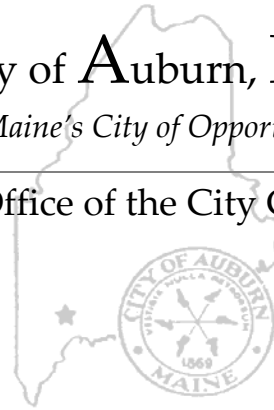


# City of Auburn, Maine

*"Maine's City of Opportunity"*

Office of the City Clerk



## Council Meeting Agenda Packet

November 2, 2009

This packet contains the City Council Agenda and supporting documents. The items in this packet are bookmarked in Adobe Acrobat .pdf format. You may need to click on the Bookmark tab on the left to open the Bookmark window. If you do not see a Bookmark tab on the left, you may need to select the Show/Hide Navigation Pane button in your icon toolbar above or update your version of the Adobe Reader. You can download the free Adobe Reader application at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com).



# City Council Meeting and Workshop November 2, 2009

## Agenda

### 5:30 p.m. Workshop

- A. Update: Merrill Hill and Land Lab (Glenn Aho & Laurie Smith) (20 min)
- B. Discussion: Transfer of ownership of the Knight House (Laurie Smith) (10 min)
- C. Update: Property Maintenance Code (David Galbraith) (10 min)
- D. Discussion: Regarding Approval of Overall Maximums for General Assistance (See Item #2) (Dot Meagher) (10 min)
- E. Discussion: State of Maine Railroad Investment Plan (See Item #4) (Roland Miller) (15 min)
- F. Discussion: Regulatory Signage (Stop Signs, One Way, No Parking, Yield etc.) (Glenn Aho) (20 min)

### 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting

**I. Consent Items**—All items listed with an asterisk (\*) are considered as routine and will be approved in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Councilor or citizen so requests. If requested, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered in the order it appears on the agenda.

\* Minutes of October 19, 2009

### II. Minutes

### III. Reports

Mayor

City Councilors

- Michael Farrell: L/A Jt. City Council Planning, Audit and Procurement, Neighborhood Stabilization Program Advisory Committee, LAWPC
- Bob Hayes: Railroad, Library, Audit and Procurement
- Dan Herrick: MMWAC, Auburn Housing
- David Young: A-L Airport, L/A Joint City Council Planning, Cable TV Adv Board
- Ray Berube: LAEGC, Planning Bd, L/A Joint City/School, ABDC, AVCOG, 9-1-1, Water District
- Bob Mennealy: Sewer District, University of Maine L-A,
- Ron Potvin: School Committee, LATC, L/A Joint City/School

City Manager

### IV. Communications, Presentations and Recognitions

**V. Open Session** — Members of the public are invited to speak to the Council about any issue directly related to City business which is *not* on this agenda.

## VI. Unfinished Business

110209-01 Ordinance – Amendment to Chapter 26, Article 9, Section 3 – Miller Alley – One Way (Second Reading)

## VII. New Business

110209-02 Ordinance – Amendment to Chapter 31 – Adoption of the Updated General Assistance Maximums (First Reading)

110209-03 Resolve – Acceptance of 10 Year Plan L/A Homelessness Needs Assessment Report

110209-04 Resolve – State of Maine Railroad Investment Plan

**VIII. Open Session** - Members of the public are invited to speak to the Council about any issue directly related to City business which is *not* on the agenda.

## IX. Future Agenda/Workshop Items

## X. ADJOURNMENT

-----  
**Executive Session:** On occasion, the City Council discusses matters which are required or allowed by State law to be considered in executive session. Executive sessions are not open to the public. The matters that are discussed in executive session are required to be kept confidential until they become a matter of public discussion. In order to go into executive session, a Councilor must make a motion in public. The motion must be recorded, and 3/5 of the members of the Council must vote to go into executive session. An executive session is not required to be scheduled in advance as an agenda item, although when it is known at the time that the agenda is finalized, it will be listed on the agenda. The only topics which may be discussed in executive session are those that fall within one of the categories set forth in Title 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405. Those applicable to municipal government are:

1. Discussion of personnel issues
2. Discussion or consideration of the condition, acquisition, or the use of real or personal property or economic development if premature disclosure of the information would prejudice the competitive or bargaining position of the body or agency.
3. Discussion of labor contracts and proposals and meetings between a public agency and its negotiators.
4. Consultations between a body or agency and its attorney
5. Discussion of information contained in records made, maintained or received by a body or agency when access by the general public to those records is prohibited by statute.
6. Discussion or approval of the content of examinations administered by a body or agency for licensing, permitting or employment purposes
7. Consultations between municipal officers and a code enforcement officer relating to enforcement matter pending in District Court.

**CITY OF AUBURN  
OCTOBER 19, 2009  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**PRESENT**

Mayor John T. Jenkins, Councilors Michael J. Farrell, Robert P. Hayes, Daniel R. Herrick, David C. Young, Ronald W. Potvin, and Robert C. Mennealy, City Manager Glenn Aho, Assistant City Manager Laurie Smith, Finance Director Tracy Roy and City Clerk Mary Lou Magno. Councilor Raymond C. Berube was absent. There were 27 people in the audience. Mayor Jenkins called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Auburn City Building with a salute to the flag.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilor Hayes moved to accept, approve and place on file the items marked with an asterisk. Seconded by Councilor Herrick. Vote: 5 Yeas, No Nays with Councilor Young abstaining.

**\*MINUTES OF OCTOBER 5, 2009**

Approved under consent agenda.

**REPORTS OF THE MAYOR**

Mayor Jenkins mentioned the following events: Rail Meeting at the Lewiston Public Library on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 pm; Tax Reform discussion, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm; Winterize L/A; and Wreaths Across America.

**REPORTS OF CITY COUNCILORS**

Councilors reported on their Council Committee Assignments

**REPORTS OF THE CITY MANAGER**

**FINANCE REPORT – MONTH OF SEPTEMBER**

Councilor Hayes moved to accept the Finance Report for the month of September as prepared and presented by Tracy Roy, Finance Director. Seconded by Councilor Potvin. Vote: 6 Yeas, No Nays.

**COMMUNICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND RECOGNITIONS**

**COMMUNICATION FROM DANVILLE JUNCTION GRANGE RE: WAIVE FEE FOR  
VICTUALERS LICENSE**

Approved under consent agenda.

**OPEN SESSION**

Larry Morrisette, PO Box 3037.

**CLOSED OPEN SESSION**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**1. ORDINANCE – AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 26, SECTION 4.4 – PARKING BAN  
& SECTION 4.4a – PLACING SNOW UPON ROADS AND SIDEWALKS  
(SECOND READING)**

Councilor Farrell moved for acceptance of second reading and final passage. Seconded by Councilor Potvin.

Vote: 6 Yeas, No Nays.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2. PUBLIC HEARING – GRAVEYARD/JUNKYARD APPLICATIONS FOR: M&P AUTO, INC., BUCK’S AUTO, MORRIS AUTO PARTS, INC., ISADORE T. MILLER CO., MAINE METAL RECYCLING AND RANDY’S AUTO PARTS**

Mayor Jenkins opened and closed the public hearing with no public comments.

Councilor Herrick moved to approved issuance of permits for the above named junkyards.

Seconded by Councilor Hayes. Vote: 6 Yeas, No Nays.

**3. PUBLIC HEARING – LIQUOR LICENSE AND SPECIAL AMUSEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS FOR RACK M UP BILLIARDS**

Mayor Jenkins opened the public hearing. Dwight Jordan, 65 Snell Hill Road, Turner, new owner of Rack M Up Billiards answered Councilors questions.

Councilor Farrell moved to approve both licenses contingent upon Fire Department approval.

Seconded by Councilor Hayes. Vote: 6 Yeas, No Nays.

**4. RESOLVE – APPROVAL OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES CHANGES**

Councilor Potvin moved for passage of the resolve. Seconded by Councilor Hayes. Vote: 6 Yeas, No Nays.

**5. ORDINANCE – AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 26, ARTICLE 9, SECTION 3 – MILLER ALLEY – ONE WAY (FIRST READING)**

Councilor Hayes moved for acceptance of first reading. Seconded by Councilor Young.

Eric Labelle, Director of Community Services, answered Councilors questions.

Vote: 6 Yeas, No Nays.

**6. RESOLVE – AUTHORIZE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO PURCHASE THE ENERGOV SOFTWARE PACKAGE ALONG WITH SUPPORTING HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE COMPONENTS**

Councilor Potvin moved for passage of the resolve. Seconded by Councilor Farrell.

The following made comments regarding the above resolve: Glenn Aho, City Manager, Laurie Smith, Assistant City Manager, Larry Morrissette, Phil Nadeau, Acting City Administrator, Lewiston and Francois Bussiere, 9 Winter Street.

Vote: 5 Yeas, No Nays with Councilor Mennealy out of the room.

**OPEN SESSION** Larry Morrissette, PO Box 3037; **CLOSED OPEN SESSION**

**FUTURE AGENDA/WORKSHOP ITEMS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT – 8:30 P.M.**

Councilor Farrell moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Potvin. Vote: 6 Yeas, No Nays.

**A TRUE RECORD**

**ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY CLERK**

# City Council

## Agenda Information Sheet

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**Council Meeting Date: 11/2/2009      Agenda Item No. 1**

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**SUBJECT:**

**ORDINANCE – AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 26, ARTICLE 9, SCHEDULE 3 –  
ONE WAY STREET – MILLER ALLEY (SECOND READING)**

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**INFORMATION:**

The Auburn Police Department has reported a higher than normal number of accidents and near misses are occurring at the intersection of Miller Alley and Main Street. Sight visibility exiting Miller Alley appears to be the primary cause. The Department is requesting that Miller Alley be made one way, allowing traffic to only enter from Main Street. The City of Auburn Public Works Department and Engineering Division have reviewed this proposal and supports the modification.

