



MAYOR TED WHEELER
CITY OF PORTLAND

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 21, 2022

**Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler and Commissioner Dan Ryan to
announce proposals to fast-track construction of affordable housing
and move homeless Portlanders closer to services**

"I need the governor-elect to ask the outgoing governor to immediately declare a statewide emergency declaration. No government agency in Oregon has more experience putting together temporary outdoor emergency shelter camps than the State. With the state's help, we can get Portland's designated sanctioned camping areas up before winter."

-Mayor Ted Wheeler

Today, Mayor Ted Wheeler and Commissioner Ryan announced that they are co-sponsoring [five resolutions that will be introduced at City Council next week](#) on October 26th.

Link to watch the City Council Livestream on Wednesday, October 26th, 2022: Wednesday regular, 2:00 – 5:00 pm. <https://youtu.be/cB04dPZKg-0>

The resolutions:

1. [Establish key actions to increase affordable housing construction](#)
Reduce the 5-year average waiting lists to get into affordable housing by catalyzing the construction of 20,000 units of housing by 2033. Key actions include identifying and land-banking up to 400 publicly owned sites that are shovel-ready for development, speeding permitting of nonprofit and private multifamily housing developments, and requesting assistance from the Oregon Governor and State Legislature to increase statewide funding and expand local options to fund affordable housing.
2. [Assess options to increase coordination and enhance unhoused access to paid non-standard work](#)
Work with partners to assess and explore a system to better structure gig and itinerant work (non-standard work) so that the needs of workers are prioritized, and more people can successfully participate in, benefit from, and advance in the labor market.
3. [Connect mental health and substance abuse recovery services to unhoused individuals](#)

Change City's outdoor camping protocols to better connect homeless individuals with available sanitary, mental health, and substance abuse recovery services and banning self-sited encampments with designated alternative locations (e.g., emergency shelter, Safe Rest Villages, designated sanctioned campsites).

4. [Create a diversion program for individuals experiencing homelessness](#)

Request assistance from stakeholders, including the Multnomah County District Attorney ("MCDA") and other experts providing community-based homeless, mental health and substance abuse recovery services, to create a services diversion program by offering people cited for low level offenses more opportunities to address pending legal issues and related collateral consequences outside of the criminal legal system.

5. [Set City budget priorities to implement affordable housing, connect homeless individuals with sanitary, mental health and substance abuse recovery services and request assistance from County, Metro, State, and Federal partners](#)

Statement from Commissioner Ryan:

"Our children and families need safe access to play in our parks, and our elders and individuals with mobility aids need clear access to our sidewalks," said Commissioner Dan Ryan. "No one wants to be in this state of emergency. We can't wait for traditional housing alone to fix this. We must adopt additional action for the sake of those who are homeless and those who are not—and City, County and Metro must align and support one another to safely make it happen. We must stop tolerating the intolerable."

Statement from Commissioner Rubio:

"We need much more housing than is in the pipeline and we also need interim safe, healthy solutions for our houseless community members while they are awaiting supportive housing and services," said Commissioner Carmen Rubio. "But let me be clear: how we carry out any new approach with our houseless community members will be important and make all the difference in its effectiveness. I plan to be a vocal and active participant and partner in shaping those approaches to ensure they are reflective of, and accountable to, the values of respect, equity, service, compassion and dignity."

Statement from Commissioner Hardesty:

"We all agree we are in an emergency and should respond with more urgency. That should start with immediately expanding our emergency temporary shelter capacity to meet current needs, protecting renters so our crisis doesn't get worse, and rapidly expanding housing that people can actually afford to live in," said Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty. The devil is always in the details, but there are proposals here I'm intrigued by, such as creating a public land bank. As I work through these proposals, I'm hopeful as a Council we can work together on an urgent response to our houseless crisis that is grounded in compassion and lending a helping hand to those most in need. Those are the values I will bring to the discussion that will occur over the next few weeks, and I look forward to that work."

Statement from Commissioner Mapps:

“I am in full support of the Mayor’s plan. It is a thoughtful and comprehensive approach to multiple challenges facing our city,” said Commissioner Mingus Mapps. “I applaud his team and city staff for identifying affordable housing, job placement, substance abuse and treatment, shelter, and diversion as a multifaceted approach to houselessness. This complex and nuanced direction will lead us out of our current impasse and I am looking forward to working with our jurisdictional partners to make this effort happen.”

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