

## Willamette Week

### Mayor Wheeler's Office Asks Developer Homer Williams to Put Together New Homeless Shelter Plan

*By Rachel Monahan*

*February 25, 2017*

The backer of the failed mass shelter proposal for Terminal 1, Developer Homer Williams, is on to his next shelter idea — a smaller scale version of what he proposed last year and one that could be replicated throughout the city.

"The mayor has asked us to take the next step, which involves opening a prototype shelter, and we're hard at work selecting the site and getting the plans together," Williams tells WW.

The Terminal 1 shelter proposal, modeled on San Antonio's [Haven for Hope](#), faced significant hurdles including the location, on industrial land that was owned by the Bureau of Environmental Services, and resistance to the concept of mass shelter.

Williams does not yet have a location identified for the new shelter. But the mayor's office has ruled out a large-scale shelter.

"That's not what's under consideration," says Wheeler spokesman Michael Cox. "I don't want to give too much detail on a plan that's still in development, but I will say that there are aspects of the Haven model that the Mayor likes that are under consideration," — including the "courtyard concept, consolidated service provision, low barriers" for entry.

The San Antonio shelter has a large outdoor courtyard where people sleep outdoors and allows people to work toward transitional housing with help from on-site service providers.

"We like that the private sector is stepping up to address a challenge we share as a community," says Cox.

### City Proposes Adding New Chemical Treatments to Portland Drinking Water to Reduce Lead Corrosion

*By Rachel Monahan*

*February 23, 2017*

The Portland Water Bureau is proposing new chemical treatments to make Portland's water less corrosive to lead and copper pipes and fixtures.

Among the possible chemicals the city is considering adding to the water: CO<sub>2</sub>, like what's used in carbonated beverages, or sodium carbonate.

The project would cost an estimated \$15 to \$20 million and would be finished by 2023. Some of that costs will go to construction of new facilities: A Water Bureau spokeswoman says these "will likely include a new building to house chemical storage tanks, pumps, piping and associated equipment."

The first part of the project will be brought to City Council next week, and follows findings that show the city water system has exceeded the federal action level for lead corrosion last fall.

As The [Oregonian](#) reported last fall, the Oregon Health Authority demanded the city come up with a way to further reduce lead levels in the water. The Water Bureau has already adjusted the chemistry of the water; the project would further that effort.

The Water Bureau's announcement notes that the bureau's current treatment has reduced the lead levels by up to 70 percent since 1997.

After a lead scandal rocked the Portland Public Schools and [led to the resignation of Superintendent Carol Smith last summer](#), the district is embarking on separate plans to switch out fixtures and pipes. Changes to the city's water will not affect those plans, school officials said.

Correction, 6:15 pm: This post has been corrected to remove any references to a new plant, which will not be part of the treatment project.