Workshop – October 5<sup>th</sup>

First Reading – October 19<sup>th</sup>

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**STAFF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATION:**

The City Manager recommends approval of second reading and final passage.

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**REQUESTED ACTION:**

Motion for acceptance of second reading and final passage.

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**VOTE:**

# City of Auburn

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City Council, Auburn, Maine

Date: October 19, 2009

**TITLE: ORDINANCE – AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 26, ARTICLE 9,  
SCHEDULE 3 – MILLER ALLEY – ONE WAY (SECOND  
READING)**

Be It Ordained by the Auburn City Council, That Chapter 26, Article 9, Schedule 3 be amended by adding the following to one way streets:

Miller Alley: From Main Street easterly to Miller Street

Motion for passage for acceptance of first reading: Robert Hayes

Seconded by: David Young

Vote: 6 Yeas, No Nays

Motion for acceptance of second reading and final passage:

Seconded by:

Vote:

Action by the City Council:

Date:

Attest:

City Clerk



# City of Auburn, Maine

*"Maine's City of Opportunity"*

## Community Services



October 28, 2009

Dear Main Street Residents/Owners

We are considering a change in traffic pattern that may affect you and we wanted to make sure you were aware of it. In response to the number of vehicle accidents that have been occurring while exiting Miller Alley, the Auburn Police Department has recommended that Miller Alley be one-way only. The principal reasons for vehicle accidents appear to be the inability of motorists to see vehicles uphill on Main Street while exiting the Miller Alley as well as the inability of motorists to stop quickly while descending the hill on Main Street. Once the change has been made traffic will only be allowed to enter into Miller Alley from Main Street.

We have brought this issue to the City Council for discussion and we will again be discussing it at the November 2 Council Meeting scheduled at 7:00 PM. I am inviting you to attend this meeting, or send us your comments if you're unable to attend. Our intention with this project is to reduce the number of traffic accidents and to keep our residents safer.

Please refer to the reverse side of this letter to see a sketch of our plan. If you have any questions or concerns, call me at 333-6601 x1130 or email me at [elabelle@ci.auburn.me.us](mailto:elabelle@ci.auburn.me.us).

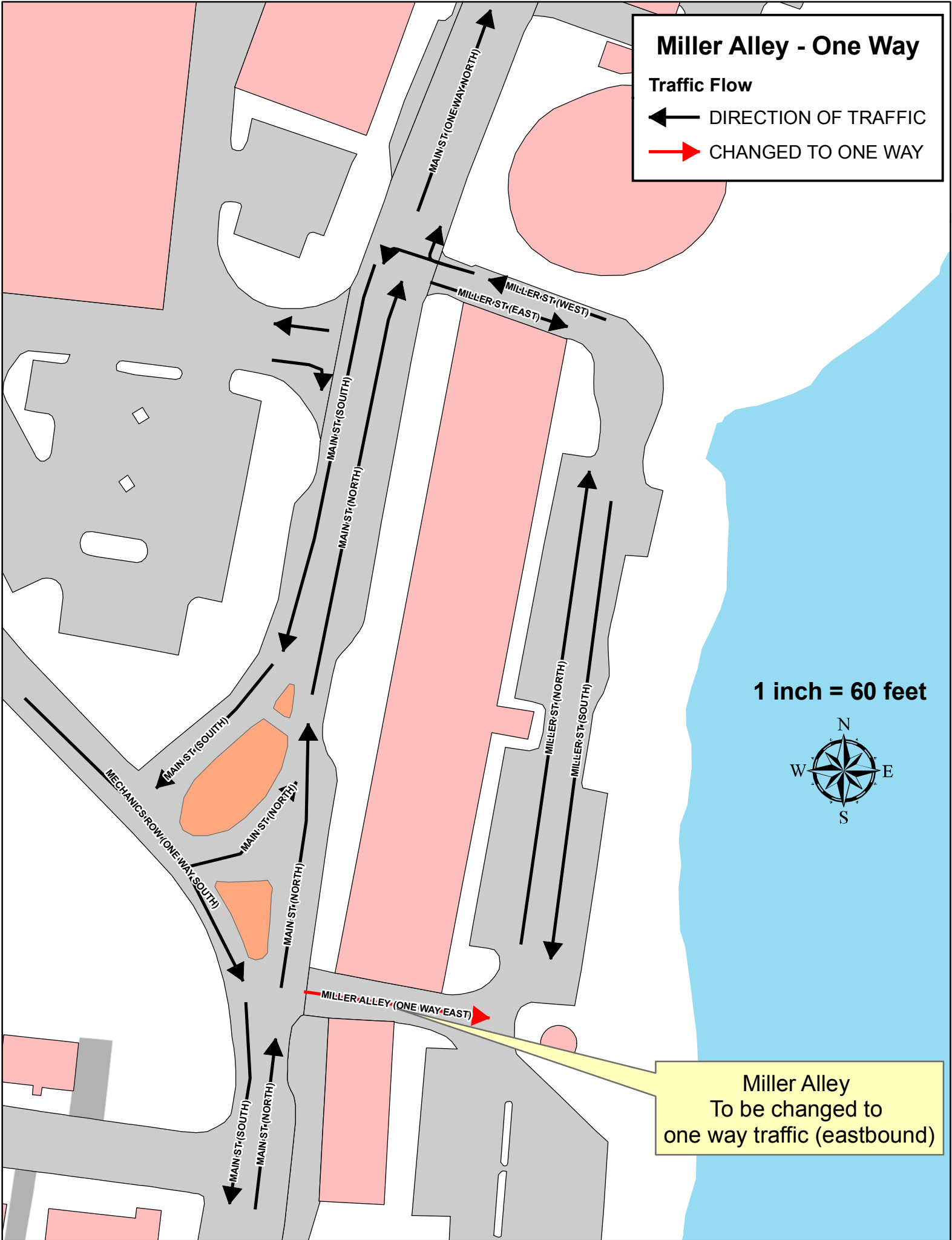
Best regards,

Eric J. Labelle, P.E.  
Community Services Director

# Miller Alley - One Way

## Traffic Flow

- ← DIRECTION OF TRAFFIC
- CHANGED TO ONE WAY



1 inch = 60 feet



Miller Alley  
To be changed to  
one way traffic (eastbound)

# City Council

## Agenda Information Sheet

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**Council Meeting Date: 11/2/2009      Agenda Item No. 2**

---

**SUBJECT:**

**ORDINANCE – AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 31 – ADOPTION OF THE  
UPDATED GENERAL ASSISTNCE MAXIMUMS (FIRST  
READING)**

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**INFORMATION:**

By State law, municipalities are required to administer a General Assistance program which is intended to assist low income people with basic necessities such as food, fuel, and rent. Municipalities are required to regularly update the amount of assistance that people who are eligible for General Assistance receive. The proposed levels of assistance take into consideration federal and state cost guidelines and the local market costs for these goods.

---

**STAFF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATION:**

The City Manager recommends approval of first reading.

---

**REQUESTED ACTION**

Motion for acceptance of first reading.

---

**VOTE:**

# CITY OF AUBURN

CITY COUNCIL, AUBURN, MAINE

DATE: November 2, 2009

**TITLE: ORDINANCE – AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 31 – ADOPTION OF  
THE UPDATED GENERAL ASSISTANCE  
MAXIMUMS (First Reading)**

Be It Ordained by the Auburn City Council, That Chapter 31, General Assistance Ordinance, be amended by adopting Appendixes A, B, and C as explained in the attached agenda information form. A copy of the appendixes are attached to this ordinance.

Motion for acceptance of first reading:      Seconded by:

Vote:

Motion for acceptance of second reading and final passage:

Seconded by:

Vote:

Action by Council:

Date:

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

## GA Overall Maximums

### Metropolitan Areas

#### Persons in Household

COUNTY	1	2	3	4	5*
<b>Bangor HMFA:</b> Bangor, Brewer, Eddington, Glenburn, Hampden, Hermon, Holden, Kenduskeag, Milford, Old Town, Orono, Orrington, Penobscot Indian Island Reservation, Veazie	596	695	887	1126	1273
<b>Penobscot County HMFA:</b> Alton, Argyle UT, Bradford, Bradley, Burlington, Carmel, Carroll plantation, Charleston, Chester, Clifton, Corinna, Corinth, Dexter, Dixmont, Drew plantation, East Central Penobscot UT, East Millinocket, Edinburg, Enfield, Etna, Exeter, Garland, Greenbush, Howland, Hudson, Kingman UT, Lagrange, Lakeville, Lee, Levant, Lincoln, Lowell town, Mattawamkeag, Maxfield, Medway, Millinocket, Mount Chase, Newburgh Newport, North Penobscot UT, Passadumkeag, Patten, Plymouth, Prentiss UT, Seboeis plantation, Springfield, Stacyville, Stetson, Twombly UT, Webster plantation, Whitney UT, Winn, Woodville	609	611	734	917	1125
<b>Lewiston/Auburn MSA:</b> Auburn, Durham, Greene, Leeds, Lewiston, Lisbon, Livermore, Livermore Falls, Mechanic Falls, Minot, Poland, Sabattus, Turner, Wales	492	616	752	954	1056
<b>Portland HMFA:</b> Cape Elizabeth, Casco, Cumberland, Falmouth, Freeport, Frye Island, Gorham, Gray, North Yarmouth, Portland, Raymond, Scarborough, South Portland, Standish, Westbrook, Windham, Yarmouth; Buxton, Hollis, Limington, Old Orchard Beach	793	942	1220	1537	1647
<b>York/Kittery/S.Berwick HMFA:</b> Berwick, Eliot, Kittery, South Berwick, York	1000	1007	1206	1758	1915
<b>Cumberland County HMFA:</b> Baldwin, Bridgton, Harpswell, Harrison, Naples, New Gloucester, Pownal, Sebago	665	776	1000	1194	1530
Brunswick	667	798	1030	1305	1565

