emergency Orders, directives, commands, or other orders issued under the authority of the Declaration, are severable.

**IT IS SO ORDERED:**

**Dated this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2022  
City of Portland, Oregon**

By:  \_\_\_\_\_

**Ted Wheeler, Mayor**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

Robert Taylor, City Attorney  
For Portland, Oregon

