

W LIVABLE CITY YEAR

City of Auburn

MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS POLICY INITIATIVE

Executive Summary

This project aims to analyze and evaluate the Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness and lists potential action items that could work towards mitigating homelessness in the City of Auburn. Through a preliminary assessment of the 61 action items the Task Force identified, we organized the most applicable and practical action items into two sets of potential policy recommendations.

Policy Recommendations

The bulleted items below indicate specific policy recommendations that combat concerns associated with homelessness in Auburn.

- Interagency meet-up between organizations affiliated with serving people experiencing unstable housing
- Student internship dedicated to developing and sharing the stories of those who are without permanent shelter
- Centralized information center for people to get connected to social services and resources
- Additional shelter in downtown Auburn
- Utilize the Housing First model to provide permanent housing for people who are chronically homeless



Informal Tent City set up in Portland, Oregon
Credit: WikiCommons, User: Visitor7

"The Task Force will seek to better understand the scope and causes of homelessness in Auburn, the systems in place to address homelessness, and will consider the range of concerns and ideas identified by the community."

- Task Force on Homelessness Mission Statement

Historical Insights & Connections

Since the late 1900s, overcrowded cities have motivated people to relocate to suburban areas causing urban sprawl. The movement of people of higher socioeconomic classes outside of the city center has created a spatial division between people of lower socioeconomic classes and people of higher socioeconomic classes. This can create a lack of broad social cohesion that can make combating problems such as affordable housing difficult.

Conclusion

Through historical insights and research concerning the implementation of successful homeless policies in the United States, this project aims to successfully transition the Mayor's Task Force list into actionable items. Strong policies for homelessness embrace inclusivity, respect, and a sense of common purpose between community members, service providers, and city government. Successful policies are ones that have found ways to provide meaningful and effective

physical and social resources, cultivates community understanding of the complexity of homelessness, and fosters a responsive service ecosystem that aids the transition of those without permanent shelter into more stable lives.

We believe the adoption of the policy recommendations offered in this report will be most successful with the support of all people residing in Auburn and the surrounding areas.

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