BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPOSING AN   )   ORDINANCE NO. 20-1442
INCOME TAX FOR SUPPORTIVE HOUSING   )
SERVICES SUBJECT TO VOTER APPROVAL   )   Introduced by the Metro Council

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

WHEREAS, an estimated 3,123 to 4,935 households in the greater Portland region need supportive housing services, and thousands more need housing assistance, according to the February 2020 ECONorthwest report entitled "Potential Sources and Uses of Revenue to Address the Region's Homeless Crisis";

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, elected official, and resident that calls the region home;

WHEREAS, the homelessness crisis is an issue of scale and services do not yet match the scope of the crisis;

WHEREAS, additional revenue is required to scale services to meet the needs and scope of the crisis;

WHEREAS, Chapter III, Section 11 of the Metro Charter, entitled "Voter Approval of Certain Taxes," provides that "any ordinance of the Council imposing broadly based taxes of general applicability on the personal income, business income, payroll, property, or sales of goods or services of all, or a number of classes of, persons or entities in the region requires approval of the voters of Metro before taking effect"; and

WHEREAS, Metro Council intends to refer to the voters a measure that would approve of the imposition of an income tax to fund homeless prevention, supportive housing, rent assistance and other services that stabilize people experiencing homelessness and housing instability; and Metro will work with local government partners, service providers, and other stakeholders to create a regional program; now therefore,

THE METRO COUNCIL ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Beginning tax year 2021, a tax of one percent is imposed on the entire taxable income of every resident of the district subject to tax under ORS chapter 316 and upon the taxable income of every nonresident that is derived from sources within the district which income is subject to tax under ORS chapter 316; provided however, that (a) only residents with a taxable income of at least $125,000 per taxable year or at least $250,000 if filing jointly are subject to the tax; and (b) only nonresidents with a taxable income of $125,000 per taxable year, or at least $250,000 if filing jointly, from sources within the district are subject to the tax. Further, the tax applies to that portion of the income that exceeds $125,000 if filing individually or $250,000 if filing jointly.

2. In accordance with Metro Charter Chapter III, Section 11, the income tax imposed in paragraph 1 will not take effect until approved by the voters.
3. Metro Council will take all necessary actions to implement this ordinance, including the referral of the Supportive Housing Services Ballot Measure, attached as Exhibit A, to obtain voter approval of an income tax.
4. Upon passage of the Supportive Housing Services Ballot Measure the Metro Council will take further action to establish rules to enforce and implement the tax imposed by the measure. This may include rules regarding penalties, interest, filing dates, required forms and documentation, residency determinations for income tax payment purposes, refunds and deficiencies, audit authority, overpayments, estimated payments, exemptions, appeals from income determinations, legal collection actions and any other provision deemed necessary to effectively and efficiently administer the tax and achieve its purposes.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this _____ day of February 2020.

_____
Lynn Peterson, Council President

Attest: Approved as to Form:

_____   _____
Nellie Papsdorf, Recording Secretary   Carrie MacLaren, Metro Attorney