

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
October 17, 2023**

Executive Session

Mayor Graham, Councilor Hyatt, Bloom, Dahle, Kaplan, DuQuenne and Hansen were present. Deputy City Manager Sabrina Cotta, Interim Human Resources Director Molly Taylor and Acting City Attorney Doug McGeary were present. Erik Jensen, Pam Beery, and Paul Elsner from Jensen Strategies were present as well. Items discussed were:

- 1. Selection of City Attorney Finalists, pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(a)**
- 2. City Manager Review, pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(i)**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Graham called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m. Employment no decisions were made.

1. Land Acknowledgement

Councilor Bloom read the land acknowledgement.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Hyatt led the pledge of allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Mayor Graham, Councilor Hyatt, Bloom, Dahle, Kaplan, DuQuenne and Hansen were present.

IV. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Graham announced there would be an Open House at the site of new shelter at 2200 Ashland Street from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. October 18, 2023. There were vacancies on the Social Equity and Racial Justice Committee.

She went on to move the following items under **ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND CONTRACTS** after the **Consent Agenda**:

- 1. Contract with OHRA for State Emergency Order Homeless Shelter Operations**
- 2. Resolution 2023-25 – A Resolution to Approve Transitional Housing Accommodations**

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1. Minutes of the October 2, 2023 – Study Session**
- 2. Minutes of the October 3, 2023 – Business Meeting**

Councilor Hyatt/Bloom m/s to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2023, Study Session and the minutes of October 3, 2023, Business Meeting. Roll Call Vote: Councilor Kaplan, Hansen, DuQuenne, Dahle, Bloom and Hyatt, YES. Motion passed.

VI. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. CFEC Parking Code Amendments Presentation

Community Development Director Brandon Goldman provided background on the parking mandate. The city needed to adopt an ordinance with the new changes by December 21, 2023. These updates would eliminate the need for commercial, residential, childcare, and small residential units to provide on-site parking. It was part of the effort to reduce greenhouse gases in Oregon. Staff recommended a series of changes to the parking rules and looking at improvement opportunities like bicycle parking. He went on to explain the impact of CEPAC rules for Climate Friendly Areas (CFA) near frequent transit routes. The Planning Commission reviewed the options and supported Option 1.

Planning Manager Derek Severson provided a presentation (see attached):

- Why the Rules? Missing Oregon’s pollution reduction Targets Has Real Costs
- Rules Apply in Oregon’s Metropolitan Areas
- Meeting Oregon’s Climate Pollution Reduction Targets
- Updated Land Use and Transportation Rules
- Climate-Friendly Areas
- Reforming costly Parking Mandates
- Improving Parking Management
- Site Maps
- Option 1, 2, and 3
- Other Parking Provisions
- Staff Recommendation – Option 1
- Option 1, land use code
- Next Steps

Mr. Goldman did not think the changes would affect small businesses. If a business did not provide parking for demand, it would be absorbed in the neighborhood. It would also put a greater burden on street parking.

The changes applied to new developments. There was not a mechanism that would retroactively apply. It would no longer require a single-family home to have two parking spaces. People could convert their garage into a shop. Through the CFA, a property owner could request bike parking in the right of way. Areas currently less developed would have a greater opportunity to create more parking on site.

Council supported Option 1 with added language regarding accessibility.

VII. **CITY MANAGER REPORT**

1. **GIS Award Recognition**

GIS Manager Lea Richards and Wildfire Division Chief Chris Chambers explained that Esri presented the Fire Adapted Ashland program with the Special Achievement in GIS award July 12, 2023, for staff's innovative use of mapping and leadership in GIS analysis. This award resulted in a \$3million FEMA grant as well. The team consisted of Ricky Fite, Chris Chambers, Brian Hendrix, and Jason Wegner and former employees, Allison Lerch, Katy Gobble and Many Dacquito. Council thanked staff and expressed their pride in staff efforts.

City Manager Joe Lessard reviewed the Look Ahead.

VIII. **PUBLIC FORUM**

Paul Mozina/Ashland/Spoke to the proposed Right of Way ordinance and the FCC regulations established in 1996.

IX. **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. **Transportation Advisory Committee Appointment**

Councilor Hansen removed the agenda item to thank Julia Sommer for volunteering.

Councilor Hansen/Hyatt m/s to approve the appointment of Julia Sommer to Position #7 on the Transportation Committee. Roll Call Vote: Councilor Kaplan, Hyatt, DuQuenne, Dahle, Hansen, and Bloom, YES. Motion passed.

XI. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

XII. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

XIII. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **City Council Elections to Fill City Recorder Vacancy, pursuant to City Charter Article III – Elective Officers, Section 4**

City Manager Joe Lessard explained council appointed a clerk of the council pro tem until an interim was found. An interim recorder needed to be selected to meet the Charter requirement. Due to council interest in a Charter change, staff was recommending Analyst Manager Alissa Kolodzinski to serve as city recorder until the May 2024 primary election with a possible extension to November 2024 election if the May measure did not pass.

Public Comment

Russ Silbiger/Ashland/Strongly disagreed with the interim selection process and shared history on the recorder position and past elections.

Councilor Bloom/Dahle m/s to appoint Alissa Kolodzinski to carry out the term of the Recorder until the next biennial election in November 2024 or voter approval of a charter change of the City Recorder's position, whichever occurs first. DISCUSSION: Councilor Bloom communicated often

with Ms. Kolodzinski. She was qualified and he was happy for her. Councilor Dahle agreed and was in full support of Ms. Kolodzinski. He added council had proceeded on how the Charter was written. The Charter needed to be changed and the community would help. He stood by how they had conducted the process. Councilor DuQuenne appreciated Ms. Kolodzinski stepping up to this position. She looked forward to the election and supported Ms. Kolodzinski. Councilor Kaplan agreed and looked forward to hearing the voices of Ashland. The Charter was written many years ago and the nature of the recorder's duties had changed significantly. Treasury functions were now under the director of finance. He appreciated Ms. Kolodzinski. Mayor Graham commented this was an atypical position and currently vacant. The process was appropriate for the circumstances and fell within the law. **Roll Call Vote: Councilor Hyatt, Kaplan, DuQuenne, Hansen, Dahle, and Bloom, YES. Motion passed.**

XIV. **ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND CONTRACTS**

1. Contract with OHRA for State Emergency Order Homeless Shelter Operations

Housing Program Manager Linda Reid explained the contract with OHRA would end January 10, 2024, anything beyond that date would have to be renegotiated. Concerns from citizens could be submitted to the neighborhood community group and forwarded to the city staff person administering the contract who could take them to OHRA.

