2021 – 2022 CITY COUNCIL GOAL 12

Define & Implement City Strategies to Address Homelessness in Seaside
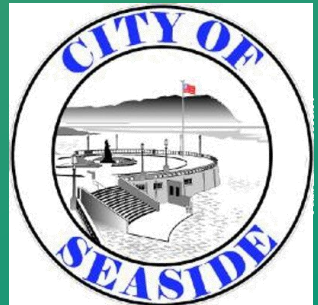
RECOMMENDATIONS OF HOMELESSNESS THINK TANK SEASIDE

November 8, 2021

Councilor Tita Montero

PHASES

- ✓ Inquiry
- ✓ Gather Information and Input
- ✓ Brainstorm Possible Strategies
- ✓ Recommend front-runner Strategies for Adoption
- • Council selects Strategies for Implementation
- • Implementation

Recommendations November 8, 2021
Councilor Tita Montero

January 29, 2021   Council Sets Goals for 2021-2022

FORUMS

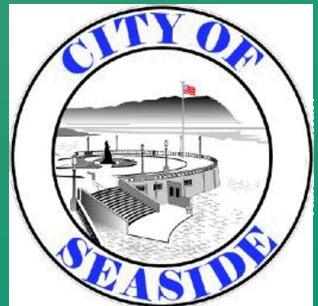May 6, 2021   Forum 1: Faith Based Roundtable

May 13, 2021   Forum 2: Setting the Stage

June 3, 2021   Forum 3: Community Discussion

June 28, 2021   City Departments' Sharing

July 1, 2021   Forum 4: Presentation regarding new state laws re homelessness
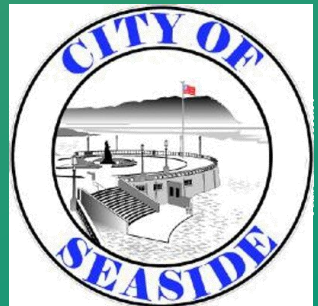
Recommendations November 8, 2021
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HOMELESSNESS THINK TANK SEASIDE

- Rick Bowers, activist
- Nelle Moffett, facilitator, activist
- Frank Morrison, ED Community House, Longview
- Viviana Mathews, ED Clatsop Community Action
- Sharon Johnson, community member
- Seamus McVey, community member
- Masud Khan, community member/developer
- Ariel Nelson, League of Oregon Cities
- Monica Steele, Clatsop County Asst. Manager
- Dale McDowell, Seaside Public Works Director
- Police Chief Dave Ham
- Tita Montero, Seaside City Councilor
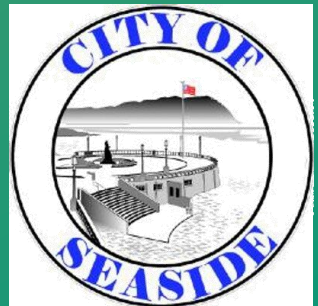- Jay Barber, Seaside City Mayor

Recommendations November 8, 2021
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HOMELESSNESS THINK TANK SEASIDE

➢ September 10   Brainstorm: What do city staff, housed residents & unhoused residents need

➢ September 17   Brainstorm strategies for working with/relieving/solving/reducing homelessness

➢ September 24   Brainstorm barriers to each strategy

➢ September 30 Brainstorm how to overcome barriers to each strategy

➢ October 8   Group consensus: Narrow to 2-3 strategies for each type to recommend to city council for implementation

➢ October 15   Group consensus: List up to 6 recommendations for actions to overcome barriers/reach successful implementation

➢ October 22   Review Recommendations

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HOMELESSNESS THINK TANK SEASIDE
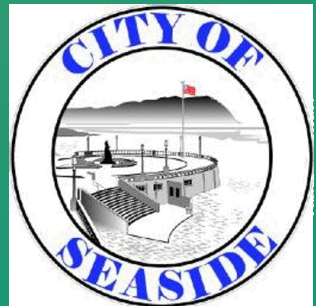### NEEDS INPUT

Public Works

- Public works needs to understand requirements of unsheltered – limited resources.
- Public works needs understanding and community awareness of what helps and what adds to the responsibilities carried by Public Works.
- Public Works needs sufficient funding and staffing to address issues that arise from homelessness.
- Public Works needs direction from City Council and City Manager on its role and function related to issues that arise from homelessness.
- Need for housed folks to understand limitations of city staff to work with homeless. Laws are changing and tricky to navigate (camping, shelters, etc.). Patience ….

