

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of dj.vincent@churchatthepark.org
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Submission
Date: Monday, June 23, 2025 9:32:11 AM
Attachments: [Downtown Safety Plan .pdf](#)

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Street	1336 Heather LN SE
City	Salem
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Message	<p>I have been meeting with the Downtown Businesses, Judge Bennett, Commissioner Kevin Cameron and Representative Kevin Mannix about better care for those with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI) in downtown Salem. Church at the Park is committed to looking for multiple funding sources to help with downtown interventions and clean up opportunities. SEEN C@P staff will train businesses and organizations to see and respond to unsheltered neighbors through safe and effective communication. The Crisis Prevention Institutes de-escalation training will help build positive relationships, maintain safety for all involved, and avoid escalation. Training will include transferable skills for empathy building through the Non Violent Communication principles of observation, feelings, needs and clear requests. SAFE people and spaces: Our safety team members are continuously trained and coached through the tenets of trauma informed care and de-escalation to ensure a holistic response to situations that arise regarding the houseless community. Our intention in offering licensed safety and community health worker services are to support downtown businesses and individuals suffering with SPMI. C@P mission-driven service delivery will offer proactive engagement with guests, support crisis de-escalation, and overall site safety. We are confident that we can achieve this due to our compassionate approach when interacting with the community. These staff members will be trained community health workers and coordinate diversion to all known community resources. Many resources are available for residents of Salem who need assistance finding healthcare, detox, shelter, and affordable housing options. SUPPORTED to next steps: C@P will connect vulnerable adults who are unhoused throughout the Marion Polk region to support services and start planning for long term housing, health, and income stability. Key partners include: CAA, NWHS, Bridgeway, Marion County Health and Human Services, Northwest Senior and Disability Services. C@P will partner with all local shelter providers as well as continue to operate a 112 emergency shelter beds for vulnerable adults. The shelter will provide a safe, sanitary, and supported environment for guests to move from homelessness to stability. Vulnerable Adults will be able to stay in the shelter while they access the resources they need to stabilize and thrive in permanent housing. Through consistent C@P case management and on-site community partner</p>

connections, guests work towards stable housing, income, health, and behavioral health. C@P will walk alongside shelter residents until they are ready to transition to the next stable place of living. Guests are provided mentorship and assistance to develop their long-term support systems outside of the shelter. An ideal location for many of the most vulnerable adults will be a Permanent Supportive Cottage Village location. EMPOWERED for dignity and positive impact: C@P Clean Start program will offer unhoused individuals employment opportunities as sanitation workers whose duties include maintaining the cleanliness of the downtown core, as well as other areas of community beautification. Similar efforts across the nation have proven to be successful in keeping cities cleaner, strengthening relationships between unhoused individuals and the greater community, increasing employment and housing opportunities, as well as in saving cities money. Through Clean Start, C@P aims to develop opportunities to move unsheltered individuals toward stability through job training and employment and to increase public access to and safety within parks and other public areas. Additionally, Clean Start will benefit other Salem businesses that are negatively impacted by poor sanitation.

OBSERVATIONS: Currently individuals with SPMI who cannot “Aid & Assist” in their own care and representation are ordered to be transferred to the State Hospital. Many times individuals will remain in the County Jail for 3 weeks. Individuals at the State Hospital are supposed to receive “Restorative care.” Usually they are released at 6 months regardless of condition back into the community. Many individuals need “Secure Residential Treatment.” There are currently 20 facilities of 4-6 people and the need is over 200 facilities. Most individuals are released with 30 days of medication and instructed to seek outpatient care with the Psychiatric Crisis Center (PCC)

OPPORTUNITIES: Partnership with the State Hospital on referrals at the point of exit. Partnership with “Marion County Mental Health Court.” Partnership when a person is cycling through the system to use Probate to determine “Temporary Guardianship” at which time the individual could be instructed to receive “forced” supervision and medication.

Downtown Safety Plan:

Our safety team members are continuously trained and coached through the tenets of trauma informed care and de-escalation to ensure a holistic response to situations that arise regarding the houseless community.

Our intention in offering licensed safety and security services are to support your organization's mission-driven service delivery, offer proactive engagement with guests, and support crisis de-escalation and overall site safety.

We are confident that we can achieve this due to our compassionate approach when interacting with the community. These staff members will be trained community health workers and coordinate diversion to all known community resources. Many resources are available for residents of Salem who need assistance finding healthcare, detox, shelter, and affordable housing options.

Every member of our Safety Team is trained at Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST). Additionally, our team members are trained to provide safety and security that can de-escalate situations through trauma-informed care and Non-Violent Communication.

C@P's Safety Team also contracts with community partners to provide safety and security. We currently/have provided support to:

Oregon Department of Human Services

Capital Futbol Club

Safe Sleep

Startup: \$50,00

One Vehicle: \$40,000

Supplies (AED, First aid, PPE, etc...): \$10,000

Staffing: \$200,000

2 Staff: licensed safety and community health worker

1 Community Liaison and Chaplain:

6am-10am

7 days a week

Clean Start:

C@P Clean Start program will offer unhoused individuals employment opportunities as sanitation workers whose duties include maintaining the cleanliness of their camps, as well as other areas of the community. Similar efforts across the nation have proven to be successful in keeping cities

cleaner, strengthening relationships between unhoused individuals and the greater community, increasing employment and housing opportunities, as well as in saving cities money. Through Clean Start, C@P aims to develop opportunities to move unsheltered individuals toward stability through job training and employment and to increase public access to and safety within parks and other public areas. Additionally, Clean Start will benefit other Salem businesses that are negatively impacted by poor sanitation.

