

TAXPAYER MONEY WASTED

No One Was Watching: The \$1.65 Billion Blind SPOT

How a broken oversight system let a homeless shelter contractor collapse into a criminal investigation while beds close and the crisis on our streets gets worse

Multnomah County is now under scrutiny for a homeless services contractor accused of blowing \$3.6 million on Topgolf outings, "Thirsty Thursday" bar tabs, and no-bid deals with executives' friends, money that was supposed to shelter homeless people. The Sheriff's Office is investigating. The nonprofit is dead. And the county is still proposing to close 605 shelter beds to save money.

If that sequence of events makes you angry, it should. **But the real scandal isn't one bad actor. It's a system that virtually guarantees this keeps happening because almost nobody is watching how the money is spent.**

The Sunstone Way Story, In Brief 2022

County auditors — tipped off through a hotline, *not caught by routine review* — find that All Good Northwest, a county-created shelter operator, over-billed taxpayers \$525,000, including duplicated payroll charges. The money is clawed back. The county maintains the contract.