Ms. Reid disagreed with a statement regarding OHRA's control on what would happen at the shelter during the ten weeks it would be open. She explained the city regulates the contract which contained exhibits dictating requirements and scope of work. She reiterated OHRA was an experienced shelter operator and had the city's trust. OHRA had successfully run shelters for several years. They would hire new navigators and would utilize navigators experienced with OHRA and the Fire Watch, detailed under Exhibit E, Scope of Work in the contract which included requirements for hiring and training. OHRA used best practices by the state and local providers. She went on to address the Fire Watch and how it met fire code requirements in lieu of a sprinkler system.

Council suggested adding a provision to the contract assuring residents their feedback will be taken in and heard by the city and OHRA. Ms. Reid noted that OHRA had already signed the contract. She referenced Section D under City Responsibilities that spoke to the city not engaging with another provider without OHRA vetting those services.

OHRA would provide background checks using a forward-facing site from the police department. Background checks were in Exhibit D, Scope of Work in the contract. OHRA would have some responsibility regarding enforcement, but it would mostly fall to the city through the police department. For specific issues, they would call the police department who would address problem issues.

Deputy City Manager Sabrina Cotta responded to goals from the neighborhood association.

The shower trailer will be oriented towards the building. For fencing, they were looking at plants long term and fence screening for the short term. The police chief has data analytics and a baseline that will track whether crime increases in the area. The police will increase patrols in that area but are currently short staffed. The city will not expand the shelter beyond Ashland Street without working with the neighborhood.

Ms. Reid responded to questions about the shower trailer and the extra porta-potties. The shower trailer will move to the shelter and be available to non-shelter guests. There will be a waiting area in the garage so people will not congregate outside. Shelter members will be separated from people using the shower and laundry facilities. It would shorten the life of the shower trailer to move it every week from the Grove to the shelter.

The shelter would open early November and end January 10, 2024. There was a possibility of additional funding to operate the shelters past January 10, 2024.

Public Comment

JD Barons/Ashland/Commented on the dusk to dawn campsite by the police station and shared concerns about the new shelter.

Linda Fitzgerald/Ashland/Shared concerns regarding the shelter that included noise where the showers would be located, privacy screening, and the smoking and pet area. It was unfair to have two shelters within one block. Since OHRA had started there were issues. She questioned if resources being targeted to people in Ashland or for people passing through. Ashland was attracting a new population. She hoped there would be an ongoing conversation with the city and that the city would not do it behind closed doors.

Judie Bunch/Ashland/Spoke from a document submitted into the record (see attached).

Trina Sanford/Ashland/Commented that being homeless was not a crime and she was not entirely opposed to the shelter. Her issue is with the transients and how they treated her, her property and community. She was concerned with transients who loiter around the shelter but who are not tenants. She asked council to work with and create ordinances and laws to protect the neighbors and businesses. She referenced a document she submitted into the record (see attached).

Staff explained a study session was scheduled for November 6, 2023, on enforcing quality of life in the city and certain behaviors that would result in ordinances and resolutions by the end of the November. Public comment would be part of the process.

Ms. Reid responded to a question on the ramifications of not signing the contract with OHRA. It would delay OHRA's ability to hire staff and open on time. This had been a long process with many meetings. A delay could be disastrous or fine. However, if OHRA did not agree with the

contract, the city would have to return the money to the state. There was not a guarantee of another entity being able to provide the beds. Mr. Lessard added the shelter was bought for an inclement weather shelter. The governor's order will end on January 10, 2024. If they put the building at risk, they were back in the annual cycle of trying to provide for that program.

Ms. Cotta confirmed the shelter would have a dual function of the emergency order shelter in the main building and an inclement weather shelter set up in the garage.

Councilor Kaplan/Hyatt m/s to approve the contract with OHRA in the amount not to exceed \$200,000 for the time specified in the referenced contract and direct staff to collect community comments during the operating period and track them and keep a register to share with council.

DISCUSSION: Councilor Kaplan explained this was a big step and he had confidence in OHRA's professionalism. He listed the facilities they had operated in Ashland. Although no one could foresee all the situations he was confident OHRA will be a partner to the city and community. There was an obligation to relieve houselessness and it was not getting better by doing nothing. He respected people's concerns and attracting others to come here for those services. That did not seem to be the case, but he could not say it never occurs. We need to take this step, contract with our partner, and continue to improve the service along the way. Councilor Hyatt noted council had received many emails and wanted people to know she read them. Councilor Dahle took responsibility for his vote and stood by his vote with the information provided at the time. It was with the best intentions, but he felt it was being done out of order. They needed to take time to do this right. He could not support this. Councilor Bloom added other cities got it right, but we had got it wrong, and they would have to work to regain that trust. They needed more time but the risk of losing this contract would result in losing the shelter. He would vote yes but he was not happy. He hoped the Housing and Human Services Committee will take the charge and deal with community concerns and encourage people to participate. He apologized that it happened the way it did. Councilor DuQuenne had asked for a shelter when she started on council. She agreed with Councilor Bloom, we got it wrong. If they did not vote yet, all would not be lost. It is important they heard from everyone. She did not think they would lose the provider. She would not support the motion. Councilor Hansen acknowledged there were missteps. He supported the purchase but wished it had gone better. He was committed to spotlight south Ashland and committed to community members. This contract was a pilot program. They would make sure community input is taken to the extent that they could. Mayor Graham noted these opportunities did not come often. Going forward, the attention will turn to housing. She was proud of this council, staff, and the community. She understood it was scary. There were fears about what failure looked like, but we avoid that by staying in close contact, with community and shelter guests. This decision is about a contract for 71 days of service. Without it, the project was in jeopardy. The city and OHRA had been partners for a long time. She did not see a problem with OHRA over the next 71 days. **Roll Call Vote: Councilor Bloom, Hyatt, Kaplan, and Hansen, YES, Councilor Dahle and DuQuenne, NO. Motion Passed. Motion passed 4-2.**

2. Resolution 2023-25 – A Resolution to Approve Transitional Housing Accommodations

Acting City Attorney Doug McGearly explained how the resolution would exempt the city from a landlord-tenant situation with the emergency order shelter. It would prevent a squatter staying at the shelter permanently. He agreed that additional language indicating the structure itself as a transitional housing accommodation would eliminate any concerns that somehow the property could be used for tents. Indicating the building and excluding the property assured the community that the property would not be used for tents, yurts, etc. The resolution could be changed by council in the future if necessary.

