

With big investment, state seeks local action on homelessness

Legislation aims to provide alternative shelter, assistance

SEEN FROM SEASIDE
R.J. MARX



Restrooms, showers, transportation. They seem like basic needs, but for the unsheltered and homeless, they are out of reach.

Oregon State Legislature House Bill 2006 requires local governments to approve applications for emergency shelter, regardless of any land use laws, if the application meets the criteria in the bill, League of Oregon Cities' Ariel Nelson said.

Emergency shelters must be located within an urban growth boundary or area zoned for rural residential use; comply with applicable building codes; and include sleeping and restroom facilities and adequate transportation access to commercial and medical services.

"This is in recognition that oftentimes our state land use process that's implemented at the local level has provided a barrier for when we're looking to quickly approve or site things like affordable housing and shelter," Nelson, a lobbyist and lawyer, said at Seaside's fourth forum on homelessness, held at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center last week.

The 2021 legislative session was a landmark for housing and homelessness, Nelson said. The Legislature approved a combined \$765 million dollars for affordable, permanent housing, homeless services, tenant support and more.

The need is acute, and not just in the big cities, Nelson said.

Twenty-five percent of people experiencing homelessness are in the Portland metro area. The rest are around the state, with the majority of that population — more than 3,000 people — in coastal counties and in southern Oregon, Nelson said. Coastal counties also see large concentrations of children living on their own or experiencing homelessness.

At an earlier forum, Amy Baker, the executive director of Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare, said Clatsop County has "by far" the greatest per capita rate of homelessness of any Oregon county.

House Bill 3115 aims to protect unsheltered Oregonians from fines or arrest for sleeping or camping on public property when there are no other options.

The bill says that any city or county law that regulates "the acts of sitting, lying, sleeping, or keeping warm and dry outside on public property must be objectively reasonable, based on the totality of the circumstances as



R.J. Marx
Mayor Jay Barber and Ariel Nelson of the League of Oregon Cities.

applied to all stakeholders, including persons experiencing homelessness."

The bill will bring more clarity to city ordinances that regulate these activities, Nelson said, clearly saying where and when camping activities are allowed and where they're not.

"It recognizes that what's objectively reasonable is going to look different in different communities," she said. "It's going to look different for a community like Seaside with your different factors, your size, than what's going to make sense in Portland, in Medford, or the eastern side of the state."

Cities and counties must comply by July 2023.

House Bill 3124, a change to an existing law, says that if local government or law enforcement is going to sweep or remove people from an established campsite, they have to provide more advanced notice.

"That used to be 24 hours, and that's now been extended to 72 hours to post notice," Nelson said.

House Bill 2100 looks at modernizing

Enrolled House Bill 2006

Sponsored by Representative KOTEK; Representatives CAMPOS, DEXTER, EVANS, FAHEY, GRAYBER, HOLVEY, KROPP, LEIF, MARSH, MCLAIN, MEEK, MORGAN, NATHANSON, NERON, NOBLE, REARDON, SOLLMAN, WILDE, WILLIAMS, ZIKA, Senator PATTERSON

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to housing; creating new provisions; amending ORS 203.082, 446.265 and 458.650; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. Sections 2 and 3 of this 2021 Act are added to and made a part of ORS chapter 197.

SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section, "emergency shelter" means a building or cluster of buildings that provides shelter on a temporary basis for individuals and families who lack permanent housing.

(2) A building or cluster of buildings used as an emergency shelter under an approval granted under section 3 of this 2021 Act or section 11, chapter 12, Oregon Laws 2020 (first special session):

(a) May resume its use as an emergency shelter after an interruption or abandonment of that use for two years or less, notwithstanding ORS 215.130 (7).

(b) May not be used for any purpose other than as an emergency shelter except upon application for a permit demonstrating that the construction of the building and its use could be approved under current land use laws and local land use regulations.

(3) An approval of an emergency shelter under section 3 of this 2021 Act or section 11, chapter 12, Oregon Laws 2020 (first special session) is void unless the shelter is operating within two years following the approval.

