

Amy Johnson

From: Autumn Knights <autumnfaith00@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 1:53 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: I'm in Support of the Police Audit

Hello,

My name is Autumn and I'm emailing in support of the police audit as proposed by Councilor Vanessa Nordyke.

Thank you,

-Autumn Knights

Amy Johnson

From: Brooke Schelar <brooke.schelar@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:38 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Performance audit of the Police Department - letter of support

I support a performance audit of the Police Department that has been detailed in the Information Report created by Strategic Initiatives Manager Courtney Knox Busch on 7/8/2020 (File # 20-277, Version: 1).

I do see that "Community Interviews" is listed within the scope of work, however I would like to emphasize that it is imperative that we don't just examine the existing mission, vision, values, training procedures, best practices, and all other aspects that may be well-intentioned and look good on paper. **This performance audit must also capture the reality of how the police department is conducting itself and interacting the community in practice. The third-party who will be undertaking this review must find a way to seek out and listen to those most marginalized within our community. *These voices are the ones we are fighting for.***

Thanks,
Brooke Schelar
Salem, Oregon

Amy Johnson

From: Caroline Brown <carolinejobrown@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 12:02 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Agenda Items 5a and 6d

My name is Caroline Brown, I reside in Ward 1.

I support agenda item 5a for renaming Center St and Center St Bridge to honor Martin Luther King Jr, and feel it is important for Salem, meaning Peace, and being the Capital City to once and for all condemn racism and our racist past by making this move. Let us be an example.

Regarding agenda item 6d, I stand in FULL support of working towards defunding our salem PD and reinvesting in long term peace solutions. Contrary to remarks from City Councilors in previos meetings, I do not advocate for leaving a hole (no one does) and want to see funds reallocated into social services. Especially aiding the house less, those struggling with mental health, and funding at risk communities to provide their basic and essential needs. Salem needs to set an example and begin the long process of working towards a community accountability justice system and dismantling punitive justice, which does little to nothing to discourage crime.

Personally, the city council has been incredibly discouraging to those wanting to be involved in local change. I want each of you to seriously consider who you are representing in your positions the next time you tell us that we are misinformed, or we don't understand the bureaucratic process, or to use different words or tones. We are your constituents. We are generally working class. We really care about our city and the people who are under represented within it. Are you representing the white elite in salem? Are you representing the status quo? Or are you representing change and community. Think about what you're doing.

Amy Johnson

From: Transform Salem <transformsalem@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:05 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Public Comment For 7/13 City Council Meeting

My name is Chris Young. I am a fourth-generation resident of Salem. I am very active in the Salem community and have been for over 25 years. Salem is currently engulfed in ongoing chaos, with trust in Salem's leadership and government, including and especially Salem PD, at historically low levels.

In the [2019 Community Satisfaction Survey](#), only 37% of respondents stated that "things in Salem are headed in the right direction." To put that number into perspective, three years earlier (2016) 66% of respondents stated that "things in Salem are headed in the right direction." The 2019 survey results were, of course, prior to the start of the pandemic, which in itself has created extreme difficulties for most of Salem's residents.

To make matters worse, Salem has made national/international headlines no less than 4 times in the last 6 weeks for disgusting racist incidents in the city, and heavily armed white supremacists are seen on several videos menacing and assaulting citizens while being treated as if local laws do not apply to them. It's likely a safe bet that confidence in city leaders and the government will continue to plummet because nothing is being done to properly address the dangerous and growing issue.

Two things are on this meeting's agenda that I would like to address and that I think will help to start the process of rebuilding trust in Salem city leaders and city government.

First, renaming Center Street after Martin Luther King Jr. is a great idea, and there's no reason to oppose such a move by the City of Salem. Countless other cities have re-named streets after civil rights activists, and it is beyond time for Salem to do the same. It is no secret that Salem has a white supremacy problem, and while renaming Center Street would obviously not completely fix that problem, it would be a significant symbolic step in the right direction. I encourage the entire City Council to do the right thing and move this proposal forward. If there is a concern regarding the cost to change the street signs, I suggest that the funds be taken out of Salem PD's bloated budget.

Which brings me to the second topic that I would like to submit public comment on - the proposed Salem PD performance audit. Salem PD has failed its citizens in recent weeks, as proven by the Marion County DA deciding to drop charges against Black Lives Matter protestors that were needlessly arrested by Salem PD May 31-June 1, the numerous videos that have been seen by literally tens of millions of people showing blatant selective enforcement of local laws by Salem PD, the complete unwillingness by Salem PD to perform some of its most basic functions on July 4th on Court Street and Riverfront Park, and the absolutely shameful [Police Report on Protests](#) that Salem PD Chief Jerry Moore sent to City Manager Powers last month.

[Salem PD's website](#) states that it seeks to "enhance trust." The Department has failed miserably on that front for all of the reasons stated previously in this testimony, in addition to many other reasons. The only way that trust can be enhanced is for Salem PD to be held accountable via a non-biased, third-party performance audit. Clearly, Salem PD is incapable of holding itself accountable, as proven by the contents of Chief Moore's report that he sent to City Manager Powers last month. Furthermore, Mayor Chuck Bennett and many City Councilors are incapable of holding Salem PD accountable, as proven by their inaction to do so thus far, or in the case of Mayor Bennett, his endorsement of Salem PD's recent actions. The only way that the city can start to regain the trust of many Salem residents, including myself, is through an independent review of Salem PD's recent actions.

Salem PD's budget is massive, and for whatever reason getting larger in the new budget despite pending budget shortfalls caused by the ongoing pandemic, and it is vital to the future of this city and its citizens that Salem PD undergo a thorough third-party review followed by tangible actions to address the glaring deficiencies within the Department.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Chris Young
Proud fourth-generation resident of Salem, Oregon

Amy Johnson

From: Danielle Hoffman <dalazzaro@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 2:52 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Support for Salem Police Department Performance Audit

Salem City Council,

I am writing in support of the proposed Salem Police Department Performance Audit. I strongly believe it is crucial to track & account for all police efforts in our community. I would further like to see a reduction in funding but this ongoing, public auditing to inform practices & ensure equity is a minimum, baseline start to better policing.

Thank you,

Danielle Hoffman
3585 Crestview Dr S, Salem, OR 97302