Councilor Hansen/Bloom m/s to approve Resolution 2023-25 as amended with the following language, : “The City Council authorizes the establishment of a transitional housing accommodation as identified as the existing structure located at 2200 Ashland Street to be used for individuals who lack permanent or safe shelter and who cannot be placed in other low-income housing.” **DISCUSSION:** Councilor Hansen thought it would be irresponsible not to vote for this after voting for the contract. He Appreciated the protection it would afford. Councilor Bloom thought this is the first step of the balance they were trying to achieve. Councilor Kaplan noted the motion adopted the resolution as written, without an amendment. Councilor DuQuenne did not vote on the contract but would support the resolution. Councilor Hyatt thanked the residents who reached out and offered an amendment to the motion.

Councilor Hyatt/Bloom m/s to amend the motion for the resolution to read as follows: “The City Council authorizes the establishment of a transitional housing accommodation as identified as the existing structure located at 2200 Ashland Street to be used for individuals who lack permanent or safe shelter and who cannot be placed in other low-income housing.” **Roll Call Vote on Amended Motion: Councilor Bloom, Hyatt, DuQuenne Hansen, Kaplan, and Dahle, YES. Motion passed.**

Roll Call Vote on Main Motion: Councilor Dahle, Kaplan, Hansen, DuQuenne, Hyatt, and Bloom, YES. Motion passed.

XV. OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS/REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISONS

Mayor Graham asked the councilors and staff that attended the LOC conference to share highlights. Councilor Hansen was impressed with how other cities were proactively and reactively responding to increased homelessness in their community. He commented on the City of Eugene’s efforts to improve their downtown and came away with ideas for Ashland. Councilor Kaplan shared insights from homelessness and housing discussions. Councilor Bloom shared interest in expanding the urban growth boundary. Deputy City Manager Sabrina Cotta spoke on a panel regarding council compensation. She attended a session on revenue forecasting and new revenues and finding qualified staff and retaining staff that she

found interesting. Mayor Graham attended a housing session and a resilience and economic development session that was interesting to her.

Councilor Kaplan announced the CEPAC would hold two public meetings regarding the electrification ordinance, October 18, 2023, and October 26, 2023.

Council discussed privacy screening at the shelter.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT OF BUSINESS MEETING

Councilor Bloom/DuQuenne m/s to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 p.m. Voice Vote: ALL AYES.

The meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Clerk of the Council Pro Tem Dana Smith

Attest:

Mayor Tonya Graham

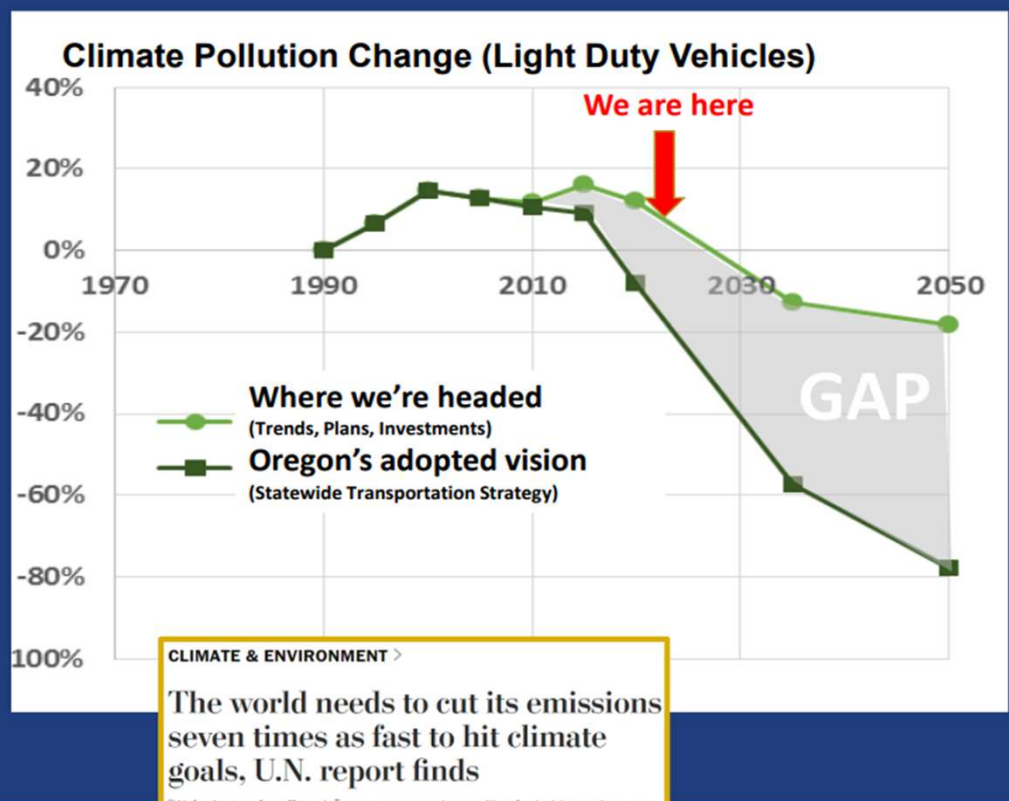


CFEC Parking Code Amendments

Ashland City Council
October 17, 2023

Why these Rules?

