

Metro

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oregonmetro.gov



Metro

Minutes

Thursday, February 13, 2020

5:30 PM

Metro Council Public Hearing on Supportive Housing

Revised 2/11/20

Metro Regional Center, Council chamber

**If you wish to provide verbal testimony,
please sign up in person between 5:00-6:00pm**

Council meeting

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Council President Lynn Peterson called the public hearing to order at 5:32 pm.

Present: 7 - Council President Lynn Peterson, Councilor Sam Chase, Councilor Shirley Craddick, Councilor Craig Dirksen, Councilor Bob Stacey, Councilor Christine Lewis, and Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez

2. Presentations**2.1 Regional Supportive Housing Measure**

Council President Peterson called on Paul Slyman, Metro staff, and Katrina Holland, of the HereTogether Coalition, to introduce the public hearing. They provided an overview of the proposed regional housing services measure and the community engagement that had taken place to develop the strategy. They explained that the public hearing was an additional opportunity for community partners and members of the public to provide feedback on the measure.

2.1.1 Public Hearing

Council President Peterson opened up the public hearing and requested that those wishing to testify come forward to speak.

Chair Kathryn Harrington, Washington County: Chair Harrington spoke in favor of the proposed measure, highlighting the need for a regional approach.

Chair Jim Bernard, Clackamas County: Chair Bernard spoke in favor of the proposed measure and recognized the significant need for additional housing services.

Chair Deborah Kafoury, Multnomah County: Chair Kafoury spoke in favor of the proposed measure and its regional

approach.

Ashley Henry, Business for a Better Portland: Ms. Henry testified on behalf of Business for a Better Portland in favor of the proposed measure.

Peter Andrews, Portland Business Alliance: Mr. Andrews testified in support of the HereTogether policy framework as a member of the coalition.

Commissioner Susheela Jayapal, Multnomah County: Commissioner Jayapal highlighted the significant need for housing services in the region and expressed support for the measure.

Steve Rudman, HereTogether Coalition: Mr. Rudman testified in favor of referring the housing measure to the May ballot.

Melissa Erlbam, Clackamas Women's Services: Ms. Erlbam expressed support for the ballot measure and encouraged the Metro Council to refer it to voters.

Michael Buonocore, Home Forward: Mr. Buonocore spoke in favor of the measure and expressed support for a regional approach to homelessness.

Ernesto Fonesca, Hacienda: Mr. Fonesca testified in favor of the housing measure and encouraged the Metro Council to refer it to voters.

George Devendorf, Transition Projects: Mr. Devendorf recognized the significant need for additional housing services and testified in support of the measure.

Tyler MacInnis, Welcome Home Coalition: Mr. MacInnis testified in support of the measure and highlighted the need for additional funding to address homelessness.

Britt Conroy, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon: Mr. Conroy spoke to the severity of the conditions of homelessness in the region and urged the Metro Council to refer the proposed measure to voters.

Xylem Nilsen, Outside In: Ms. Nilsen testified in support of the housing measure and encouraged the region's leaders to support housing services.

Oscar Arana, NAYA Family Center: Mr. Arana testified in support of the housing measure and spoke to the need for additional funding to address homelessness.

Morgan Valentine, NAYA Family Center: Valentine spoke in favor of the proposed housing measure and expressed support for a regional approach.

Commissioner Sonya Fischer, Clackamas County: Commissioner Fischer testified in support of the housing measure and highlighted the significant need for additional support services in the region.

Anna Kurnizki, Community Warehouse: Ms. Kurnizki testified in support of the proposed measure and urged the Metro Council to refer it to the May ballot.

Megan Smith, Community Warehouse: Ms. Smith shared support for the proposed measure and highlighted the significant need for services.

Maxwell Pratt, HereTogether Coalition: Mr. Pratt testified in

support of the measure and highlighted the broad community support.

Chris Bright, Business for a Better Portland: Mr. Bright expressed support for the measure and explained that the funding would significantly increase the support services available to those experiencing homelessness.

Commissioner Sharon Meieran, Multnomah County: Commissioner Meieran testified in support of the measure and urged the Metro Council to refer it to the May ballot.

Councilor Theresa Kohlhoff, City of Lake Oswego: Councilor Kohlhoff testified in support of the housing measure and spoke in favor of increased funding for housing services.

Liz Hearn, Community Partners for Affordable Housing: Ms. Hearn spoke to the severity of the conditions of homelessness in the region and urged the Metro Council to refer the proposed measure to voters.

Councilor Kathy Hyzy, City of Milwaukie: Councilor Hyzy spoke in favor of the proposed housing measure and expressed support for a regional approach.

Jennifer Langston, Transition Projects: Ms. Langston shared her experience with homelessness and highlighted the significant positive impact of making support services widely available.

Laura Scotton, HereTogether: Ms. Scotton testified in support of the proposed housing measure and urged the Metro Council to support the HereTogether framework.

Beth Epps, Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare: Ms. Epps spoke

in favor of the measure and highlighted the need for additional funding for supportive housing services.

Mercedes Elizalde, Central City Concern: Ms. Elizalde testified in favor of the measure and spoke to the need for additional funding.

Michael Sterner, El Programa Hispano Catolico: Mr. Sterner testified in support of increased funding for homeless services for the region's Latinx community.

Estefany Ramos, Northwest Family Services: Ms. Ramos testified in support of the housing measure and spoke in favor of increased funding for housing services.

Mike Schmidt: Mr. Schmidt testified in favor of the proposed housing measure.

Andy Nelson, Impact NW: Mr. Nelson testified in support of the housing measure, highlighting the severe state of the housing crisis across the region.

Katherine Galian, HereTogether Community Action: Ms. Galian spoke in favor of the proposed measure and highlighted the lack of resources available to people experiencing homelessness.

Marci Cartagena, Human Solutions: Ms. Cartagena testified in support of the housing measure and spoke in favor of increased funding for housing services.

Caleb T. Coder, DoGood Multnomah: Mr. Coder expressed support for the housing measure and additional funding for support services.

Chrystal: Chrystal testified in support of additional housing as well as housing services, and requested that local governments stop sweeping homeless encampments.

Courtney Shannon: Courtney testified in support of additional housing as well as housing services, and requested that local governments stop sweeping homeless encampments.

Maggie: Maggie spoke to the severity of the conditions of homelessness in the region and the lack of adequate resources. She requested additional accountability for providers.

Charles Bridgecrane: Mr. Bridgecrane spoke in favor of the proposed measure and highlighted the lack of resources available to people experiencing homelessness.

Laura Golino de Lovato, Northwest Pilot Project, Inc: Ms. Golino de Lovato spoke in favor of the proposed measure and explained that additional funding would help providers better support the region's residents.

Jonathan Ogden, Portland Assembly and Montavilla Emergency Warming Shelter: Mr. Ogden explained that displacement was driven by private equity raising rents and requested that part of the proposed strategy include purchasing land for no-income housing, such as community land trusts.

Alexis Simpson: Simpson spoke about the direct impact of inadequate affordable housing options.

Michele Veenker, NAMI Clackamas: Veenker informed the Metro Council that NAMI Clackamas supported work

towards building new supportive housing for people of all ability levels with mental health and substance abuse problems.

Gary Marschke, NAMI Clackamas: Mr. Marschke spoke to the importance of peer oversight over how the funds would be spent.

Rick Dodge: Mr. Dodge testified against the proposed measure, highlighting a lack of information on the details of the tax and the impact of taxes on the region's residents.

David Skinner: Mr. Skinner spoke against the proposed measure, explaining that the tax structure was unequal and would put an undue burden on tax payers.

Alan Crouch: Mr. Crouch spoke in favor of the HereTogether framework and asked that the Metro Council refer the measure to the May ballot.

Kelsey Kennedy: Ms. Kennedy requested that the measure support making 24-hour shelters available and accessible.

Sue Gemmell: Ms. Gemmell testified in support of a regional data system that would provide helpful geographic information system (GIS) data about homelessness.

Tina Drake, Street Roots: Ms. Drake spoke about the lack of available services for those experiencing homeless and emphasized the significant need for more resources.

Vadim Mozyrsky: Mr. Mozyrsky requested that the Metro Council not refer the measure to voters until more information was made available about the tax structure and allocation.

Celestina DiMauro: Ms. DiMauro testified in favor of the proposed measure and highlighted that it was critical that the work focus on a holistic, human-centered approach.

Dan G., Street Roots: Mr. G testified in support of the measure and explained that increased funding for homeless services was crucial.

Sushmita Poddar: Ms. Poddar testified in support of the housing measure, highlighting the severe state of the housing crisis across the region.

Sybil Rinne: Chair Kathryn Harrington provided testimony in support of the measure on behalf of one of her constituents in Washington County, Sybil Rinne.

Seeing no one else signed up to testify, Council President Peterson closed the public hearing and thanked the public for their time and feedback.

3. Adjourn

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the public hearing at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nellie Papsdorf
Nellie Papsdorf, Legislative and Engagement Coordinator