Police Department

- Needs city ordinance update regarding -Right to rest -Where to allow/not allow –Consequences (Fines don't help.)
- Needs udated policies in alignment with ordinance.
- Needs clarity regarding moving back & forth and when to restart clock (72hr)?
- Needs consistent, clear messaging / communication with public to/from city.
- Needs legal places for people who are homeless to be -shelter for homeless
- -affordable housing -RV camping … where?

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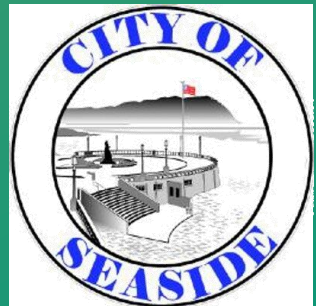
NEEDS INPUT

Social Services (CCA)

- Need mental health support / coordination
- Budget to support expenses of county liaisons
- Need coordination with Police Departments

Businesses

- Need to present a clean and safe appearance of city (regarding trash, pan handling, presence of people who are homeless in business areas)
- Need ability to communicate with unsheltered
- Need affordable housing for current employees and to attract talented staff
- Need for effective strategies to remove abandoned vehicles in parking lot
- Need for easy to find information on resources in the community (e.g. how to get into Helping Hands, support structures, housing …).
- Need for people who know about resources to share knowledge. How do we help?
- Need more resources in community; local support, resources, and services in Seaside (instead of bus tickets to Astoria).
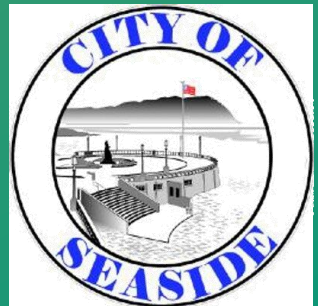
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HOMELESSNESS THINK TANK SEASIDE

NEEDS INPUT

Housed Citizens

- Need for privacy, safety, respect
- Need for taxes being well spent and appreciated
- Need to retain property values
- Need respect for cleanliness, order, beauty and pride in our city
- Need NOT to be judged and the need to judge
- Respectful of everyone's (property owners') space
- Safety in forested areas.
- Need understanding, education about the unhoused population and the many causes of homelessness
- Need personal contact opportunities to develop empathy and relate to individuals
- Need education about the diversity of the unsheltered population (visible and invisible unsheltered population (e.g. couch surfing, rv's), unsheltered vs. transients)
- Need educational opportunities to understand each other and to see from multiple perspectives; "See each other for the people we are."
- Need for respect (in each direction)
- Need education on the causes of homelessness (systemic issues).

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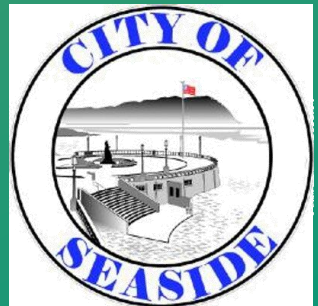# HOMELESSNESS THINK TANK SEASIDE

NEEDS INPUT

County

- Needs more resources
- Needs information for how to best work with the cities to provide resources (e.g. land)
- Needs to coordinate planning & zoning with cities

Service Providers, Local Governments

- Need support for finding and applying for grant money federal, state, and private
- Need support to keep resource information accurate and up to date
- Need for integration of information and services within Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) constraints
- ?

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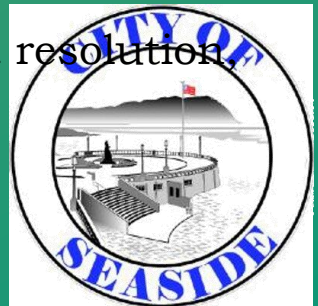# HOMELESSNESS THINK TANK SEASIDE

NEEDS INPUT

Unhoused
- Need for respect, safety, nurture, healthcare, hope, survival
- Need for a consistent mailing address
- Need basic resources (i.e. money, place to charge phone, dry place to sleep, toilet, showers, trash containers)
- Need a safe, dry place to store their possessions so they don't have to carry them around all day
- Need a wash and dry their clothes, blankets, etc.
- Need access to helpful information (i.e., how to find housing if it exists (accurate & up-to-date information, accurate referrals, one-stop places to apply).
- Need for mental health support
- Need for community
- Need for accurate information on affordable housing NOHA wait-list for vouchers
- Need more availability of affordable housing at multiple levels (half-way recovery, ¾ transitional, subsidized, group housing, workforce housing, pets allowed, children allowed)
- Need for education on basic life skills (i.e., budgeting, interviewing, communication, conflict resolution, healthcare)
- Need for employment opportunities
- Need to be clean and dry for interviews