## Appendix A

Effective: 10/01/09-10/01/10

COUNTY	1	2	3	4	5*
<b>Sagadahoc HMFA:</b> Arrowsic, Bath, Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Georgetown, Perkins UT, Phippsburg, Richmond, Topsham, West Bath, Woolwich	785	787	943	1201	1632
<b>York County HMFA:</b> Acton, Alfred, Arundel, Cornish, Dayton, Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, Lebanon, Limerick, Lyman, Newfield, North Berwick, Ogunquit, Parsonsfield, Shapleigh, Waterboro, Wells Biddeford, Saco, Sanford	718	746	948	1134	1239
	732	816	1029	1305	1543

**\*Note: Add \$75 for each additional person.**

### Non-Metropolitan Areas

#### Persons in Household

COUNTY	1	2	3	4	5*
<b>Aroostook County</b>	464	572	685	894	1000
<b>Franklin County</b>	575	621	756	902	1172
<b>Hancock County</b>	628	724	901	1187	1221
<b>Kennebec County</b>	497	596	743	1013	1082
<b>Knox County</b>	569	751	858	1162	1340
<b>Lincoln County</b>	688	738	890	1075	1226
<b>Oxford County</b>	480	638	735	979	1228
<b>Piscataquis County</b>	596	680	842	1068	1143
<b>Somerset County</b>	479	593	703	992	1053
<b>Waldo County</b>	669	717	866	1062	1129
<b>Washington County</b>	575	622	742	919	1002

**\* Please Note: Add \$75 for each additional person.**

## Appendix B

Effective: 10/01/09 to 09/30/10

### Food Maximums

Please Note: The maximum amounts allowed for food are established in accordance with the U.S.D.A. Thrifty Food Plan. Through October 1, 2010, those amounts are:

Number in Household	Weekly Maximum	Monthly Maximum
1	46.51	200
2	85.35	367
3	122.33	526
4	155.35	668
5	184.42	793
6	221.40	952
7	244.65	1,052
8	279.53	1,202

**Note: For each additional person add \$150 per month.**

## GA Housing Maximums (Heated & Unheated Rents)

**NOTE: NOT ALL MUNICIPALITIES SHOULD ADOPT THESE SUGGESTED HOUSING MAXIMUMS!** Municipalities should ONLY **consider** adopting the following numbers, if these figures are consistent with local rent values. If not, a market survey should be conducted and the figures should be altered accordingly. The results of any such survey must be presented to DHHS prior to adoption. **Or, no housing maximums should be adopted and eligibility should be analyzed in terms of the Overall Maximum—Appendix A. (See Instruction Memo for further guidance.)**

### **Non-Metropolitan FMR Areas**

<b><u>Aroostook County</u></b>		<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
Bedrooms		Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0		66	284	83	359
1		80	343	103	441
2		90	385	121	521
3		120	517	160	686
4		120	517	172	738
<b><u>Franklin County</u></b>		<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
Bedrooms		Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0		94	405	108	463
1		97	415	114	489
2		114	489	138	592
3		134	576	164	704
4		170	732	214	921
<b><u>Hancock County</u></b>		<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
Bedrooms		Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0		104	449	118	506
1		117	503	134	578
2		130	557	154	663
3		190	819	221	952
4		190	819	221	952
<b><u>Kennebec County</u></b>		<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
Bedrooms		Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0		79	339	91	392
1		93	399	109	468
2		113	484	135	580
3		186	801	187	805
4		186	801	195	840



**Non-Metropolitan FMR Areas**

		<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
<b><u>Knox County</u></b>	Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
	0	94	404	103	457
	1	126	540	142	609
	2	137	589	159	685
	3	191	820	219	940
	4	209	899	250	1074
<b><u>Lincoln County</u></b>					
	Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
	0	119	512	131	565
	1	123	528	139	597
	2	144	618	166	714
	3	172	741	200	861
	4	172	741	201	863
<b><u>Oxford County</u></b>					
	Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
	0	74	318	87	376
	1	100	431	117	501
	2	109	470	133	573
	3	150	646	180	774
	4	182	783	226	972
<b><u>Piscataquis County</u></b>					
	Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
	0	95	409	111	479
	1	103	441	125	539
	2	123	527	154	663
	3	157	675	196	844
	4	157	675	205	881
<b><u>Somerset County</u></b>					
	Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
	0	74	317	87	375
	1	91	390	108	465
	2	103	441	127	544
	3	153	658	183	786
	4	153	658	189	813

**Non-Metropolitan FMR Areas**

<b><u>Waldo County</u></b>		<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly	Monthly
0	115	495	127	548	
1	118	509	134	577	
2	139	596	161	692	
3	170	729	197	849	
4	170	729	205	882	

<b><u>Washington County</u></b>		<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly	Monthly
0	93	401	107	458	
1	95	410	113	485	
2	108	465	133	571	
3	134	575	165	708	
4	134	575	175	751	

**Metropolitan FMR Areas**

<b><u>Bangor HMFA</u></b>		<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly	Monthly
0	93	409	110	471	
1	106	454	126	542	
2	132	568	161	691	
3	169	728	205	882	
4	176	756	228	980	

<b><u>Penobscot County HMFA</u></b>		<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly	Monthly
0	98	421	114	491	
1	98	421	114	491	
2	100	429	131	565	
3	125	538	164	707	
4	145	622	201	865	

<b><u>Lewiston/Auburn MSA</u></b>		<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly	Monthly
0	78	334	90	387	
1	97	417	113	486	
2	115	493	137	589	
3	147	631	175	751	
4	149	641	190	816	

**Metropolitan FMR Areas**

		<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
	Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
<b><u>Portland HMFA</u></b>					
	0	141	608	154	661
	1	165	713	182	782
	2	213	918	234	1014
	3	270	1161	298	1281
	4	274	1178	314	1352
<b><u>York/Kittery/S. Berwick HMFA</u></b>					
	Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
	0	169	725	181	778
	1	169	725	181	778
	2	191	820	213	916
	3	287	1236	315	1356
	4	299	1285	400	1460
<b><u>Cumberland County HMFA</u></b>					
	Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
	0	111	478	123	531
	1	131	562	147	631
	2	167	718	189	814
	3	197	849	225	969
	4	249	1072	290	1247
<b><u>Sagadahoc County HMFA</u></b>					
	Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
	0	140	601	152	654
	1	140	601	152	654
	2	155	666	177	762
	3	186	798	213	918
	4	270	1165	312	1340
<b><u>York County HMFA</u></b>					
	Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
	0	126	540	138	593
	1	126	540	140	604
	2	156	671	178	767
	3	185	795	213	915
	4	188	807	228	982

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**HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

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**TO:** GLENN AHO, CITY MANAGER  
**FROM:** DOROTHY MEAGHER  
**SUBJECT:** 2009-2010 GENERAL ASSISTANCE ORDINANCE APPENDIX A,  
B, AND C  
**DATE:** 10/29/2009  
**CC:** MARY LOU MAGNO, CITY CLERK

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Enclosed please find the changes in the General Assistance Ordinance Maximums, General Assistance Ordinance Appendices (A, B, and C) containing the new maximums for the period of October 1, 2009 to October 1, 2010.

The enclosed General Assistance Ordinance form is to be sent to the State Department of Human Services as proof of the adoption of the GA maximums by the City Council. Once the Council has adopted the maximums, and this form signed by each member of the council, it will be submitted to DHHS.

I can be available for the first and second readings to answer any question that might arise. Please let me know if this is acceptable.

DM

Attachments

# City Council

## Agenda Information Sheet

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**Council Meeting Date 11-2-2009**

**Agenda Item No. 3**

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**SUBJECT:**

**RESOLVE – 10 YEAR PLAN TO ELIMINATE HOMELESSNESS**

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**INFORMATION:**

The 100+ people who are homeless on any given night in the twin cities come from a larger group of 1,300 people who are homeless during the year. The homeless pattern begins at an early age and is difficult to break. People become homeless for different reasons. But once homeless, their experience is the same: disorientation, anxiety, loss of stable supports, and difficulty in regrouping.

The 10-Year Plan to Eliminate Homelessness is a holistic approach to addressing homelessness. It calls for a comprehensive and coordinated effort of many social service providers, landlords, employers, government, and the homeless person. There are five strategies that address homelessness at different stages: prevention, early intervention, crisis response, transition, and permanent affordable housing. Each strategy has one or more key actions. Each action has a lead agency, partners, and benchmarks. United Way has agreed to lead the effort to measure progress and provide status reports to the City Councils.

Workshop – October 15, 2009

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**STAFF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATION:**

The City Manager recommends approval of the resolve.

\*NOTE: Councilors received this document prior to the October 15<sup>th</sup> Workshop. If another copy is needed, contact the City Clerk's Office

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**REQUESTED ACTION:**

Motion for passage of the resolve.

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**VOTE:**

# City of Auburn

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City Council, Auburn, Maine

Date: November 2, 2009

TITLE: RESOLVE – 10 YEAR PLAN TO ELIMINATE HOMELESSNESS  
IN LEWISTON AND AUBURN

Be It Resolved by the Auburn City Council that the 10-Year Plan to Eliminate Homelessness in Lewiston and Auburn be adopted as recommended by the City Manager. A copy of the plan is attached to and hereby made a part of this resolve.