Missing Oregon's Pollution Reduction Targets Has Real Costs

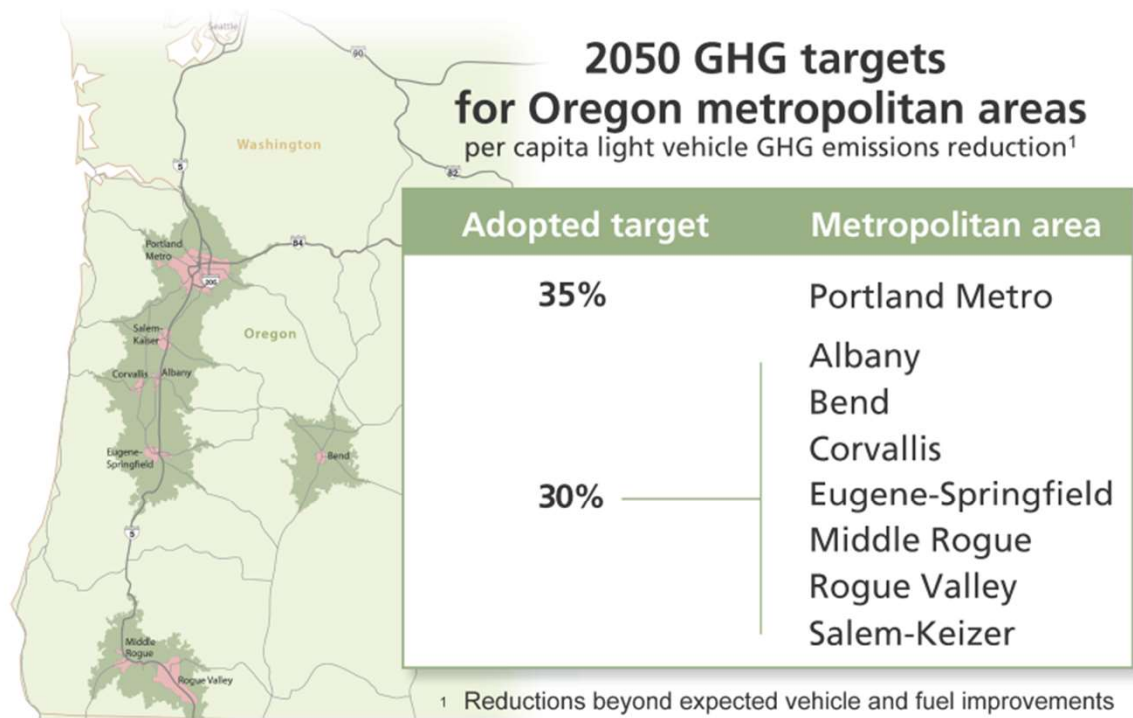


Rules Apply in Oregon's Metropolitan Areas

These contain
over 60% of
Oregon's
population and
70% of jobs



Meeting Oregon's Climate Pollution Reduction Targets





Updated Land Use and Transportation Rules

Focus Areas

Land Use/Building

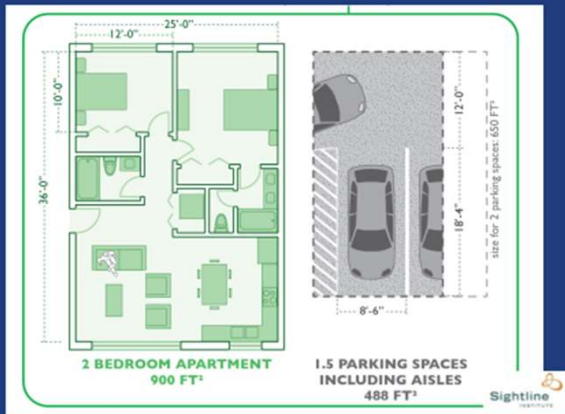
- Designate walkable climate-friendly areas
- Reform parking management ←
- Support electric vehicle charging

Transportation

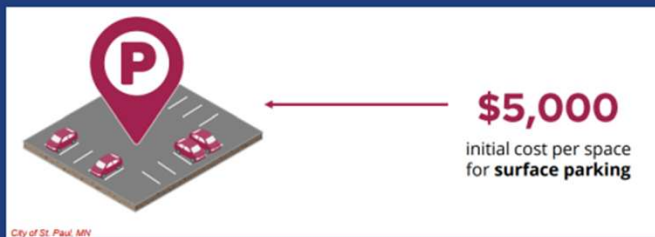
- Plan for high quality pedestrian, bicycle, and transit infrastructure
- Go beyond sole focus on motor vehicle congestion standards
- Prioritize and select projects meeting climate/equity outcomes



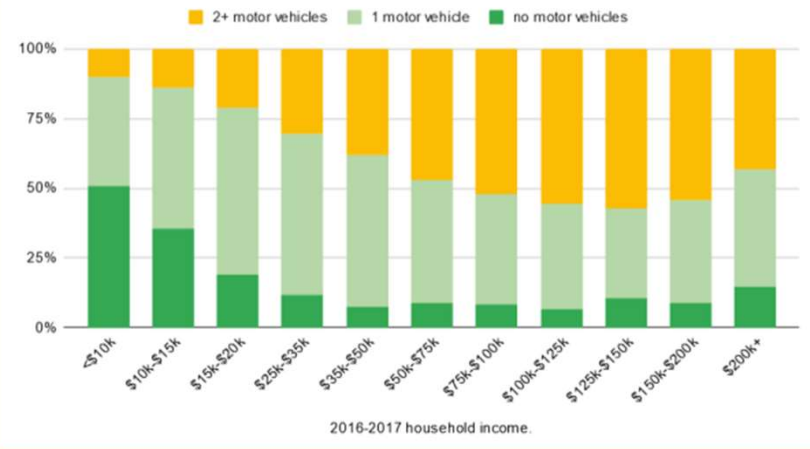
The creation of Climate-Friendly Areas where people can live, work, shop, eat and play without necessarily needing a private car; reductions in parking mandates; and other measures in the CFEC rules are hoped to encourage other modes of transportation (*transit, bicycling and walking*) and ultimately lead to significant reductions in green house gas emissions.



Reforming Costly Parking Mandates



Most tenant households in the United States own either zero or one cars.



Source: Sightline Institute using Census data

Mandates can prevent housing from being built; parking is a significant cost and displaces housing footprint

People with no cars or few cars are subsidizing parking for those with many

"Form follows parking..."



Improving Parking Management

- No parking mandates near frequent transit
- No mandates for shelters, small units, affordable or public housing, childcare, facilities for people with disabilities
- Mandates no higher than one space/unit multifamily **Now in Effect**
- Cities choose an approach: **By 12/31/23***