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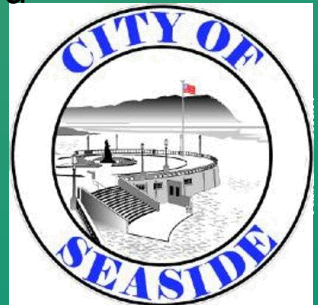Councilor Tita Montero

HOMELESSNESS THINK TANK STRATEGIES

- **Establish partnership with nonprofits and business community** to contribute to homelessness initiatives . **Establish collaborative group** that encompasses all **government agencies** in the county.
- **Establish city work group to review/update applicable city codes and ordinances as well as comprehensive plan.**
- **Establish an oversight group,** including representatives from the various agencies and government bodies, (1) **to plan, manage, evaluate, and integrate actions** to solve issues of homelessness for individuals and (2) to **create an integrated system that provides a safety net** so that individuals do not become homeless.(3) **identify and publicly communicate any impediments** to completing number one and number two. **Employ a funding specialist** who can write grants, is familiar with HUD opportunities and requirements and can establish funding sources and partnerships
- **Create a range of different types of housing** that takes into account varying needs and results in multiple sites. Prioritization for accomplishment: 1: Warming Shelter 2: Navigation center 3: Managed carpark 4: Transitional housing   5: Permanent supportive housing.
- **Establish methods of communication and interaction for all residents** to foster knowledge and understanding, reduce fears: 1. interpersonal activities; 2. personal stories   3. successes   4. data/facts sharing
- **Employ designated homeless liasion within city structure**

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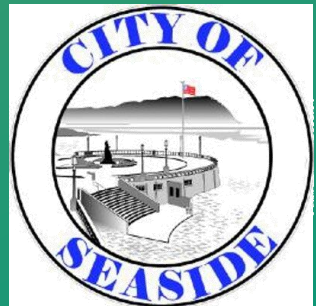Councilor Tita Montero

HOMELESSNESS THINK TANK RECOMMENDATION 1

REACH OUT
RE-ESTABLISH COUNTY WIDE ELECTED OFFICIALS WORK GROUP

County & municipalities' elected officials were meeting annually into 2019. Establish a countywide collaboration and coordination regarding homeless needs and initiatives.

PRIORITY: 1/CONCURRENT

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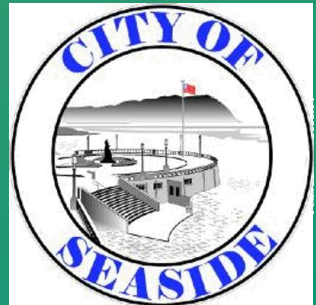# HOMELESSNESS THINK TANK RECOMMENDATION 2

REVIEW AND UPDATE
APPLICABLE CITY CODES AND ORDINANCES
TO MEET NEW STATE STATUTES

Option: Direct City Attorney to review ordinances and provide list of those which need to be updated by 1st council meeting in January, 2022

Option: Establish work group to review/update city codes and ordinances. Options for this group include updating codes/ordinances individually and/or en masse

PRIORITY: 1/CONCURRENT

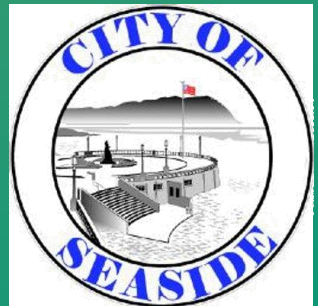Recommendations November 8, 2021
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HOMELESSNESS THINK TANK RECOMMENDATION 3

ASSURE ACTION PLANS AND ACTION
THROUGH ESTABLISHMENT OF OVERSIGHT GROUP
AND
CONTRACTING FOR HOUSING INITIATIVES MANAGER

Contractor would be knowledgeable in homelessness/housing issues and strategies, including working with HUD and Continuums of Care as well as have successful grant writing experience. While work groups would be established, contractor would coordinate and oversee progress towards initiatives,; provide central contact and coordination; create and coordinate external communications; reach out and involve community members to include churches, non-profits, and agencies; track and report results.