This is a support to our downtown safety presence not a stand-alone project.

Startup: \$120,000

Truck: \$100,000

Power washer trailer: \$10,000

Supplies and PPE: \$10,000

Staffing: \$163,000

3 staff

6am-10am

7 days a week

Operation and administrative costs: \$111,000

Dump fees, gas, insurance, administrative expenses etc...

Year 1 Total : \$643,000

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of megan.harper0907@gmail.com
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Submission
Date: Monday, June 23, 2025 9:55:44 AM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

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	<p>I am writing about agenda item 5b for the June 23rd City Council meeting. I live in Ward 4, and I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. I spent over 10 years of my career as a social worker working at Oregon State Hospital. The opinions expressed here are entirely my own and not representative of that organization or any of my past or current employers. At Oregon State Hospital, I worked primarily with individuals who had used the Guilty Except Insanity plea, after they had stabilized but before they were ready for transition. The meat and potatoes of my work was to sit with those folks and work through what happened that got them to engage in criminal behavior--everything from UUMV to Murder. Once they had a solid understanding for that, the work shifted to talking about both what they needed to change within themselves to avoid engaging in that sort of behavior again, and what supports they needed in their environment toward the same goal. I bring this up because I understand that one item of discussion at tonight's meeting is going to be how to increase police presence downtown. My perception is that council is considering this in response to the mass stabbing event at Union Gospel Mission. I was horrified to learn about that violent event, and my prayers have been with the survivors. I also understand the individual who stabbed 12 people is known to suffer from mental illness and is being evaluated for fitness to proceed (I also did some work with individuals at the State Hospital working on fitness to proceed, so I am familiar with that process.) This intersection between violent behavior/risk and mental illness is, therefore, in what was my professional wheelhouse for over a decade. My thesis statement is that I am concerned about police presence being the first, and so far only, approach to curbing violence in our community. And for the record, I am in favor of curbing violence. I am hopeful that we as a city can approach the violence in a way that has long-term positive impacts. Some common themes I learned from my time helping folks break down what put them in a bad place with both their mental health and their unsafe choices is as follows: -People are more likely to act violent when they do not have what they need -People are more likely to act violent when they feel threatened in some way -People are less likely to seek treatment if they fear that they are more likely to be punished than receive treatment I also want to be clear that I understand that the violent individual in this case was in the exact spot where he was likely to receive</p>

Message

help. I also drove through downtown yesterday and observed the large, obvious police station directly across from UGM--I'm not sure how much more obvious police presence could have been in that case. I also recognize that not everyone who commits violent acts has a mental health disorder. I am simply offering observations. For individuals who have already been involved with the law, the sight of a uniform can spark automatic fear, even at times trauma. Even if an arrest is warranted and needed, for someone with few resources, an arrest represents a huge loss. My children often ask me about why they see people around town pushing grocery carts, and we talk about how when you don't have anywhere to live, the few possessions that you hold onto have to be easily transported since you are unlikely to be able to stay in any one spot, and a shopping cart is an easy way to do that. Most of us have an item we would grab first if our house was on fire. Mine is 3 photo albums that my late grandmother put together for me and captioned in her own handwriting, and had them given to me after her death. For some, that thing might be a family heirloom, the ashes of a loved one, baking equipment one used to use with their mother, an old baseball glove--but most of us have something we are incredibly sentimental about which is irreplaceable. Unhoused individuals often lose those things permanently when they are arrested, pieces of their personal history lost to the wind or a dumpster for good. And that is just one piece of how an arrest can be traumatizing. Drug use often goes hand in hand with violent behavior, and two things drug addiction thrives on are shame and hiding in the shadows. This is antithetical to getting the help that is needed. I'm concerned that increased law enforcement presence without some more supportive services may have the unintended effect of shoving those who need help and could become violent without it further into the shadows. I am invested in making Salem a positive, happy, and healthy community. I do appreciate what law enforcement is called to do, and my point is not to disparage them. I'm not saying they make Salem a worse place. I am saying that they have a specific duty to do, and much like teachers, I feel over the years there has been a certain amount of scope creep. Both professions are being asked to do things they weren't trained for. I am concerned that increasing police presence as a solution to violence makes people feel more surveilled, not safer. If I live in a community that does not need heightened police presence, that's when I feel safest, and I'm not sure the function of law enforcement is to work itself out of a job in that way. I see law enforcement much like I see an emergency room--that's where we stabilize the problem, but more targeted intervention is necessary to actually solve/cure the problem. The final point that I would like to make is that we just, as a city, asked each other as citizens for a raise via the levy, and that was with the understanding that Salem's budget could budge no further. Increasing police presence downtown without a proportional decrease elsewhere is likely to lead to questions from the citizens of Salem about whether we really did need those extra funds all along to keep the library, parks, and senior center open. If the plan would be to draw officers from other parts of the city, I would wonder how this would be explained to the residents of those other parts of the city. Thank you for hearing my concerns. Megan Harper