



PORTLAND MAINE

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Health & Human Services Department
Douglas S. Gardner, Director

To: Mayor Mavodones and Members of the Portland City Council

From: Douglas Gardner, Dir. Health & Human Services Department 

Subject: **Task Force to Develop a Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness**

Date: November 17, 2011

The order you have before you establishes a Task Force to develop a Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in the City of Portland. As you will see from the order, Jon Jennings, President/General Manager of the Maine Red Claws, Suzanne McCormick, President/CEO of the United Way of Greater Portland and Councilor Dory-Ann Waxman have volunteered to serve as Tri-Chairs of the Task Force. The concept for this Task Force has been endorsed by the members of the Health & Recreation Committee and has been discussed by the Committee and with other community leaders for several months. It is worth noting that although the order is specific to the City of Portland, the plan will be developed with participation from surrounding communities. The final product of the Task Force will be a multi-year strategic plan that will incorporate best practices, leverage available resources, is consistent with other State and Federal plans and one that will consist of measurable objectives. The plan will address the unique needs of youth, single adults and families experiencing homelessness. The strategic plan will be presented to the Portland City Council in June of 2012. In addition to the standing members of the Task Force, a larger stakeholders group will participate in the planning process and inform the work of the Task Force. This larger stakeholders group will be comprised on advocates, social service providers, healthcare providers, public safety and other concerned or affected parties.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. I will be present at the November 21st City Council meeting if there are any questions or concerns related to this order.

NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES (MAYOR)
KEVIN J. DONOGHUE (1)
DAVID A. MARSHALL (2)
EDWARD J. SUSLOVIC (3)
CHERYL A. LEEMAN (4)

CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL

JOHN R. COYNE (5)
JOHN M. ANTON (A/L)
DORY RICHARDS WAXMAN (A/L)
JILL C. DUSON (A/L)

ORDER ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A STRATEGIC PLAN TO PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS AND APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THAT TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, the Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee (ESAC) data indicates that the number of people experiencing homeless in the City of Portland has increased by twenty percent (20%) since the recession began in 2008 and thirty-four percent (34%) of all new shelter intakes report being homeless for the first time, and

WHEREAS, the emergency shelter system in Portland does not have the capacity to meet the needs of all who are seeking shelter requiring the use of a Community Overflow Shelter on a nightly basis; a strategy that had not been used since 2005; and

WHEREAS, the US Interagency Council on Homeless has developed a Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness (*Opening Doors 2010*), the US Department of Veterans Affairs has also developed a Five Year Plan to End Homelessness Among Veterans, and the State's Homeless Council has developed a Plan to End and Prevent Homelessness, and

WHEREAS, local efforts to prevent and end homelessness in Greater Portland should be aligned with these plans to maximize our efforts, deploy best practices and leverage available resources,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED, that the Task Force to Develop a Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness is hereby established to study and make recommendations to prevent and end homelessness in the City of Portland.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the Task Force shall complete the following tasks:

1. Review and gain an understanding of the causal factors associated with homelessness, as well as the current community resources available to meet the unique needs of individuals experiencing homelessness;
2. Develop a multi-year strategic plan, including measureable objectives to reduce, prevent and end homelessness in the Greater Portland;
3. The strategic plan should focus on three areas; access to healthcare services, supportive and affordable housing, and prevention;
4. Convene a larger stakeholder group to include social service providers, advocates, consumers, community and business leaders, and public safety representatives to inform the work of the Task Force;
5. Develop a strategic plan to prevent and homelessness that can be endorsed by the Portland City Council and one that can be evaluated over time and modified if needed and provide that plan to the Council on or before June 5, 2012; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the following positions on the Task Force are hereby created and the named individuals appointed to those positions:

Tri-Chairs:

Suzanne McCormick, President/CEO United Way of Greater Portland
Jon Jennings, President/General Manager, Maine Red Claws
Dory-Ann Waxman, Community Member
; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the following organizations shall each appoint the designated number of members and any replacements for these members:

City Council Representative (1)
Mayor Appointment

Content Experts (2)
Tri-Chair Appointments

Homeless Service Providers (2)
Tri-Chair Appointments

Business Community Leaders (2)
Tri-Chair Appointments

Healthcare Organizations (2)
Tri-Chair Appointments

Community Member (2)
Tri-Chair Appointments

Housing Developer (1)
Tri-Chair Appointment
;and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the Mayor may appoint replacements if necessary for the Mayor and Council's appointees.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the Department of Health and Human Services shall provide staffing for the Task Force; and