



March 2, 2023

Ways & Means Joint Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
900 Court St., NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support of SB 5511 Appropriates moneys from General Fund to OHCS for biennial expenses. Testimony for Public Hearing on March 2, 2023

The City of Tigard respectfully requests your support of SB 5511 be contingent upon the Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) Department's budget being required to directly, and annually, provide funding to each city in Oregon to address and prevent homelessness.

Homelessness is at a crisis level in the City of Tigard. Approximately 60-80 houseless community members currently reside in Tigard and are unsheltered. Tigard is seeing an ongoing increase in the number of unhoused and housing insecure community members living in and moving through the city.

Managing the growing number of encampments, providing hygiene, sanitation, and outreach, and managing trash, debris, and biohazards are becoming more and more costly, and the health and safety of our housed and unhoused community members are increasingly being placed at risk.

Locally, we have invested significant resources over the past seven years, in debris removal, acquisition and rehabilitation of land for emergency shelters and safe sleep site, coordination and capacity for cities to coordinate local/regional services, sanitary services, and staff overtime for visible presence and connection to services.

Tigard works in partnership with local service providers, Washington County, faith-based organizations, and others. While we are fortunate to have established community partners to provide housing and health services, many of them are currently working at or beyond capacity and consistent, annual direct funding is required both to sustain services and respond to demand.

Providing each city direct funding ensures more rapid deployment of solutions to address and prevent homelessness and it ensures state resources are reaching Oregonians in all communities. Annual funding enables cities and their partners to effectively plan their community response, commit to specific outcomes, and clearly measure and communicate on progress towards those outcomes.

The City of Tigard strongly encourages the Joint Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development to pass SB 5511, with an amendment that directly, and annually, allocates funding from OHCS to each city in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Mayor Heidi Lueb
City of Tigard