PRIORITY: 1/CONCURRENT

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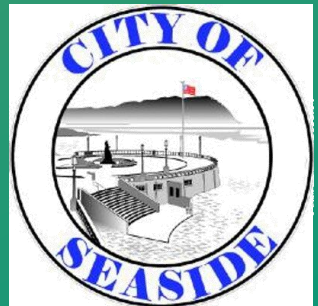Councilor Tita Montero

HOMELESSNESS THINK TANK RECOMMENDATION 4

ESTABLISH A MANAGED 'CAR PARK'
TO
PROVIDE ABILITY TO COMPLY WITH ORS.

Option: Lot on Necanicum at 10th/11th has, for all intents and purposes, already become a 'car park' for homeless individuals living in trailers, RV's and cars. Acknowledge this reality and assert city's responsibility by enforcing rules and limits for health/safety and providing oversight for safety on a 'pilot' basis, complying with ORS and providing guidance for public safety and public works staff.

Option: Find land and partner to establish a car park which complies with ORS.

PRIORITY: 2/CONCURRENT

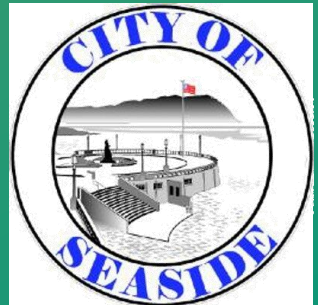Recommendations November 8, 2021
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HOMELESSNESS THINK TANK RECOMMENDATION 5

PARTNER TO ESTABLISH
WARMING SHELTER AND/OR NAVIGATION CENTER

Option: A warming shelter could be established first and become a navigation center to fulfill needs throughout the year.

PRIORITY: 2/CONCURRENT
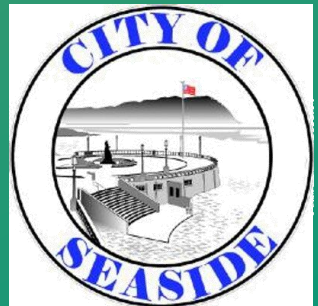
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HOMELESSNESS THINK TANK RECOMMENDATION 6

CONTRACT POSITION
TO
SUPPORT WORK OF HOMELESS LIAISONS

Coordinate with homeless liaisions ; work with agencies to make sure that those who have been housed remain housed.; provides case and information management
Reports to Housing Initiative Manager; provides support and assistance

PRIORITY: 3
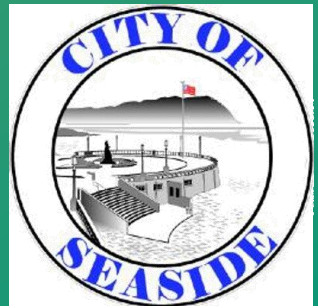
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HOMELESSNESS THINK TANK RECOMMENDATION 7

ESTABLISH TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Goal: XX# transitional housing units by 202?

PRIORITY: long term

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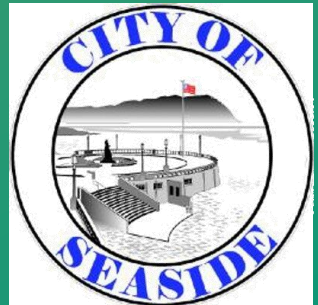Councilor Tita Montero

HOMELESSNESS THINK TANK RECOMMENDATION 8

ESTABLISH PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Goal: XX# permanent supportive housing units by 202?

PRIORITY: long term

Recommendations November 8, 2021
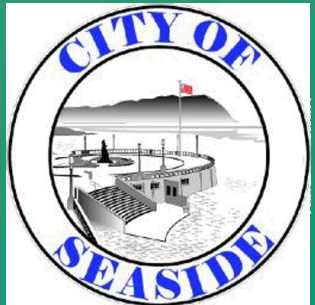Councilor Tita Montero

HOMELESSNESS THINK TANK

ISSUES STILL NEEDING TO BE ADDRESSED

o CAMPGROUNDS, e.g., MILL PONDS, RESIDENTIAL AREAS
o CONGREGATION AROUND PUBLIC BATHROOMS
o INDIVIDUALS CAMPING/LIVING UNDER BRIDGES

PRIORITY: ??

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HOMELESSNESS THINK TANK

80%

80% of people experiencing homelessness are temporarily homeless due to sudden changes in their lives

homelessness feels like a problem that is too big, too complicated to address.

Ask people about their experience with homelessness.

50% of homeless women and children are fleeing domestic violence

Keep an open mind.
Listen.

Don't be afraid to share with your friends and family what you've learned.

45% of adults experiencing homelessness have worked in the last 30 days

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CITY OF SEASIDE