



# CITY OF SALEM

## Written Testimony

### City Council

555 Liberty St SE  
Salem, OR 97301

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**Monday, April 8, 2024**

**6:00 PM**

**Council Chambers /  
Hybrid Meeting**

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**1.3a.** [24-121](#) Proclamation - National Library Workers Day 2024

Ward(s): All Wards  
Councilor(s): All Councilors  
Neighborhood(s): All Neighborhoods

**Recommendation:** Information Only.

**Attachments:** [Proclamation - NATIONAL LIBRARY WORKERS DAY 2024](#)  
[Public Comments received by 5:00 p.m., April 8, 2024](#)

*Add - Written Testimony.*

**1.3b.** [24-139](#) Proclamation - Dark Skies

Ward(s): All Wards  
Councilor(s): All Councilors  
Neighborhood(s): All Neighborhoods

**Recommendation:** Information Only.

**Attachments:** [Proclamation - Dark Skies - FINAL.pdf](#)  
[Public Comment received by 5:00 p.m., April 8, 2024](#)

*Revised - In the third "whereas" of the proclamation, the word "deleterious" was replaced with "harmful."*

*Add - Written Testimony.*

**From:** [aylopez26@gmail.com](mailto:aylopez26@gmail.com)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Cc:** [Vanessa Nordyke](#)  
**Subject:** National Library Workers Day  
**Date:** Sunday, April 7, 2024 9:30:24 PM

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Dear Council -

National Library Week is this April 7-13. On Tuesday, Mayor Hoy will declare April 9 to be National Library Workers Day. The work of the Salem Public Library staff is vast, serving 54,562 cardholders with 35.5 full time library employees. That equates to approximately 1 library staff per 1,537 library users.

Out of the many services the library provides, their Spanish language services are noteworthy. Pre-COVID, the library worked with the City of Salem to produce the Ciudad de Salem Facebook page, a city interdepartmental effort that helped raise awareness of the vast services the city provides. During the wildfires, bilingual library workers volunteered to answer questions to provide support to city emergency services. When city staff had questions regarding how other cities were supporting the unhoused in their communities, the librarians answered them. At every request, the library treated city staff with prompt customer service and willing collaboration.

The sentiment to declare Tuesday as "Library Workers Day" comes at an ironic time. As the option to cut 8 full time positions from the library is *still* a city budget consideration. If 8 positions are cut, that means a reduced library staff of 27.5 will be expected to serve 54,562 cardholders. That means 1 library staff per 1,984 library users.

Instead of the declaration, an even better act of support would be to remove the option to cut those positions. Otherwise, the declaration itself is a pander and not an act of *actual* support.

Sincerely,

-Alma Plasencia  
Ward 7

**From:** [Juliana Ha](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for 4/8/2024 Council Meeting  
**Date:** Monday, April 8, 2024 3:55:00 PM

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Dear Council,

I'm writing about item 1.3a on your agenda for tonight's meeting about the National Library Workers Day proclamation. While this is a considerate gesture, the best way to appreciate our amazing library staff is to guarantee funding for their library and to NOT cut any more positions or threaten closure.

It would be lamentable to see a gesture like this be immediately followed by massive staff cuts. Saying that such a decision would be "performative" is an understatement.

Sincerely,  
Juliana Ha

**From:** [Sadie Verville](#)  
**To:** [Chris Hoy](#); [Trevor Phillips](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [CityRecorder](#); [Deanna Gwyn](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Julie Hoy](#); [Linda Nishioka](#); [SALEM Manager](#); [Micki Varney](#); [Virginia Stapleton](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for 4/8/24 Council Meeting  
**Date:** Monday, April 8, 2024 12:08:28 PM

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Dear Council,

I am writing about item 1.3a on your agenda for tonight's meeting regarding the National Library Workers Day proclamation. While this is a considerate gesture, the best way to show appreciation for our incredible library staff is to guarantee funding for their library and NOT to cut any more positions or threaten closure.

It would be incredibly disappointing to see a gesture like this be immediately followed by massive cuts to staff. "Performative" doesn't describe how deep a betrayal that would be.

Thank you,

Sadie Verville, ward 1 (previously thought I was in ward 6, apologies for the error)

**From:** [Evan West](#)  
**To:** [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#); [Chris Hoy](#)  
**Subject:** Regarding Night Sky Proclamation  
**Date:** Sunday, April 7, 2024 10:45:32 PM

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Dear Mayor Hoy and Members of the City Council,

I am pleased to see a proclamation recognizing the importance of dark skies on Monday evening's agenda. We know that turning down the volume of artificial light is crucial for so many aspects of our environmental health and wellbeing. Thank you for recognizing this importance.

There is more that all of us, but particularly the City of Salem, must do. As with all pollution, the greatest culpability falls not on individual households, but on large scale polluters. The City of Salem needs to ensure that street lighting is upgraded to be night sky compliant. Lights at the tennis courts at Bush Park need to be turned off in a timely manner. The City Council should also apply as much pressure as possible to Willamette University. The existing lighting at soccer fields, the football stadium, and the proposal to add additional stadium lighting to baseball and softball facilities, are all quite simply some of the greatest causes of light pollution in our community.

If the City Council does not work hard to address the root causes of our lack of dark skies and the subsequent environmental consequences, the proclamation you deliver tomorrow will be meaningless. Thank you very much for your attention to this matter. I am happy to answer any questions that you might have.

Sincerely,

Evan West

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Evan West, M.A.

He/Him/His

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