1

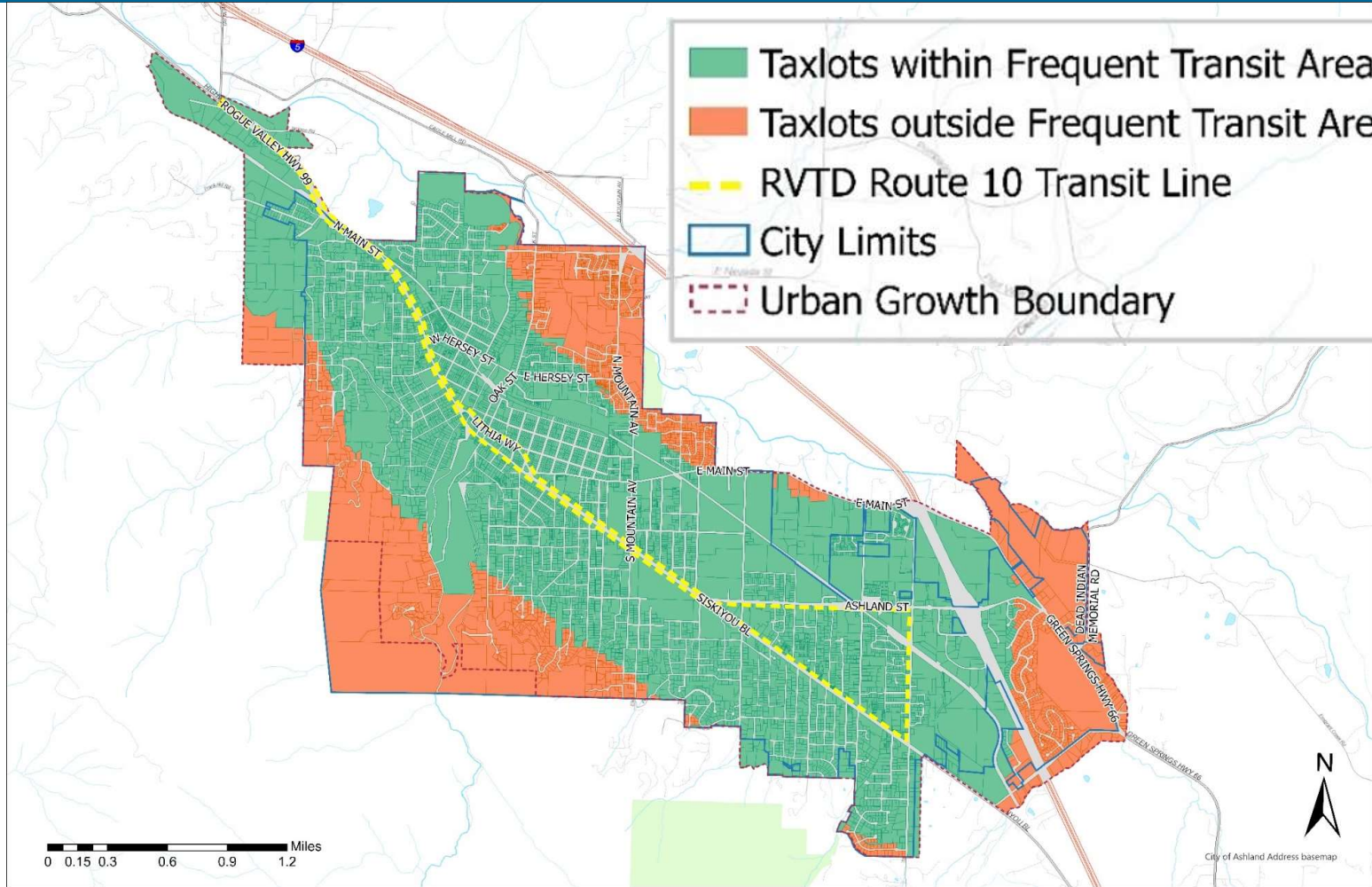
**Repeal
parking
mandates**

2

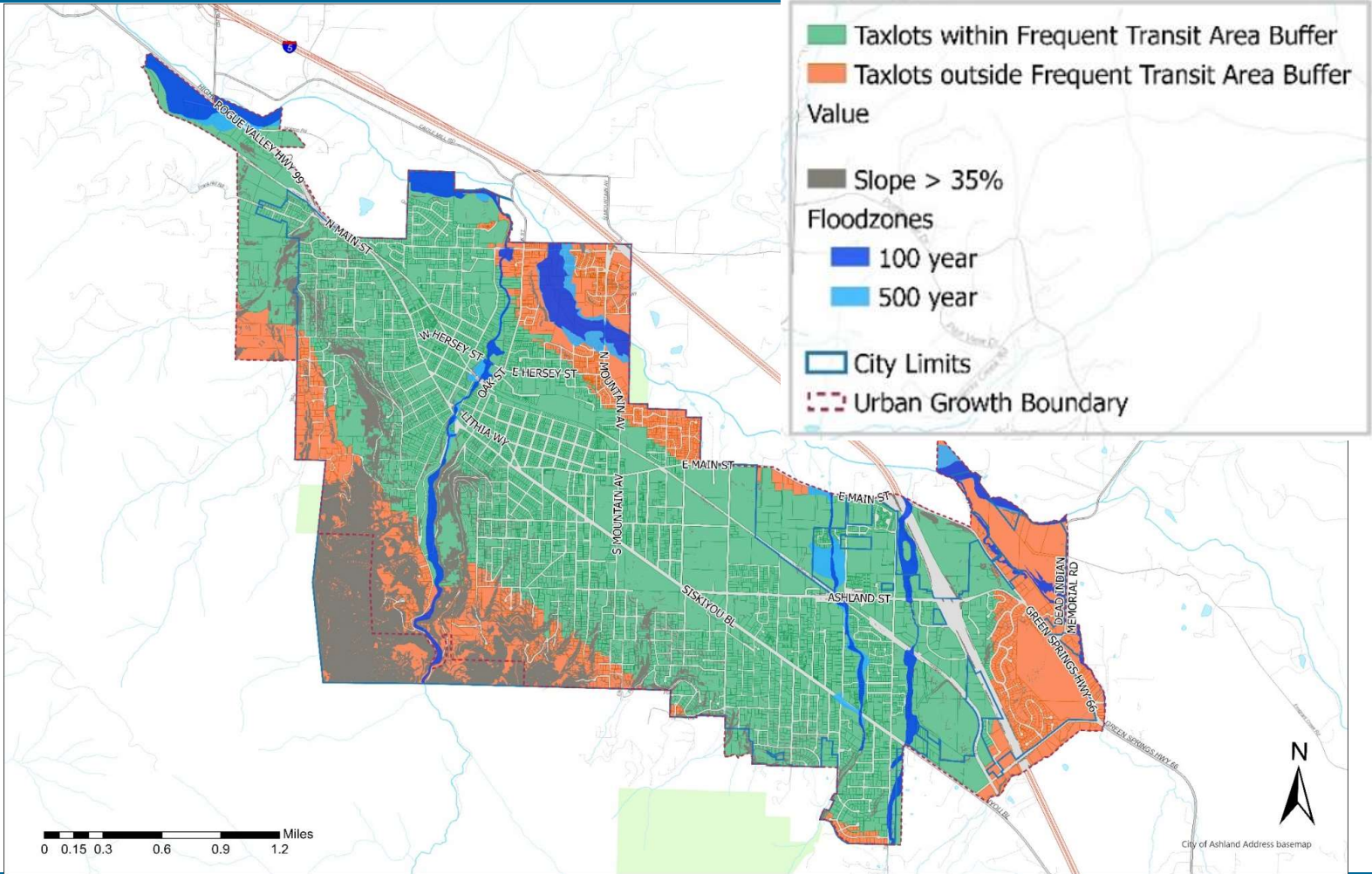
**Adopt at least
three fair
parking policies
(e.g. unbundling,
flexible commute
benefit)**

