

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING METRO	)	ORDINANCE NO. 25-1530
SECTION 11.01.130 (ADMINISTRATIVE COST	)	
RECOVERY) CONCERNING USE OF	)	Introduced by Council President Lynn
ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS AND DECLARING	)	Peterson
AN EMERGENCY	)	

WHEREAS, the greater Portland region is facing a severe and persistent housing affordability and homelessness crisis, which endangers the health and safety of thousands of our unhoused neighbors. Homelessness is a traumatic and dehumanizing experience that no person should have to endure, regardless of their circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the housing affordability and homelessness crisis in the greater Portland region impacts us all and requires collective and individual action from every person, business, and local government in the region; and

WHEREAS, on February 25, 2020, the Metro Council referred to the Metro area voters a personal and business income tax for the purposes of funding Supportive Housing Services in the Metro region (the “Supportive Housing Services Measure”), which was identified as Metro Measure 26-210; and

WHEREAS, on May 19, 2020, the Metro Area voters approved Measure 26-210, thus establishing a one percent personal income tax on high income earners and a one percent business profits income tax on businesses that gross \$5 million annually; and

WHEREAS, Measure 26-210 authorized Metro to provide funding to local governments for the provision of supportive housing services; and

WHEREAS, by adoption of Ordinance Nos. 20-1452, 20-1453, and 20-1454, Measure 26-210 has been codified in Metro Code; and

WHEREAS, through the hard work of Metro’s County implementation partners and service providers around the region, the regional Supportive Housing Services (“SHS”) program has in its first three years of implementation helped thousands of households avoid or escape homelessness, including funding more than 6,200 housing placements, more than 15,000 eviction preventions through regional rent assistance, and the creation or sustaining of more than 1,800 temporary shelter units; and

WHEREAS, despite these initial successes, the launch of the regional SHS program occurred during a time of profound trials and upheaval in the region and nation, including the impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic on economic opportunity, public health, and public safety, which together exacerbated longstanding racial and economic inequality and lack of opportunity in the region; and

WHEREAS, these factors contributed to an increase in unsheltered homelessness in the Portland region between 2020 and 2023 according to the annual Point-in-Time count, deepening public concern and further complicating and compounding challenges in investments to address this need; and

WHEREAS, after Metro’s tax collection costs are paid, Metro retains five percent of the SHS tax collections to administer and oversee the Supportive Housing Services Program, including convening and supporting the Regional Oversight Committee; establishing a regional homelessness data collection and reporting program; and supporting tri-county regional collaboration; and

WHEREAS, every action must be taken to minimize suffering, particularly for the unsheltered residents in the region; and

WHEREAS, near-term action is needed to provide funding for strategic, one-time investments to local implementation partners currently experiencing urgent need and risks to federal funds; and

WHEREAS, the Metro Council makes the following factual and legal findings:

A. The Oregon Constitution Article XI, Section 14(4) gives Metro “jurisdiction over matters of metropolitan concern as set forth in the charter of the district.”

B. The Metro Council has previously determined that homelessness and affordable housing are matters of metropolitan concern as that term is used in the Oregon Constitution and the Metro Charter, thus giving Metro jurisdiction to legislate regarding these issues; and

C. Amending Metro Code to authorize use of designated regional administrative funds for distribution to local implementation partners for specific, one-time purposes is a legitimate public purpose and necessary to protect the vital interests of those that are experiencing homelessness or likely to become homeless. Therefore, it is appropriate and necessary for the Metro Council to act legislatively to amend Metro Code Section 11.01.130 regarding the use of SHS funds, now therefore,

THE METRO COUNCIL ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Metro Code Section 11.01.130 (Administrative Cost Recovery) is amended as set forth in Exhibit A, with inserted text underlined and deleted text in strikethrough.
2. That this ordinance being necessary for the immediate preservation of public health, safety and welfare, an emergency is declared to exist, and this ordinance takes effect immediately upon adoption pursuant to Metro Charter Section 38(1).

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 17th day of April 2025.

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Lynn Peterson, Council President

Attest:

Approved as to Form:

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Georgia Langer, Acting Recording Secretary

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Carrie MacLaren, Metro Attorney