SECTION 3. (1) A local government shall approve an application for the development or use of land for an emergency shelter, as defined in section 2 of this 2021 Act, on any property, notwithstanding ORS chapter 195, 197, 197A, 215 or 227 or any statewide plan, rule of the Land Conservation and Development Commission or local land use regulation, zoning ordinance, regional framework plan, functional plan or comprehensive plan, if the emergency shelter:

(a) Includes sleeping and restroom facilities for clients;

(b) Will comply with applicable building codes;

(c) Is located inside an urban growth boundary or in an area zoned for rural residential use as defined in ORS 215.501;

(d) Will not result in the development of a new building that is sited within an area designated under a statewide planning goal relating to natural disasters and hazards, in-

Enrolled House Bill 2006 (HB 2006-A)

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House Bill 2006 establishes new guidelines for emergency shelter.



City Councilor Tita Montero, Barber and Nelson at last week's homelessness forum.

Oregon's homelessness system in how state and federal funds are disbursed around the state.

This was the fourth and final forum in this series, presented by Mayor Jay Barber and City Councilor Tita Montero. With information from the events, the city intends to develop strategies to address the home-

less in Seaside.

"Whatever we do going forward, it's going to require a number of groups and organizations working together and not-for-profit groups, churches, with the city, the county, all of us working together," Barber said. "It is not something that a single group can deal with and solve."

SaltLine wins Travel & Leisure, philanthropy honors

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

"When we check into hotels, we rarely think of the owners whose entrepreneurial spirit has created the luxurious accommodations we immerse ourselves in. And for Asian American hoteliers, bringing their visions to life often comes with a unique set of challenges."

So wrote journalist Rachel Chang in the June issue of Travel & Leisure. The magazine selected "13 Amazing Asian American-owned Hotels in the U.S.," a list that includes Seaside's SaltLine Hotel.

"We were very fortunate to get the honor because Travel & Leisure magazine is one of the leaders in the industry," co-owner and manager director Masudur Khan said. "During the pandemic, everybody worked really hard and it all came together."

He said the hotel, which opened one year ago, is almost 100% sold out every night.

Khan, who grew up in Bangladesh and moved to the United States when he was 28, is chairman of the board of directors of the Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association, a position he will hold until August.

In addition to honors for SaltLine, Khan was the Asian American Hotel Owners recipient of the Outreach Award for Philanthropy. Khan and employees of Seaside Lodging have contributed to Distressed Children and Infants International, a U.S.-based non-profit organization established at Yale University in 2003 and headquartered in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The group supports initiatives for children in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Nicaragua.



R.J. Marx photos
ABOVE: Staff of the SaltLine Hotel in Seaside. The hotel was named by Travel & Leisure magazine one of the 13 top hotels owned by Asian Americans. BELOW: Clarann Register, Tazkyah Khan, Rida Kauser, Masudur Khan and Asran Farooqui.



PUBLIC MEETINGS

Contact local agencies for latest meeting information and attendance guidelines.

MONDAY, JULY 12

Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., cityofseaside.us

TUESDAY, JULY 19

Seaside Planning Commission, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

TUESDAY, JULY 20

Seaside Planning Commission, 6 p.m., work session, 989 Broadway.

Gearhart Small Business Committee, 6 p.m., www.cityofgearhart.com.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21

Seaside Tourism Advisory Committee, 3 p.m., 989 Broadway.

Gearhart Parks Master Plan Citizens Advisory Committee, www.cityofgearhart.com.

MONDAY, JULY 26

Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., 989 Broadway.

TUESDAY, JULY 27

Seaside Airport Advisory Committee, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

Gearhart City Council and Small Business Committee work session, 6:30 p.m., www.cityofgearhart.com.

TUESDAY, AUG. 3

Seaside Community Center Commission, 10 a.m., 1225 Avenue A.

Seaside Library Board of Directors, 4:30 p.m., 1131 Broadway St.

Seaside Planning Commission, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 4

Seaside Improvement Commission, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.



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