3

**Remove mandates
for more dev't
types and near
climate-friendly
areas**



"Reduced Parking Mandates" Now in Effect for Green Area



Option 1 660-012-0420	Options 2 and 3 660-012-0425 through 0450	
<p>Repeal parking mandates</p> <p>no additional action needed</p>	Reduce parking burdens – reduced mandates based on shared parking, solar panels, EV charging, car sharing, parking space accessibility, on-street parking, garage parking. Must unbundle parking for multifamily units near frequent transit. May not require garages/carports.	
	Climate-friendly area parking – remove mandates in and near climate-friendly areas or adopt parking management policies; unbundle parking for multifamily units	
	Cities pop. 100,000+ adopt on-street parking prices for 5% of on-street parking spaces by September 30, 2023 and 10% by September 30, 2025	
	<p>Option 2 enact at least three of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unbundle parking for residential units 2. Unbundle leased commercial parking 3. Flexible commute benefit for businesses with more than 50 employees 4. Tax on parking lot revenue 5. No more than ½ parking space/unit mandated for multifamily development 	<p>Option 3</p> <p>No mandates for a variety of specific uses, small sites, vacant buildings, studios/one bedrooms, historic buildings, LEED or Oregon Reach Code developments, etc.</p> <p>No additional parking for changes in use, redevelopments, expansions of over 30%.</p> <p>Adopt parking maximums.</p> <p>No mandates within ½ mile walking distance of Climate-Friendly Areas.</p> <p>Designate district to manage on-street residential parking.</p>





Land used for parking in downtown Corvallis

Other Parking Provisions

Best Practices

- Facilitate shared parking
- Convert underused parking
- Larger parking lots provide tree canopy or solar panels
- No garage requirements
- Incentives for car share, EV charging, accessible housing units
- Some parking maximums

Over 100,000 population

- If retaining mandates, price 5% of on-street parking spaces at least 50 cents/day by Sept 30, 2023 and 10% of spaces by Sept 30, 2025

- Staff recommends, and the Planning Commission supports, selecting “Option 1” to eliminate parking mandates city-wide.
- Option 1 has already been selected by other metropolitan communities including Portland, Salem, Corvallis, Tigard, Bend, Albany and Central Point.

Option 1, land use code modification include:

- Eliminating parking minimums
- Retaining Parking maximums
- Updating Bicycle Parking Standards
- Allowances for voluntarily provided parking
- Clarifying On-street parking requirements

Next Steps

- Incorporate final DLCD Rulemaking revisions in Draft Ordinance
- Planning Commission Public Hearing
 - November 14, 2023
- City Council Public Hearing and First Reading
 - December 5, 2023
- City Council Second Reading and adoption
 - December 19, 2023

<http://www.ashland.or.us/climatefriendly>

Climate-Friendly & Equitable Communities Timeline

'Parking A'
< ½ mile to Rt. 10

In Effect Now

CFA Study

*Approved by Council
9/19/2023*

'Parking B'

*Eliminate Mandates or
Select Options*

Complete by 12/31/2023

CFA Zoning

*Comp. Plan Element,
Maps & Codes*

Complete by 12/31/2024



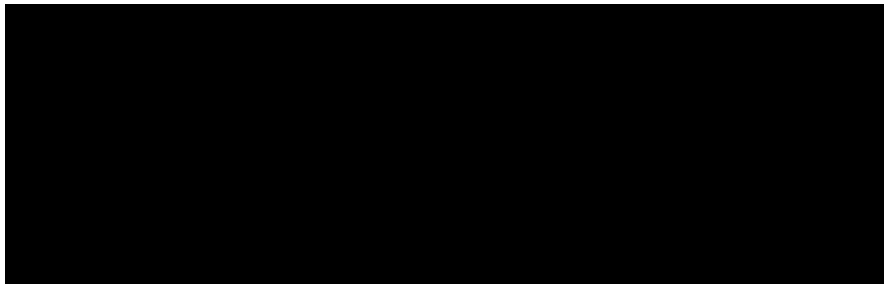


ANY QUESTIONS?



From: Trina Sanford

Oct 17, 2023



1. OHRA's contract gives them total control over the operations of the shelter. Section 4, item 1-2 states **"the City shall not proceed with such use and shall not interfere with OHRA's provision of services at the property during the term of this agreement."** We all know OHRA are experts in this field, however, if this is implemented, we will have no way of knowing that ANY of our requests and concerns about the shelter's operations will be considered or even heard moving forward. The City, and by default, we the citizens, will officially have no say on how the shelter is being run. I would like to request that the council move to amend that, or refuse to approve the contract "as is" unless all the local stakeholders (neighbors, businesses and schools) have a way to have their concerns and voices heard. As it stands currently, we are not sure that any of our concerns have been passed to OHRA, and this would make communication even less likely. *The city represents the voice of the people, and for them to not have any say in the shelter operations seems ill-advised.*

2. Postpone the vote approving 'A Resolution to Approve Transitional Housing Accommodations' until after the Open House on Wednesday, the 18th. We have concerns about the language about the many types of transitional housing being approved, including tent camping, car camping, yurts etc. This community deserves the right to have the opportunity to fully understand all the implications before any decisions are made.

3. Please urge the council to consider our Neighborhood Goals, and request they be included in the agenda on the next meeting. Even though we submitted our goals to our liaison before the deadline, they failed to make an appearance on Tuesday's agenda, and we aren't sure why. (The agenda is set by the City Manager, with input from the Mayor, who is our liaison.) This means our goals won't be voted on before the shelter opens, which is disappointing. We would have liked to see the Enhanced Law Enforcement Area talked about and approved BEFORE the shelter opens.

4. We have learned that the City is tentatively looking at purchasing the adjacent field to 2200 Ashland St. This means our neighborhood goal #6 is a top priority.

