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***Beleaguered Homelessness Advisory Committee Challenges County: Commit to Reduce Unsheltered Homelessness by at Least One Person by 2025***

**Portland, OR** — In a powerful speech delivered to the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners, Portland City Council candidate Daniel DeMelo, chair of the Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) Community Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC), called upon the County to pledge to reduce the number of unsheltered homeless individuals by at least one person by the end of 2025.

“Our most critical recommendation is for Multnomah County to specifically commit to reducing unsheltered homelessness,” said DeMelo. “We ask that Multnomah County pledge to reduce the total number of unsheltered homeless people *by at least one person* by the end of 2025.”

Beyond the calls in the annual report of the JOHS CBAC for transparency, accountability, and the effective allocation of resources in addressing the homelessness crisis, the report specifically accuses Multnomah County Administration of violating Multnomah County Code by not supporting the committee's work for a 6 month period. "County administration has insufficiently provided timely support to the CBAC, hindering the committee's ability to effectively review and advise on budget matters," the report states.

The report also called for the County to design a pilot program for direct cash transfers to homeless individuals and develop a comprehensive plan to support the influx of migrants and asylum seekers.

Additionally, the CBAC asked the county to reconsider its proposed abolishment under the Homelessness Response Action Plan proposed by Multnomah County Chair Vega Pederson and Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler. Shockingly, the CBAC only learned of the County's proposal to abolish the committee through a County press release, without prior consultation.

“It's time for bold, decisive action,” DeMelo said. “We must demand that JOHS specifically commit to reducing unsheltered homelessness by at least one person by the end of 2025.”

DeMelo emphasized that focusing on reducing unsheltered homelessness would incentivize research demonstrating the effectiveness of reduction programs and help maintain community support for JOHS funding. He also highlighted the potential positive impact of reducing unsheltered homelessness on public health, safety, and economic vitality.

“Without a reduction in unsheltered homelessness, we may continue to witness disinvestment in our communities,” said DeMelo. “The path forward requires bold action and unwavering commitment.”

As a candidate for Portland City Council (District 3), DeMelo has made addressing homelessness a central focus of his campaign, and has committed to ending unsheltered homelessness within two years in office. His speech and the CBAC's recommendations come at a pivotal moment as Multnomah County grapples with a persistent homelessness crisis and the proposed restructuring of its homelessness response oversight.

For more information about Daniel DeMelo's campaign and his plan to address homelessness in Multnomah County, please visit [www.demelo4portland.com](http://www.demelo4portland.com) or email the campaign team at [connect@demelo4portland.com](mailto:connect@demelo4portland.com).