Motion for acceptance:

Seconded by:

Vote:

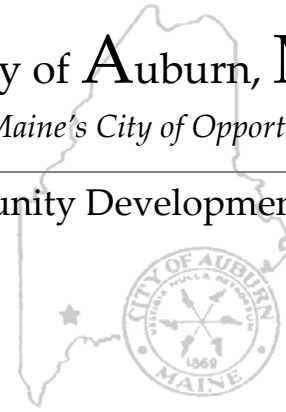
Action by the City Council:

Date:

Attest:

City Clerk

City of Auburn, Maine  
*"Maine's City of Opportunity"*  
Community Development Program



TO: Glenn Aho, City Manager  
FROM: Reine Mynahan, Community Development Administrator  
RE: Adoption of 10-Year Plan to Eliminate Homelessness  
DATE: October 19, 2009

In July 2009 the 10-Year Plan to Eliminate Homeless (10-Year Plan) and the Homeless Needs Assessment reports were sent to the Auburn and Lewiston City Councils (these documents are available on the City's web site under "News"). On October 15<sup>th</sup> consultant Frank O'Hara of Planning Decisions presented the plan to the joint City Councils of Auburn and Lewiston. The presentation included information on the need for such a plan and strategies to address the area's homeless issues. I would like to schedule adoption of this plan at the first November meeting of the Auburn City Council.

The 100+ people who are homeless on any given night in the twin cities come from a larger group of 1,300 people who are homeless during the year. The homeless pattern begins at an early age and is difficult to break. People become homeless for different reasons. But once homeless, their experience is the same: disorientation, anxiety, loss of stable supports, and difficulty in regrouping.

The goal is to eliminate homelessness. The 10-Year Plan is a holistic approach to addressing homelessness. It calls for a comprehensive and coordinated effort of many social service providers, landlords, employers, government, and the homeless person. There are five strategies that address homelessness at different stages: prevention, early intervention, crisis response, transition, and permanent affordable housing. Each strategy has one or more key actions. Each action has a lead agency, partners, and benchmarks. United Way has agreed to lead the effort to measure progress and provide status reports to the City Councils.

I recommend adoption of the 10-Year Plan.

# The 10 Year Plan to Eliminate Homelessness in Lewiston and Auburn

## Task Force Members

<i>Paul Amnott</i>	<i>Lewiston High School</i>
<i>James Andrews</i>	<i>Lewiston Community Development</i>
<i>Joleen Bedard</i>	<i>United Way of Androscoggin County</i>
<i>Mike Carey</i>	<i>State Representative</i>
<i>Sue Charron</i>	<i>Lewiston Social Services</i>
<i>Andrew Choate</i>	<i>Attorney and landlord</i>
<i>Mary Lafontaine</i>	<i>Maine Career Center</i>
<i>James Lysen</i>	<i>Community Clinical Services</i>
<i>Larry Marcoux</i>	<i>United Way of Androscoggin County</i>
<i>Reine Mynahan</i>	<i>Auburn Community Development</i>
<i>Craig Phillips</i>	<i>Common Ties Mental Health Coalition</i>
<i>Bob Rowe</i>	<i>New Beginnings</i>
<i>Holly Stover</i>	<i>Maine Department of Health and Human Services</i>
<i>James Wellehan</i>	<i>Lamey-Wellehan Shoes</i>

## Consultant

<i>Frank O'Hara</i>	<i>Planning Decisions</i>
<i>Sarah Curran</i>	<i>Planning Decisions</i>



By the Lewiston/Auburn  
Alliance for Services to the  
Homeless



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## A. Executive Summary

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This is the second report in a series produced by the Lewiston-Auburn Alliance for Services to the Homeless (LAASH). The first report identified the needs of the homeless in Lewiston and Auburn (Lewiston Auburn Homelessness Needs Report). It is available at the Community Development offices of both Lewiston and Auburn. This report provides a strategy that addresses those needs. The goal of the strategy is not just to serve the homeless when they are in crisis – it is to help the homeless become independent and self-sustaining, and eliminate homelessness in Lewiston and Auburn by 2019.

Here are the facts. There are about 100 people homeless on any given night in the two cities. They come from a larger group of over 1,300 who are homeless in any given year in the two communities. But these homeless are not visible to the general public. They are hidden in apartments, where they move from one friend's couch to another; or in available shelters; or in cars or campgrounds in the summer. Some of the homeless are immigrants and refugees. Some are victims of domestic violence. Some are single adults -- many of whom have mental illnesses. Some are veterans. Some are very young, barely more than children.

The cost to the homeless and their families is overwhelming. They grow up with the same hopes and dreams as their peers, but at a very early age find themselves on a different track, without a secure home environment, on the streets, prey to older people, tempted by drugs, without access to health care, lacking an achievable path to conventional success. The pattern, once set, is often difficult to break; for some, it lasts a lifetime, exacerbated by a culture of poverty.

The cost to the taxpayers of Lewiston and Auburn is also large. The cities must provide extra police, fire, general assistance, and other services to deal with the consequences of homelessness. Hospitals (and health insurance subscribers) must pay for emergency room visits and health problems caused by lives on the streets. Schools (and their

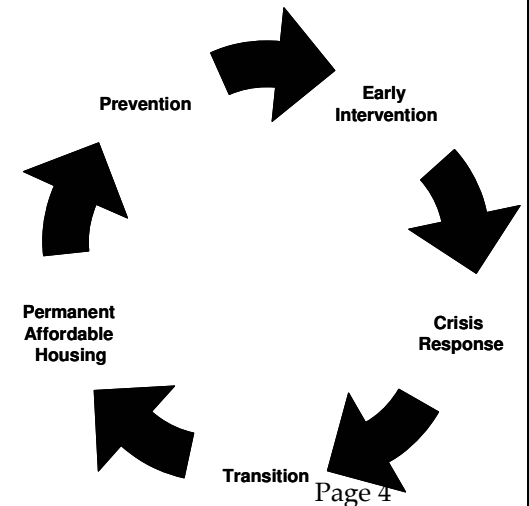
students) pay for the disruptions caused by distraught homeless youth. Businesses (and their workers) pay with lost productivity and unfilled jobs. Everyone pays with quality of life and safety issues. Finally, Lewiston/Auburn's image suffers negative consequences that can discourage potential new residents and businesses from moving to the area.

The homelessness problem in Lewiston and Auburn is not, in the first place, primarily a problem of a lack of housing. Compared to other communities in Maine, there are more rents available at lower costs here. Instead, homelessness is a problem of insufficient income and resources, a lack of life skills, and health problems (primarily mental health and substance abuse). Sometime it is a combination. A fundamental underlying problem is the lack of good-paying jobs in the region, and the lack of attitudinal and work skills among homeless people to qualify for and hold such jobs.

The challenge for a homelessness strategy is both to provide immediate shelter to those facing a night on the street, and at the same time to provide long-term help for people to get back on their feet and become economically independent. This takes a high level of commitment on the part of people who are homeless on the one side, and on the part of the community on the other. This plan is founded upon an ethic of responsibility for everyone involved.

There are five *strategies* to achieve the goal. Each strategy addresses homelessness at a different stage of its development:

1. Prevention – addressing the broad conditions that foster homelessness
2. Early intervention – identifying and helping individuals at immediate risk of homelessness
3. Crisis response – ensuring that emergency food, shelter, health care, are available
4. Transition – helping people gain skills to live on their own
5. Permanent affordable housing – achieving reintegration into the community



Each strategy has one or more key *actions*. Each action has:

- a *lead agency* that is responsible for coordinating implementation;
- *partners* that will contribute to implementation; and
- *benchmarks* that lay out specific steps necessary over time for successful implementation

As with the individual strategies, there is a need for one lead organization to be responsible for the coordination of the plan as a whole. The United Way of Androscoggin County has generously agreed to perform this important role. There are hundreds of partner agencies whose cooperation is essential for the success of the plan. Besides the United Way, three others have particularly important roles. The Public Policy Committee of the Lewiston-Auburn Alliance for Services to the Homeless (LAASH), which has overseen the development of this plan, will provide ongoing support and advice. The two Community Development Departments of the cities of Auburn and Lewiston, which oversee funding for housing and related services, will coordinate their activities related to homelessness with each other and with the United Way. In addition, the United Way will measure progress under the plan in three specific areas: reduced homelessness, reduced risk of homelessness, and meeting plan benchmarks – and provide status reports to the City Councils and public at large.

## B. Introduction

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This is the second report in a series produced by the Lewiston-Auburn Alliance for Services to the Homeless (LAASH). The first report identified the needs of the homeless in Lewiston and Auburn. It was produced by Planning Decisions, Inc., and reports on six focus groups conducted with homeless themselves and other local interviews.

This report articulates the strategy arising from the needs study. Its goal is to provide a path towards eliminating homelessness in Lewiston and Auburn by 2019.

This is a particularly appropriate time for Lewiston and Auburn to consider bold action in the area of homelessness. First, the recession is making the problem worse; more people are experiencing evictions and foreclosures. Secondly, more help is now available. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) will provide Maine with \$6.5 million for homelessness prevention and re-housing activities, such as:

- financial assistance to individuals, including help with rents, security and utility deposits, and moving costs;
- housing relocation and stabilization, such as case management, outreach, housing search and placement, legal services, mediation, and credit repair; and
- data collection and evaluation (using a HUD-approved homeless management information system).

On the following pages is a strategy that would allow the Cities of Lewiston and Auburn to take advantage of these federal funds in the short run, and also provide guidance for state and local investments in the long run.

## C. Overview of the Problem

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In June of 2008 Casey Stanley was stabbed to death in an Auburn park alongside the Androscoggin River. Casey had stepped away from a group of people to call his girl friend on the phone, and was attacked and killed.

Casey was homeless. He was getting his life together. He was going to church. He was planning to get married. He had just taken a job in Harpswell. Then his life was senselessly taken.

Casey Stanley's life and sad death caught the imagination of the community over a period of weeks. What could have been done to prevent the death of this gentle and kind person? Soon the election and the economy and other issues replaced Casey in the news, and homelessness again faded into the background, where it had been before.