South Ashland Neighborhood Goals:

#1 – Immediately update the ordinances (see below for more ordinance info) for south Ashland to match the Enhanced Law Enforcement Area currently in place downtown so that our police are empowered to give citations, etc. (We would like this applied from the intersection of Siskiyou & Ashland St to Ashland Hills Inn, and from East Main to Siskiyou Blvd **AND along Tolman Creek, Independent Way, the Washington and Jefferson area and the railroad tracks.**)

#2 - Increase police presence in the above defined area *NOW* (before Nov 1) *AND beyond* – to include a police kiosk, increased monitoring to include; morning, throughout the day and evening sweeps (24/7); One officer designated as our point person for communication/updates.

#3 - Data analytics provided by the City to the community - re: baseline vs monthly reports; Measuring all City, EMT/Fire, and Police calls (such as requests for clean-up and trash removal, general nuisance, noise), whether citations were issued (and if so, for what)

#4 - Visual/sound barrier in the immediate area of the building before Nov 1 - privacy, trash mitigation plan (in hotspot areas), noise mitigation (dogs, yelling, sirens, emergency vehicles, etc.)

#5 – Ordinances

- Match (even improve if found necessary) the City of Medford's camping, loitering and lying ordinances for Ashland. Side "WALKS" are meant for walking as indicated. They should not be allowed to be obstructed or used as the foundation of some kind of make shift shelter or resting area.
- I would include the City of Medford's ordinance that people are NOT allowed to hand anything out of a vehicle to an individual (note: there is a sign posted of this ordinance at the second Medford exit on the left hand side of the exit at the intersection heading towards Target). Similarly, signs like this should be posted in our community.
- Businesses that require shopping carts should be held accountable for their property. Transients pushing said carts are pushing stolen property. I would ask that an ordinance or law be considered so that carts found in the possession of such transients, under an ordinance, could be charged with theft and if the property owner is not willing to charge the individual with stealing then they themselves should somehow be held accountable for their property that is now littered about our community. It is my understanding that a signed Trespass Affidavit should, at minimum, allow police to have some kind of follow through on this matter although a more concise ordinance specific to this matter should be drafted.

#6 - Voluntary written commitment from the City that they will not expand beyond the existing property at 2200 Ashland St. without engaging the neighborhood prior to purchasing/annexing or otherwise acquiring land for expansion of homeless services in the immediate area.

There is growing concern and frustration about how the city of Ashland is managing the shelter project. From the location being hastily purchased without any public input or process, to a very rushed, chaotic planning and execution of the shelter itself, Ashland residents and business owners are asking for transparency and involvement in the process every step of the way.

Homeless Shelter

Councilors, Mayor,

I am speaking on behalf of our neighborhood group that has come together as a reaction to the hasty purchase of 2200 Ashland St. The location for an additional shelter in south Ashland. Our group has felt left out of the process since the beginning. We were not notified in due time and you purchased it with state funds without regard for our thoughts, concerns and opinions on the matter. We are your constituents. We are the people living directly across from and all around a haphazardly put together shelter. So, yes, we are frustrated, confused, worried, anxious, disappointed that you are now planning to rush-vote the contracts and plans and include a resolution that could potentially allow for much more than the allotted 30 to 40 beds to include tents, cars, pets, pallets, and stolen grocery carts stacked mile high with black plastic bags; and all surrounded by low barriers and fencing. This is very concerning for the safety of our neighborhoods.

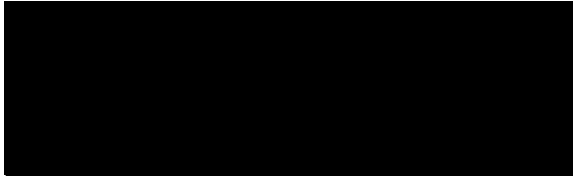
The current contract and resolution leaves us with more unknowns and questions than solutions. It is irresponsible for you to move forward with a project such as this without laying the foundation to protect the people who live in these neighborhoods.

Jodie Bunch

October 16, 2023

TO: Mayor Graham and the Council of Ashland: Homeless Problems, South Ashland

FROM: Elizabeth Cross



My home is located on Middle Clay Street, Ashland. The property was purchased in 1968: Approximately fifty years ago, the South Ashland community experienced a lot of changes; many pastures and fields became commercial and housing developments. However, the change was gradual and acceptable.

Unfortunately, in the past year the population of homeless people greatly increased; This change had a negative impact to the environment of the businesses and the residents. As an example, I have been approached, on my property and during my walks to the nearby stores, by angry homeless individuals. Their behavior was threatening!

THE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE has submitted written GOALS to the council; together we hope to solve some of our homeless problems. We need your help NOW to create and/or to adopt the necessary policies, rules, ordinances, etc, to keep South Ashland Safe and Healthy.

Thank you for the continued service to Ashland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Cross".

Elizabeth Cross

From: [Russ Silbiger](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: With Utter Contempt
Date: Sunday, October 15, 2023 10:58:41 AM

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

With Utter Contempt For The Citizens Tuesday the Council will (finally) appoint a replacement elected official 'The City Recorder', Apparently the found a staff person who lives in Ashland to take the job. First, the Council needed to decide on the process to do this. They did it secretly, behind closed doors. That was illegal. Second, they never, ever, asked the Citizens of Ashland if anyone was interested in becoming The City Recorder. They just picked who they wanted. That is unethical. That is not how you pick an elected official. Third, they don't give us ANY information on who this person that is being gifted this important position: The City Recorder is (well was) the citizen's eyes and ears at City Hall. Not anymore Just a name. We have to take their 'word' that this person is qualified. That this person can do the job. That this person wants the job. Imagine if a Mayor's position became available again, the only opportunity for the public to participate AT ALL, from the process to the choice was when Council approved a name that was some staff's choice. That's exactly what Council will do Tuesday And they won't care

From: [City of Ashland, Oregon](#)
To: [City Recorder](#); [Dorinda Cottle](#)
Subject: Council Public Testimony Form Submitted
Date: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 11:28:15 AM

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

*** FORM FIELD DATA ***

Full Name: **Anonymous**

Phone:

Email: **Anonymous@anonymous.com**

Meeting Date : **10/17/23**

Type of Testimony: **WRITTEN**

Written Testimony: **I urge you to look at whether or not Alissa Kolodzinski has any relevant employment experience to fulfill the duties as City Recorder, other than the fact that she resides in Ashland. She has already been handed a considerable promotion without a proper process in her less than one year of working for the City. Don?t let this be a repeat of poor hiring practices. This is one of the highest paying jobs and shouldn?t just be handed to someone based on where they live.**

