



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST (revised 09/22/08)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 12/22/11
Agenda Item #: R.4
Est. Start Time: 10:00 am
Date Submitted: 12/14/11

Agenda Title: Proclamation in response to the great need in our community to support a one-year pilot with religious institutions and not-for-profit organizations to provide overnight sleeping options for individuals and families currently experiencing homelessness.

Note: If Ordinance, Resolution, Order or Proclamation, provide exact title. For all other submissions, provide a clearly written title sufficient to describe the action requested.

Requested Meeting Date: 12/22/11 **Amount of Time Needed:** 20 minutes
Department: District 1 – Commissioner Kafoury **Division:** Non-Dept.
Contact(s): Beckie Lee
Phone: 988-6796 **Ext.** 86796 **I/O Address:** 503/6th
Presenter(s): Commissioner Nick Fish; Barbara Willer; David Leslie – Executive Director, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon; Marc Jolin, JOIN.

General Information

1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

In response to the great need in our community, the Board will proclaim support of a one-year pilot with religious institutions and not-for-profit organizations to provide overnight sleeping options for individuals and families currently experiencing homelessness.

2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer this action affects and how it impacts the results.

Multnomah County is actively engaged with the City of Portland, non-profit providers, and the faith community in efforts to prevent and end homelessness. Despite our effective efforts, the economy is wreaking havoc on individuals and families. The need for emergency shelter and housing options continues to grow and more and more people are sleeping outside. The faith community is a committed partner of Multnomah County in our efforts to prevent and end homelessness. For example, 100% of shelter beds for homeless families supported by the County are offered in conjunction with faith communities. We simply would not be able to provide the services we are providing today without their support.

On November 17, Commissioner Kafoury and Commissioner Nick Fish from received a letter from

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) offering to take immediate action to help those sleeping outside. They specifically proposed offering small-scale overnight sleeping options for individuals in their cars, campers or trailers on the parking lots of religious institutions and not-for-profit organizations within the City of Portland and unincorporated Multnomah County. The impact to the rural areas of the County is slight with less than 10 religious institutions in operation outside the urban growth boundary. The proclamation acknowledges Board support of this effort as a one-year pilot of small-scale overnight sleeping options.

3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).

None.

4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.

Mere support for additional overnight sleeping options does not present any legal issue. It is the position of county staff that any issues that subsequently arise from actual overnight sleeping will not undermine the Board's support of this concept and will be resolved in a manner consistent with current practice.

5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.

The City of Portland adopted a resolution on Dec. 21st to enable the pilot program. Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is an association of faith communities who requested this action.

Required Signature

**Elected Official or
Department/
Agency Director:**



Date: 12/14/2011