Why doesn't this issue receive sustained attention? Because, with the exception of dramatic incidents like Casey Stanley's death, homelessness is not visible in Lewiston and Auburn. There are about 100 people homeless on any given night in the two cities. They come from a larger group of over 1,300 who are homeless in any given year in the two communities.

But these homeless are not on the street begging, as is the case in larger cities. They don't carry around bedrolls and sleep on park benches. Instead, they shift from one couch to another, from the apartment of one acquaintance to another, in exchange for money or services. They are hidden in parks and cars and campgrounds in the summer. They fill the available shelter beds in Lewiston and Auburn, and on many nights people are turned away.

Some of the homeless are immigrants and refugees. Some are victims of domestic violence. Some are single adults, many with mental illnesses. Some are veterans. Some are hardly more than children. Over 200 youth under the age of 18, either dropouts or enrolled at Lewiston High or Edward Little, have no stable home to return to at night.

Here are some of their stories:

- Mary<sup>1</sup> left her husband after years of physical and psychological abuse to go to the Abused Women's Shelter. Mary still keeps a backpack packed and ready by the back door of her apartment, in constant fear that her ex-husband might be able to find her.
- Dave became homeless last year when he lost his job, and has lived in his car or stayed with friends since. Dave has been unable to find another job, and has been disqualified from receiving rental assistance to move into private housing, because of a felony driving conviction years ago.
- Megan is 17. She became homeless at age 14 when her parents kicked her out of their house. Since then she has lived, off and on, at the youth shelter, as well as with various family members and friends. She has no job or job skills. She currently is living with her boyfriend and his family while she works on her GED.
- Fatuma is a refugee with 2 children. She has a section 8 voucher, but has not been able to find a 2 or 3 bedroom apartment. Fatuma's voucher is expiring soon. She is worried that she will not be able to find an apartment. Her English is limited, and she thinks that may be part of the reason that some landlords do not return her phone calls.
- Julie is in her early 20s, and recently left her husband. She and her two children have been rotating between her parents' home and the shelter. She has no job skills, and seems to be just treading water, surviving day to day, but making no progress towards independence.

The cost to the homeless and their families is overwhelming. Many grow up with the same hopes and dreams as the

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<sup>1</sup> Names have been changed to protect individual's privacy  
Lewiston Auburn Homelessness Strategy – May 8, 2009

rest of their peers, but at a very early age find themselves on a different track, without a secure home environment, on the streets, prey to older people, tempted by drugs, without access to health care, lacking an achievable path to conventional success. The pattern, thus set, is often difficult to break; for some, it lasts a lifetime, exacerbated by a culture of poverty.

There is also a huge cost to the taxpayers of Lewiston and Auburn. The cities provide extra police, fire, general assistance, and other services to deal with the consequences of homelessness. Hospitals (and health insurance subscribers) pay for emergency room visits and health problems caused and exacerbated by a life on the streets. Schools (and their students) pay for the disruptions caused by young people with emotionally insecure lives. Businesses (and their workers) pay with unfilled jobs because of the lack of work skills of available workers, and with quality of life and safety issues. Finally, Lewiston/Auburn's image suffers negative consequences that can discourage potential new residents and businesses from moving to the area.

This plan is designed to break the pattern of homelessness and prevent homelessness for those at risk due to unforeseen circumstances. It offers a path for the homeless themselves to accept responsibility and move forward. At the same time, it provides a path for the community to create the opportunities that the homeless need to succeed.

The following pages provide a statistical summary of the needs of different homeless groups in Lewiston and Auburn. For more detail, consult the first volume of this study.



**Gaps in Services for Homeless Populations in Lewiston Auburn**

	<b>Numbers</b>	<b>At-Risk</b>	<b>Prevention</b>	<b>Crisis</b>	<b>Transition</b>
<b>Youth</b>	<p>204 homeless youth grades 9-12 identified by schools</p> <p>423 homeless youth served by New Beginnings and Volunteers of America</p>	<p><b>Youth not employed:</b> 900 ages 20-21 500 ages 22-24</p> <p><b>Youth not in school:</b> 200 ages 15-17</p>	<p>People are unaware that these youth exist.</p> <p>HUD definition of homelessness doesn't include couchsurfing, so many youth don't qualify for subsidized housing for the homeless; high school attendance policies that suspend students after absences assume students have a stable home; subsidized housing regulations don't allow 18 year old children to stay with a parent for more than 2 weeks.</p> <p>New Beginnings' current Outreach Center building is too small: intended to serve 15 youth/day, it serves 35-45.</p> <p>No single program can meet the needs of all homeless you. One subset whose needs are not being met is young mothers.</p> <p>Homelessness and accompanying circumstances (unemployment, not in school, estranged from parents and no insurance, lack of transportation) create barriers to health care access.</p>	<p>Funding for homeless youth is fragmented, making holistic approach difficult.</p>	<p>Depth of services is especially important--homeless youth often lack necessary social and life skills and need lots of support to be successful.</p> <p>Due to significant funding changes requiring a shift toward independent living apartments, New Beginnings TLP may no longer be able to provide supportive group living opportunities for homeless youth ages 16-17.</p>
<b>Families</b>	<p>2008 MSHA Point-In-Time Survey found 6 families homeless on January 30, 2008</p> <p>As of September 2008, 23 families sheltered; 47 families turned away</p> <p>69 homeless children grades K-8 identified by schools</p>	<p><b>Families living in poverty</b> in Lewiston Auburn: 1,400 families 1,200 families with children 200 families over age 65</p>	<p><b>Lack of subsidized housing:</b> very long wait lists (8 months to 3 years) for vouchers.</p> <p>Lack of jobs that pay a livable wage.</p> <p>Lack of health care.</p>	<p>Locating assistance and navigating services (including for health, mental health, employment and housing) can be difficult.</p> <p>Limited emergency shelter: there is only one shelter for families, adults are separated by gender and everyone shares group accommodations.</p>	<p>Transportation and child care can be significant hurdles (especially for single parents) in terms of getting to services and employment.</p> <p><b>Lack of subsidized housing:</b> very long wait lists (8 months to 3 years) for vouchers.</p>
<b>Domestic Violence Survivors</b>	<p>AWAP's domestic violence shelter served 170 women and children last year</p>	<p><b>434 domestic violence crimes</b> were reported to Lewiston and Auburn police departments in 2006</p>	<p><b>Lack of subsidized housing:</b> very long wait lists (8 months to 3 years) for vouchers.</p>	<p>Locating assistance and navigating services (including for health, mental health, employment and housing) can be difficult.</p>	<p>There are only 7 units of transitional housing available for women leaving the domestic violence shelter; many women have to secure their own housing.</p> <p><b>Lack of subsidized housing:</b> very long wait lists (8 months to 3 years) for vouchers.</p> <p>Affordable housing is in poor condition and in less than ideal locations.</p> <p>AVESTA vouchers, which have a homelessness preference, cannot be used in Lewiston Auburn*; voucher recipients have to move away from services and employment opportunities.</p> <p>*Special permission to use an AVESTA voucher in Lewiston and Auburn is available if a person can show medical necessity for living in the cities.</p>

**Gaps in Services for Homeless Populations in Lewiston Auburn**

	<b>Numbers</b>	<b>At-Risk</b>	<b>Prevention</b>	<b>Crisis</b>	<b>Transition</b>
<b>New Americans</b>		<p>There are <b>an estimated 4,000 - 6,000 New Americans</b> living in Lewiston-Auburn.</p> <p>As of Jan. 2007, Lewiston identified 2,641 immigrants who had moved to the city and enrolled in General Assistance</p> <p>A 2007 study by the Maine Department of Labor found <b>unemployment</b> among Somali immigrants to be at 51%</p>	<p>Not enough <b>large apartments</b>.</p> <p>Affordable housing is <b>limited</b> and often in <b>poor condition</b>.</p> <p><b>Discrimination</b> is an issue.</p> <p><b>Employment</b> is made more difficult by low literacy rates and, especially for large families, the expense of child care.</p> <p><b>Cultural and language differences</b> can make accessing services (including for health, mental health, employment and housing) more difficult.</p>	<p>Subsidized housing rules limiting guests make it <b>difficult to assist friends and family</b> in need of temporary housing.</p>	<p><b>Lack of no-interest mortgage opportunities</b> limits ownership possibilities.</p>
<b>Single Adults</b>	<p><b>546 homeless single adults</b> sheltered by Hope Haven and St. Martin De Porres in 2007</p> <p>As of Sept. 2008, Hope Haven had sheltered 252 homeless individuals and <b>turned away</b> 207 because it was full</p>	<p>3,900 non-institutionalized individuals with a <b>mental disability</b> over age 16</p> <p>700 <b>veterans</b> living below poverty, 2/3 of whom are disabled</p> <p>National rates suggest that as many as 3,000 people in Lewiston Auburn may have significant <b>substance abuse</b> issues</p>	<p><b>People transitioning</b> from one system to the next may be lost: individuals released from jail without a plan for reintegration into the community; children aging out of the youth system; individuals leaving mental health institutions without appropriate supports in place.</p> <p><b>Access to services is now restricted</b> to those with a diagnosed mental illness</p> <p><b>Lack of subsidized housing;</b> very long wait lists (8 months to 3 years) for vouchers.</p>	<p>Emergency shelters have <b>high barriers</b>.</p> <p>The Jubilee Center and the public library are the only <b>places for homeless people to go during the day</b>.</p>	<p>AVESTA vouchers, which have a homelessness preference, cannot be used in Lewiston Auburn*; <b>voucher recipients have to move away from services and employment</b> opportunities.</p> <p><b>Jobs are hard to get</b>, especially if a person has a felony.</p> <p><b>Lack of transportation</b> makes it difficult for many homeless individuals to get to services and employment.</p> <p>Substance abuse treatment is available only for men. There are <b>not enough long-term treatment beds</b>, so fewer than half of those who complete the halfway house are able to move into the extended stay program.</p> <p>There is a <b>need for more long-term, supportive housing</b> options</p> <p>*Special permission to use an AVESTA voucher in Lewiston and Auburn is available if a person can show medical necessity for living in the cities.</p>

## **D. General Approach: Ethic of Responsibility**

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According to the U.S. Census, there were 2,287 residential housing units that were unoccupied in Lewiston and Auburn in 2008. That is 8.4% of the total units in the two cities.

According to the Maine Housing Authority, the cost of the median priced home in the Lewiston-Auburn region was \$30,900 less than the state average in 2007 -- \$155,000 compared to \$185,900. The median 2-bedroom rent was \$108 less than the state average -- \$734 compared to \$842.

The homelessness problem is not, in the first place, primarily a problem of a lack of housing. It is a problem sometimes of insufficient income and resources, sometimes of a lack of life skills, and sometimes of health issues (primarily mental health and substance abuse). Sometime it is a combination. Lewiston and Auburn area residents have a median income \$2,700, or 6%, below the state average. Even though the median two-bedroom rent in the area is less expensive than statewide, the affordability problem is just as bad as the rest of the state. Just over half of Lewiston-Auburn renters can't afford the median 2-bedroom rent in the area (54%), about the same as the statewide percentage (58%).

This is not to say that there are not housing issues. Much of the rental housing in Lewiston and Auburn is very old, inaccessible to older people and those with disabilities, energy-inefficient, and poorly maintained. There is a need for rehabilitation of the old housing, and the construction of newer, more efficient apartments. But even with such housing, there remains the problem of helping people make enough money to pay for the rent and maintenance.

A primary underlying problem is the development of good-paying jobs in the region, and the attitudinal and work skills preparation of homeless people to help them qualify for and hold such jobs. Right now, Androscoggin County has a higher proportion of poverty-related problems that contribute to unemployment and, ultimately, homelessness (see chart below).

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Maine</b>	<b>Androscoggin County</b>
<b>Children under poverty, 2005/2006</b>	16.90%	<b>21.50%</b>
<b>Domestic assaults per 100,000 people, 2006/2007</b>	438.9	<b>717.7</b>
<b>Arrests of children 10-17 per 100,000 children, 2006/2007</b>	51.1	<b>71.8</b>
<b>High school completion rate, 2006/2007</b>	80.80%	<b>74.20%</b>
<b>Teen pregnancy, 2006, per 1,000 females 10 to 17</b>	6.8	<b>10.7</b>
<b>Infant mortality, 2002-2006, per 1,000 births</b>	5.6	<b>6</b>
<b>Unemployment rate, January 2009</b>	8.80%	<b>9.10%</b>
Source: 2009 Maine Kids Count, Anne E. Casey Foundation, <a href="http://www.kidscount.org">http://www.kidscount.org</a>		

Poverty, unemployment, domestic violence, youth crime, dropouts, teen pregnancy, poor health, mental health issues and substance abuse all contribute to low incomes and homelessness. So the challenge for a homelessness strategy is both to provide immediate shelter and help to those who are faced with a night on the street, and over the longer term, to provide assistance to help people get on their feet and economically independent.

This takes commitment on the part of people who are homeless, and on the part of the community.

- among the homeless themselves, who need to learn the discipline and skills for success in the private economy;
- among employers and landlords, who need to give a second chance to people who have fallen down once and are trying to improve;
- among community volunteers and churches, who need to provide the mentoring and emotional support for individuals seeking a better life;
- among educators and nonprofit service providers, who need to work together more intensively to break the

cycle of poverty; and

- among municipal governments and private funders, who need to coordinate planning and investment decisions for maximum effect.

The interconnectedness of the challenges facing the homeless demand strategies that address the root causes. The necessary approach is one of working smart, and working together. It can be effective whether there is a recession or not, whether there are federal funds available or not. Effectiveness comes from mutual responsibility, from everyone doing their part. The ethic of responsibility is the philosophy that underlies this plan.

## E. Goal and Strategies

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The *goal* of this plan is to eliminate homelessness in Lewiston and Auburn by 2019.

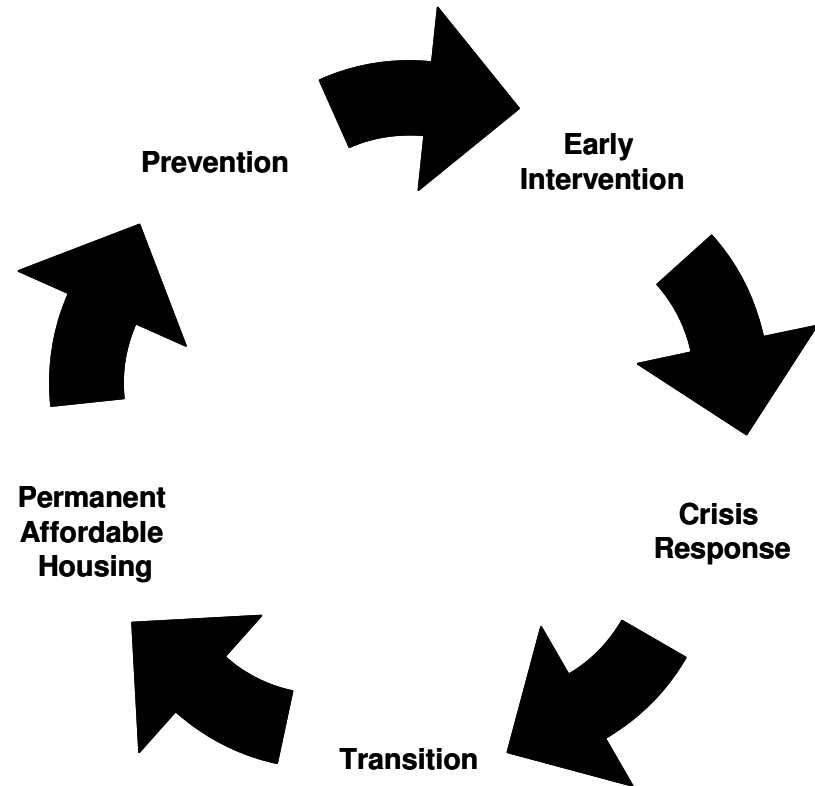
There are five *strategies* to achieve the goal. Each strategy addresses homelessness at a different stage of its development:

1. Prevention – addressing the broad conditions that foster homelessness
2. Early intervention – identifying and helping individuals at immediate risk of homelessness
3. Crisis response – ensuring that emergency food, shelter, health care, are available
4. Transition – helping people gain skills to live on their own
5. Permanent affordable housing – achieving reintegration into the community

Each strategy has one or more key *actions*.

### Strategy 1: Prevention

- Action 1A. Raise Community Awareness
- Action 1B. Ensure Safety Net Services Are Available
- Action 1C. Expand Youth Outreach Center



Strategy 2: Early Intervention

Action 2A. Create a Quick Response Team

Action 2B. Create a Housing Liaison

Strategy 3: Crisis Response

Action 3A. Provide safe and accessible Emergency Shelter Beds

Strategy 4: Transition

Action 4A. Help with Living Skills

Action 4B. Develop Job Opportunities

Strategy 5: Permanent Affordable Housing

Action 5A. Increase the Affordable Housing Stock

Each action has:

- a *lead agency* that is responsible for coordinating implementation;
- *partners* that will contribute to implementation; and
- *benchmarks* that lay out specific steps necessary over time for successful implementation

The following tables lay out each strategy and action.

## Strategy 1: Prevention

Action	Lead	Potential Partners	
<p><b><u>1A. Raise Community Awareness</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Incorporate plan into Auburn and Lewiston Comprehensive Plans and CD Consolidated Plans</li> <li>▪ Educate business about need for jobs</li> <li>▪ Educate those at risk about aid</li> <li>▪ Educate public about homelessness</li> <li>▪ Educate students to raise aspirations</li> </ul>	United Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lewiston and Auburn City Councils</li> <li>▪ Lewiston and Auburn Planning Boards</li> <li>▪ Lewiston and Auburn CD Committees</li> <li>▪ Lewiston and Auburn schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Androscoggin Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>▪ Head Start</li> <li>▪ Downtown Education Collaborative</li> <li>▪ Health care centers</li> <li>▪ LAASH</li> <li>▪ Common Ties</li> <li>▪ Faith-based community</li> <li>▪ Media: Sun Journal, Twin City Times, radio, Great Falls TV</li> <li>▪ New Beginnings</li> <li>▪ 211</li> <li>▪ VOA</li> </ul>
	Benchmarks	<b>Years 1-2</b>	<b>Years 3-10</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Adopt this plan as part of Auburn and Lewiston Comprehensive Plans, Consolidated Plans</li> <li>▪ Meet with Chamber of Commerce to develop awareness &amp; plan for ongoing education of business community.</li> <li>▪ Support continued prevent student from dropping out</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Implement business education plan.</li> <li>▪ Collaborate with service providers to identify &amp; access individuals at risk.</li> <li>▪ Develop &amp; implement a media campaign to educate general public about the cost of homelessness.</li> <li>▪ Schools and business community work together to create educational programs promoting high student aspirations</li> <li>▪ Organize &amp; sponsor community symposium on homelessness, to focus on successes &amp; develop next steps.</li> </ul>



## Strategy 1: Prevention

Action	Lead	Potential Partners		
<p><b><u>1B. Ensure Safety Net Services Are Available</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Coordinate services with regard to food, clothing, health care, access to jobs and housing, case management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ United Way</li> <li>▪ St. Mary's Community Clinical Services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Trinity Jubilee</li> <li>▪ Churches</li> <li>▪ Lewiston/Auburn general assistance offices</li> <li>▪ DHHS</li> <li>▪ Career Center</li> <li>▪ Hospitals and health centers</li> <li>▪ Community Concepts</li> <li>▪ New Beginnings</li> <li>▪ Common Ties</li> <li>▪ Healthy Androscoggin</li> <li>▪ Preble Street Homeless Clinic</li> </ul>		
	<p><b>Benchmarks</b></p>	<p><b>Years 1-2</b></p>	<p><b>Years 3-6</b></p>	<p><b>Years 7-10</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify gaps &amp; barriers, using data from the 2010 United Way /Healthy Androscoggin community needs assessment, CCS strategic plan, Maine Health Access Foundation/Maine Primary Care Association focus groups, and 2010 census</li> <li>▪ Seek resources, including state and federal grants</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Educate business, public &amp; service providers as to needs assessment findings.</li> <li>▪ Develop &amp; implement plan based on needs assessment findings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Update community needs assessment.</li> </ul>	

## Strategy 1: Prevention

Action	Lead	Potential Partners		
<p><b><u>1C. Expand Youth Outreach Center</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Expand existing facility to provides in-depth services to teens</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New Beginnings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ City of Lewiston</li> <li>▪ City of Auburn</li> <li>▪ Maine State Housing Authority</li> <li>▪ Lewiston Schools</li> <li>▪ Auburn Schools</li> </ul>		
	<p><b>Benchmarks</b></p>	<p><b>Years 1</b></p>	<p><b>Year 2</b></p>	<p><b>Years 3-10</b></p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify sources of funding for a new facility</li> <li>▪ Apply for funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Build/renovate structure for homeless youth outreach in need of multiple services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assure adequate services and funding</li> </ul>

## Strategy 2: Early Intervention

Action	Lead	Potential Partners		
<p><b><u>2A. Create a Quick Response Team</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify people at immediate risk of homelessness</li> <li>▪ Help them access services and resources to prevent their becoming homeless</li> <li>▪ Provide individualized solutions</li> </ul>	<p>Lewiston and Auburn General Assistance Offices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lewiston/Auburn police, jails and probation officers</li> <li>▪ Lewiston/Auburn schools</li> <li>▪ Hospitals and health centers</li> <li>▪ Social service agencies</li> <li>▪ Churches</li> <li>▪ Emergency shelters</li> <li>▪ Food banks, food pantries, soup kitchens</li> <li>▪ Head Start</li> <li>▪ Community Concepts</li> <li>▪ VA Homelessness</li> <li>▪ New Beginnings</li> <li>▪ Trinity Jubilee</li> <li>▪ VOA</li> <li>▪ Career Center</li> <li>▪ 211</li> <li>▪ Catholic Charities</li> <li>▪ MaineHousing</li> <li>▪ DHHS</li> <li>▪ Common Ties</li> <li>▪ Tri-County Mental Health Services</li> <li>▪ LAASH</li> </ul>		
	<p><b>Benchmarks</b></p>	<p><b>Years 1-2</b></p>	<p><b>Years 3-6</b></p>	<p><b>Years 7-10</b></p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Expand agencies participating in the L/A Overflow Plan.</li> <li>▪ Advocate for case management and preventive services.</li> <li>▪ Create monthly brown bag lunch for service providers to coordinate, communicate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seek funding and resources to implement a year- round overflow plan.</li> <li>▪ Submit legislative proposals that would fund case management and preventive services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Year round overflow plan implemented and funded.</li> <li>▪ Secure funding and resources for case management and preventive services.</li> </ul>

## Strategy 2: Early Intervention

Action	Lead	Potential Partners		
<p><b><u>2B. Create a Housing Liaison</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Establish a housing counseling service to ensure successful housing placement</li> <li>▪ Maintain a housing database of currently available apartments in Lewiston-Auburn</li> <li>▪ Provide training about rights and responsibilities of tenants/landlords</li> </ul>	<p>Auburn Housing Authority</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Community Concepts Inc.</li> <li>▪ Bank Representatives</li> <li>▪ Landlord Association</li> <li>▪ MaineHousing</li> <li>▪ Pine Tree Legal</li> <li>▪ Maine Equal Justice</li> <li>▪ The Visible Community</li> <li>▪ Common Ties</li> <li>▪ DHHS</li> <li>▪ Tedford Housing</li> <li>▪ HUD Vash Program (veterans)</li> <li>▪ Lewiston Housing Authority</li> <li>▪ Lewiston/Auburn Community Development Departments</li> </ul>		
		<b>Years 1</b>	<b>Years 2</b>	<b>Years 3-10</b>
	<b>Benchmarks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Define the position</li> <li>▪ Define funding need</li> <li>▪ Identify funding sources</li> <li>▪ Identify provider</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Service provider seeks resources</li> <li>▪ Service provider develops marketing approach to gather information for database and inform of the availability of housing services</li> <li>▪ Offer services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Evaluate and refine program</li> </ul>

### Strategy 3: Crisis Response

Action	Lead	Potential Partners		
<p><b><u>3A. Provide safe and accessible Emergency Shelter Beds</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assure there are sufficient and safe emergency beds that are available, low barrier, and appropriate</li> </ul>	<p>LAASH Public Policy Subcommittee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cities of Auburn and Lewiston</li> <li>▪ United Way</li> <li>▪ Healthy Androscoggin</li> <li>▪ Region II Homeless Council</li> <li>▪ Maine Housing</li> <li>▪ Tedford Housing</li> <li>▪ Community Housing of Maine</li> <li>▪ Trinity Jubilee Center</li> <li>▪ Hope Haven</li> <li>▪ New Beginnings</li> <li>▪ St. Martin</li> <li>▪ Abused Women’s Shelter</li> <li>▪ Common Ties</li> </ul>		
		<p><b>Years 1</b></p>	<p><b>Year 2</b></p>	<p><b>By or Before Year 10</b></p>
<p><b>Benchmarks</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Perform assessment to identify need for adult and family emergency beds with necessary supports/case management</li> <li>▪ Identify funding sources</li> <li>▪ Develop approach/establish campaign to build support for low-barrier emergency beds</li> <li>▪ Identify mission and organization</li> <li>▪ Establish emergency beds with case management services</li> <li>▪ Phase out 50% of emergency beds (to permanent supportive housing)</li> </ul>			

### Strategy 4: Transition

Action	Lead	Potential Partners		
<p><b>4A. Help with Living Skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assure services for people to learn living skills prior to re-entering the private housing and job markets</li> </ul>	<p>Community Concepts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tedford Housing</li> <li>New Beginnings</li> <li>Abused Women’s Shelter</li> <li>Women, Work, Community</li> <li>St. Mary’s Nutrition Center, including food pantry, Lots to Gardens</li> <li>Senior Community Service Employment Program</li> <li>Catholic Charities</li> <li>Coastal Enterprises Inc</li> <li>Advocates for Children</li> <li>DHHS - Aspire -Rehab</li> <li>Lewiston Adult Ed.</li> <li>Veteran’ Center</li> <li>Support Solutions</li> <li>The Ace Program</li> <li>Temp Work Agencies</li> <li>Career Center</li> <li>St. Martin de Porres</li> <li>Goodwill</li> <li>Common Ties Social Club</li> <li>B St &amp; Lewiston Library</li> <li>Computer labs</li> <li>Women’s Wisdom Center</li> <li>Outsource Works</li> </ul>		
	<p><b>Benchmarks</b></p>	<p><b>Years 1-2</b></p>	<p><b>Years 3-6</b></p>	<p><b>Years 7-10</b></p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify agencies with training resources</li> <li>Identify types of training and guidelines for qualifications</li> <li>Maintain a clearing house of training agencies and identify changes in training as they occur.</li> <li>Provide referrals to training in life skills, employment, parenting, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify means and incentives for people to attend life skills training</li> <li>Develop a pool of peer to peer mentors from people who have succeeded with life skills training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to maintain clearing house of trainers</li> <li>Continue to refer people to appropriate training.</li> <li>Increase peer to peer mentors from newly employed people</li> </ul>

### Strategy 4: Transition

Action	Lead	Potential Partners	
<p><b><u>4A. Develop Job Opportunities</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Expand Work Ready program to serve homeless.</li> <li>▪ Increase Alternative Advantage contracts with local businesses, and job placements</li> <li>▪ Introduce businesses receiving city assistance to employment services</li> <li>▪ Provide income opportunities through urban farming, especially for immigrants</li> <li>▪ Integrate job services into transitional housing</li> </ul>	Lewiston Career Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lewiston Economic Development</li> <li>▪ Auburn Economic Development</li> <li>▪ LA Growth Council</li> <li>▪ Alternative Advantage</li> <li>▪ Community Housing of Maine</li> <li>▪ Coastal Enterprises, Inc.</li> <li>▪ Women, Work, and Community</li> </ul>	
	Benchmarks	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Year 1</b></p>	
		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Years 2-10</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Create Work Ready curriculum and partners for homeless program</li> <li>▪ Recruit businesses to provide contracts to the Alternative Advantage program</li> <li>▪ Create materials, procedures to orient businesses helped by city assistance to employment programs</li> <li>▪ Add one to two Work Ready sessions a year</li> <li>▪ Add 10 to 20 job placements per year for homeless at Alternative Advantage program</li> <li>▪ Institute process of having employment services meet with new businesses coming to the community</li> <li>▪ Create placements for homeless in city garden programs</li> <li>▪ Create transitional housing with job training and support</li> </ul>	

### Strategy 5: Permanent Affordable Housing

Action	Lead	Potential Partners		
<p><b><u>5A. Increase the affordable Housing Stock</u></b></p> <p>Create 210 new units of permanent affordable rental housing by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Stretching HOME dollars by working with developers to encourage broadening their funding support from other grants</li> <li>▪ Encouraging Lewiston Housing Authority to create a CHDO and undertake development of rental housing</li> <li>▪ Budgeting adequate HOME funds to support rental housing development</li> <li>▪ Advocating on behalf of rental housing developers, particularly with MaineHousing</li> <li>▪ Utilizing CDBG funds for rehabilitation of affordable rental housing</li> </ul>	<p>Lewiston and Auburn Community Development Offices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Community Concepts</li> <li>▪ Avesta</li> <li>▪ MaineHousing</li> <li>▪ Lewiston/Auburn Housing Authorities</li> <li>▪ VA</li> <li>▪ Community Housing of Maine</li> <li>▪ Coastal Enterprises</li> <li>▪ Tedford Housing</li> </ul>		
	<p><b>Benchmarks</b></p>	<p><b>Years 1-2</b></p>	<p><b>Years 3-6</b></p>	<p><b>Years 7-10</b></p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 63 Units</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 57 Units</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 90 Units</li> </ul>



## **F. Measuring Success**

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As with the individual actions, there is a need for one lead agency to serve as a monitor of progress, and as a convener of key actors. The United Way of Androscoggin County has agreed to perform this important role.