*** USER INFORMATION ***

SubscriberID: **-1**

SubscriberUserName:

SubscriberEmail:

RemoteAddress: **66.241.70.76**

RemoteHost: **66.241.70.76**

RemoteUser:

From: [City of Ashland, Oregon](#)
To: [City Recorder](#); [Dorinda Cottle](#)
Subject: Council Public Testimony Form Submitted
Date: Saturday, October 14, 2023 1:39:13 PM

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

*** FORM FIELD DATA ***

Full Name: **Jan Weydemeyer**

Meeting Date : **October 17, 2023**

Type of Testimony: **WRITTEN**

Written Testimony: **Dear Mayor Graham and Member of City Council: I am writing to request that the City Council and Mayor postpone the vote on Resolution 2023-25. Resolution 2023-25 is not in the interest of our community. The process has not been transparent and the citizens who will be most affected have not had the opportunity to provide input in a meaningful way. Implementation of this resolution would have severe impacts on the Clay Street neighborhood. We were not included in the planning process and only invited to comment after investments were made and contracts drawn up. This site is adjacent to our homes and a grossly inappropriate location for social services of this magnitude. Our neighborhood already bears more than it's share of subsidized housing and social services. The effects of this include: trespassing, stockpiled items, sites with cardboard, tarps and debris, shopping carts with personal items, garbage strewn all over the place, human feces and needles. These items are found along the bike path and the railroad ROW, in Clay Street Park and neighborhood parks on a regular basis. Locating additional services in this area would exacerbate existing problems. Maybe you are not aware that the level of trespassing, noise and garbage have been increasing in our area. We deal with nuisance activities and public safety issues on a daily basis and have been tolerating this for a long time. The police do not have adequate resources to address these problems. We elected you to represent us. Please do so by allowing us to participate in decisions that directly affect our neighborhood. Thank you, Jan Weydemeyer**

*** USER INFORMATION ***

SubscriberID: **-1**

SubscriberUserName:

SubscriberEmail:

RemoteAddress: **66.241.70.76**

RemoteHost: **66.241.70.76**

RemoteUser:

From: [City of Ashland, Oregon](#)
To: [City Recorder](#); [Dorinda Cottle](#)
Subject: Council Public Testimony Form Submitted
Date: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 9:43:59 AM

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

*** FORM FIELD DATA ***

Full Name: **Allison Wildman**

Phone:

Email:

Meeting Date : **10/17/23**

Type of Testimony: **WRITTEN**

Written Testimony: **We are dismayed and frustrated with the process (or lack of) the City of Ashland has taken to purchase property without any public input and designate it as ANOTHER homeless shelter in south Ashland within a quarter mile of an existing shelter. It is irresponsible for you to move forward with a project such as this without laying the foundation to protect your constituents. I would like to request that the council move to amend that or refuse to approve the contract with OHRA "as is" unless all the local stakeholders (neighbors, businesses, and schools) have a way to have their concerns and voices heard. We are not sure that any of our concerns have been passed to OHRA, and this would make communication even less likely. The city represents the voice of the people, and for them to not have any say in the shelter operations seems ill-advised. I would also like you to postpone the vote approving 'A Resolution to Approve Transitional Housing Accommodations' until the community, city, and OHRA can come to terms on what is acceptable within the immediate area of a residential neighborhood. The language in the Resolution does not give our neighborhood confidence that there is a true plan for the use of the space and it is unacceptable to pass something without your due diligence to protect Ashland residents from the fallout of a poorly executed shelter plan. I would also like you to add the following requests to your next agenda and work to implement them immediately for the safety and protection of your constituents. #1 ? Immediately update the ordinances for south Ashland to match the Enhanced Law Enforcement Area currently in place downtown so that our police are empowered to give citations, etc. (We would like this applied from the intersection of Siskiyou & Ashland St to Ashland Hills Inn, and from East Main to Siskiyou Blvd.) #2 - Increase police presence in the defined area before Nov 1 - kiosk, increase beat, morning and evening sweeps (daily); One officer designated as our point person for communication/updates. #3 - Data analytics provided by the city - re: baseline vs monthly reports; Measuring all City, EMT/Fire, and Police calls (such as requests for clean-up and trash removal, general nuisance, noise), whether citations were issued (and if so, for what) #4 - Visual/sound barrier in the immediate area of the building before Nov 1 - privacy, trash mitigation plan (in hotspot areas), noise mitigation (dogs, yelling, sirens, emergency vehicles, etc.) #5 - Match City of Medford camping ordinances #6 - NO purchasing/annexing or otherwise acquiring land for expansion of homeless services in the immediate area.**

*** USER INFORMATION ***

SubscriberID: **-1**

SubscriberUserName:

SubscriberEmail:

From: [City of Ashland, Oregon](#)
To: [City Recorder](#); [Dorinda Cottle](#)
Subject: Council Public Testimony Form Submitted
Date: Monday, October 16, 2023 4:25:03 PM

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

*** FORM FIELD DATA ***

Full Name: **Ruth COULTHARD**

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Meeting Date : **October 17, 2023**

Type of Testimony: **WRITTEN**

Written Testimony: **I have met and talked with neighbors since your informational meeting on the new shelter. The sharing has been thoughtful and practical. It seem to me that our request that you set up a southside exclusion zone modeled after the one downtown would help the police deal with repeat offenders. I hope that you also consider with our police if parts of the Medford ordinances related to homeless camping are desirable to enact in Ashland. During the covid pandemic, the bottom of Clay St Park behind my home was a homeless campsite. In my bedroom at night I was subjected to the sounds of foul mouthed arguments that lasted hours. One day I heard fighting where a young man's life was threatened. Garbage was everywhere. It looked like there were mountains of free food that no one wanted except the rats who flourished. "Not in my backyard" sounds like an accusation, but when it is literally in your backyard, It is a reasonable demand. I never want to experience that chaos again. I am very pleased to see the police regularly patrolling our part of town now and that the debris field by the tracks near my house has been cleaned up. It has helped reassure me of your attention. Thanks for hearing our requests.**

*** USER INFORMATION ***

SubscriberID: **-1**

SubscriberUserName:

SubscriberEmail:

RemoteAddress: **66.241.70.76**

RemoteHost: **66.241.70.76**

RemoteUser: