

# **Metro**

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**Metro**

## **Minutes**

**Tuesday, February 4, 2025**

**10:30 AM**

**Metro Regional Center, Council chamber,  
<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID: 615079992) or  
888-475-4499 (toll free)**

## **Council work session**

This meeting will be held electronically and in person at the Metro Regional Center Council Chamber.

You can join the meeting on your computer or other device by using this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID: 615 079 992)

### 10:30 Call to Order and Roll Call

**Present:** 6 - Councilor Christine Lewis, Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Councilor Mary Nolan, Councilor Ashton Simpson, Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, and Councilor Duncan Hwang

**Excused:** 1 - Council President Lynn Peterson

### 10:30 Work Session Topics:

#### 10:30 City-County Homelessness Response System: Working Together to Address the Homelessness Crisis

**Presenter(s):** Mayor Wilson, City of Portland  
Jillian Schoene, Multnomah County

**Attachments:** [Staff Report](#)

##### City-County Homelessness Response

Jillian Schoene and Brian Deibert from the Homelessness Response System presented an overview of the collaborative program, beginning with data about national, state, and local homelessness and housing needs.

Regarding the HRS itself, the presenters described the oversight structure and Homelessness Response Action Plan (HRAP) as additive to the Supportive Housing Services (SHS) Local Implementation Plans (LIPs).

The presentation detailed the HRAP and LIP goals, desired outcomes, key performance indicators, and transparent data access.

Councilor Lewis asked if Regional Long-Term Rent Assistance (RLA) vouchers reported separately from HUD vouchers, and presenters clarified that the data is collected separately but reflected cumulatively in the dashboard. Councilor Lewis also asked about the services offered at each shelter to

support eventual housing placement, and staff responded it varies by shelter.

Councilor Gonzalez asked how the County balances crisis response with building a regional system and suggested metrics should reflect the health of the system (e.g., length of stay, wait times). Staff responded that the shared HRS structure helps balance improving the system and crisis response.

Councilor Rosenthal asked about relationships with faith-based communities, the resources available from the SHS tax, and the funding plans for housing supply. Presenters shared a partnership with faith-based communities with available land to develop housing units.

Councilor Nolan advocated for implementing partners to focus on outcomes focused on functional zero homelessness, such as declining number of residents requiring services, rather than number of residents served. They also hoped to see figures that address Population A, as described in the original measure, and presenters replied that this data is available within the online dashboard.

#### **Blueprint for Ending Unsheltered Homelessness**

Portland Mayor Keith Wilson presented data about the gravity of Portland's unsheltered homeless population alongside personal stories of affected residents.

Mayor Wilson's policy proposals included increasing nighttime emergency shelters, stay limits, day centers, strengthening relationships with nonprofits and businesses, and a crisis response plan.

Skyler Bocker-Knapp, Director of Portland Solutions,

detailed the proposed incident management approach, including the methods the City used to determine budget and scope of need.

Deputy Council President Simpson highlighted the disparity between East Portland and East County cities and inner Portland. Mayor Wilson acknowledged the movement of individuals from swept areas in the central city to East Portland.

Councilor Gonzalez asked how Metro can support the blueprint and HRAP. Mayor Wilson described ambivalence about the SHS program given the decline in outcomes and reserves on hand at each county but asked for Metro's support ending unsheltered homelessness first.

Councilor Nolan emphasized the need to end unsheltered homelessness in the spirit of the SHS measure on a quick timeline.

Councilor Lewis asked that the region humanize people affected by the housing and homelessness crises and appreciated the idea of not turning people away, but suggested that the "no wrong door" policy may create challenges and safety issues.

Councilor Rosenthal expressed a desire for a new regional committee to re-address the initial goals made in the SHS measure. He also asked about equity and use of federal funds. Presenters acknowledged the race-based disparities in the unsheltered population and doubted that federal funds would account for a significant portion of funding in the plan.

#### **12:50 Chief Operating Officer Communication**

COO Madrigal shared that the Oregon Zoo welcomed an

elephant calf.

**12:55 Councilor Communication**

Councilor Rosenthal remarked on the Lunar New Year celebration at the Oregon Convention Center.

Councilor Lewis updated the Council on a screening of *These Sacred Hills* and the quarterly OMPOC meeting.

**1:00 Adjourn**

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the Metro Work Session 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Nicholas Cooley*

Nicholas Cooley, Legislative Assistant