There are hundreds of partner agencies identified in this plan that need to work with United Way, but three stand out. The Public Policy Committee of the Lewiston-Auburn Alliance for Services to the Homeless (LAASH), which has overseen the development of this plan, will provide ongoing advice. In addition, the two Community Development Departments of the cities of Auburn and Lewiston, which support housing and related services, will coordinate their funding activities with the plan.

The United Way will measure progress under the plan in three specific areas: reduced homelessness, reduced risk of homelessness, and meeting plan benchmarks. The table below describes the data and data sources for each. United Way will convene partners annually to review progress and will communicate identified successes and challenges. As Year Ten of the plan approaches, United Way will convene a summit of all partners and facilitate a community discussion of next steps.

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Data</b>	<b>Source</b>
<b>Reduced Homelessness</b>	Number of people in shelters	MSHA Point in Time survey
	Length of shelter stay	
<b>Reduced Risk of Homelessness</b>	Children under poverty	Maine Kids Count
	Domestic assaults per 100,000	
	Arrests of children 10-17 per	
	High school completion rate	
	Teen pregnancy, per 1,000	
	Infant mortality, per 1,000 births	
	Unemployment rate	Maine Department of Labor
<b>Meeting Plan Benchmarks</b>		Lead agency reports

# City Council

## Agenda Information Sheet

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**Council Meeting Date: 11/2/2009      Agenda Item No. 4**

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**SUBJECT:**

**RESOLVE – STATE OF MAINE RAILROAD INVESTMENT PLAN**

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**INFORMATION:**

The Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) is undertaking a study of the State of Maine rail system for the purpose of producing a State of Maine Railroad Investment Plan. It is imperative that Auburn and Lewiston are featured with the plan. Because of our past investments and our unique railroad infrastructure assets, the cities of Auburn and Lewiston will be the connection for Maine to the International railroad network serving both passengers and freight.

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**STAFF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATION:**

The City Manager recommends approval of the resolve.

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**REQUESTED ACTION:**

Motion for passage of the resolve.

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**VOTE:**

# City of Auburn

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City Council, Auburn, Maine

Date: November 2, 2009

## TITLE: RESOLVE – STATE OF MAINE RAILROAD INVESTMENT PLAN

**Whereas**, the State of Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) is engaged in creating a Maine State Rail Plan; and,

**Whereas**, the Cities of Auburn and Lewiston have built their economic development strategies on the transportation logistical advantages found in our area; and,

**Whereas**, the Cities of Auburn and Lewiston own a railroad line and have invested in improvements into the infrastructure; and,

**Whereas**, the City of Auburn, in partnership with the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad, Canadian National Railroad and the federal and state governments have already invested in creating an Auburn intermodal facility that has grown to be the largest dry goods inland-port in Maine; and,

**Whereas**, the City of Auburn intermodal facility serves as a regional demarcation point for Maine products to the rest of the world and a regional distribution center for inbound products throughout New England; and,

**Whereas**, the Cities of Auburn and Lewiston are a nexus point for both major railroad companies serving Maine customers and represent the second largest population center in Maine with 527,353 persons living within 30 miles of the twin cities; and,

**Whereas**, a federal designation of a high-speed rail corridor has been secured from the Portland waterfront northerly, to the City of Auburn; and,

**Whereas**, United States Customs clearance has already been secured for the Port of Auburn and Auburn has the only activated Foreign Trade Zone in central and southern Maine; and,

**Whereas**, the State of Maine has already completed a passenger Intermodal study and design of facilities to accommodate multi-modal passenger exchange at the Auburn/Lewiston Municipal Airport;

**Now therefore be it resolved**, the Auburn City Council requests the State of Maine Department of Transportation to focus attention on the opportunities represented by the unique rail infrastructure assets within the Auburn/ Lewiston area and its connection to the international rail and seaport network; and,

**Be it further resolved**, that the recommendations of the Maine State Rail Plan be measured against an economic model based upon 1.) The most economic benefit for the greatest number of people, 2.) The greatest opportunity to leverage public assets on private assets and 3.) Long-term sustainability; and,

**Be it further resolved** that the determination of priorities for the allocation of federal and state resources be measured against a cost-benefit analysis; and,

**Be it further resolved** that the recommendations contained in the communication from the Androscoggin Transportation Resource Center (copy attached) be incorporated into the analysis and funding priority determinations of the Maine State Rail Plan.

**Be it finally resolved**, that the Auburn City Council urges the State of Maine, and its Department of Transportation to value the existing infrastructure assets and rail designations already established in the Auburn and Lewiston area as having the greatest public benefit resulting from any current and future rail infrastructure investments as it relates to the Maine State Rail Plan.

Motion for acceptance:

Seconded by:

Vote:

Action by the City Council:

Date:

Attest:

City Clerk

Mr. Robert D. Elder, Director  
Freight and Business  
Services Office  
Maine Department of Transportation  
16 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0016

Re: Input to the MaineDOT Rail Plan

Dear Mr. Elder;

The Androscoggin Transportation Resource Center (ATRC) submits its comments on the MaineDOT Rail Plan. As the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) responsible for transportation planning for the communities of Lewiston, Auburn, Lisbon and Sabattus, we take a great deal of interest in rail transportation as it enters and transits our area. Rail transportation has a distinct impact on jobs, commerce and the area's economic opportunities.

While the recent report, *Moving People and Goods, The Governor's Rail and Port Investment Plan*, makes several references to our area, we feel it could be substantially enhanced with greater focus on the following: Passenger Rail, Acquisition of the Lewiston Lower Rail Line from Lisbon Falls to Lewiston, Acquisition of the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Rail Line from Yarmouth to Auburn, the Auburn Intermodal Freight Facility, the proposed Intermodal Passenger Facility, the Auburn Foreign-Trade Zone opportunities, High Speed Rail Designation beyond Auburn and the Inland Port of Auburn.

The MaineDOT did a Passenger Rail Study in Auburn and completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Passenger Rail Facility at the Auburn-Lewiston Municipal Airport. Both the study and previous efforts concluded that potential passenger usage from Montreal, Canada, is quite significant. The State of Maine could be left behind if and when a route is established between Boston and Montreal through Vermont. The coastal economy could benefit greatly by introducing passenger rail service that comes from Montreal through Auburn on to Portland, then to Boston.

The Lewiston Lower Rail Line between Topsham and Lewiston has split ownership: MaineDOT and PanAm. At one time the line was abandoned by PanAm [formerly Guilford]. Several years ago, during the proceeding before the National Surface Transportation Board, PanAm [Guilford] reconsidered its abandonment of the Lewiston Lower Rail indicating its intent to provide freight rail service as needed. It is our opinion that freight rail service on the Lewiston Lower Rail has been in need for a very long time.

The current High Speed Rail designation runs from Boston, through Portland to Auburn. The State has an option to purchase the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Line from Yarmouth to Auburn. We highly encourage the purchase and the rail line upgraded to high speed service designation. The line provides the connection to the Intermodal Freight Facility in Auburn – the largest dry goods port in Maine, as well as the proposed passenger intermodal facility at the Auburn-Lewiston Municipal Airport.

The Foreign-Trade Zone in Auburn is a great asset and needs to be promoted. The ability to bring goods from foreign countries via rail from seaports on the West and East coasts, have value added or simply held in a distribution facility for logistics purposes U.S. Customs duty free or deferred should be promoted. The General Purpose FTZ is in the area served by freight rail with access to St. Lawrence & Atlantic and PanAm, the Airport and Maine Turnpike.

As previously mentioned, the High Speed Rail Designation exists to Auburn. We have advocated, and with concurrence of the MaineDOT, requested that the designation be extended beyond Auburn to the New Hampshire border and to Montreal, Canada. The same request was made to our Congressional Delegation. The attraction for Canadians to our coast and on to Boston has been defined in studies and the use of High Speed Passenger Rail is essential to that travel. As expressed above, that opportunity could be lost if we do not act and act soon.

The Rail and Port report that is referenced above does mention that the Intermodal Freight Facility in Auburn moves more container cargo than any other Maine port and is listed under “Inland Ports” and it should also point out that it has double-stack capability all the way to the East and West Coasts of Canada. Coupling the opportunities of the “Foreign-Trade Zone” and U.S. Customs Port of Entry in Auburn should make it more desirable rail facility under Maine’s Rail Plan.

We appreciate the ability to have input on the Maine Rail Plan and would like to add that we do applaud your efforts to increase IRAP funding and greater use of rail facilities. Maine needs all of its transportation infrastructures to be systematically working at its optimum. Maine’s economic future depends on it.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Thompson  
Policy Committee Chair