

Amy Johnson

From: Jason Cox <jasonrcox@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2020 9:37 AM
To: Matthew Ausec; citycouncil
Cc: Chuck Bennett; Sara Long; Kristin Rutherford
Subject: Homelessness and zoning

Hi Matt and Chuck,

I'm writing regarding the recommendation to allow homeless shelters in industrial areas. The need is clearly present and there's no easy solutions -- and the interaction with residential areas is tricky at best.

While much of Salem's industrial zoning is relatively isolated from residential areas, the west side of Portland Road is largely zoned industrial commercial, yet interacts with a commercial and residential area. It's a unique mix that only occurs a couple of other places in the city, and this fact should be taken into account as staff works on the requested zoning. A blanket allowance of camping in IC-zoned areas could have unintended consequences if not crafted carefully and with intention.

Best of luck to you as you work through this extremely difficult issue. Happy to discuss the matter further if you'd like.

Best,
Jason Cox

Amy Johnson

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of susan_friesen66@msn.com
Sent: Saturday, January 25, 2020 10:19 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Attachments: ConestogaHuts.jpg

Your Name	Susan Friesen
Your Email	susan_friesen66@msn.com
Your Phone	503-871-1857
Street	960 Jefferson St. NE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97301
Message	Dear Mayor Bennett and Salem City Councilors, Solving the problem of homeless people camping in the downtown area is obviously at an impasse. No solution appears to be in the offing. It's a conundrum, for sure. However, have any of you heard of, or read about, what the city of Walla Walla, Washington has done to provide temporary shelter for their homeless citizens? Someone or some group of people came up with the idea of using volunteer help to construct conestoga huts --- a uniquely-designed shelter that provides protection from the brunt of the elements and a measure of privacy and safety. Please see the attached photo

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 1/25/2020.



Amy Johnson

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of susan_friesen66@msn.com
Sent: Saturday, January 25, 2020 10:52 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Attachments: ConestogaHuts.jpg

Your Name	Susan Friesen
Your Email	susan_friesen66@msn.com
Your Phone	503-871-1857
Street	960 Jefferson St. NE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97301
Message	Dear Mayor Bennett and Salem City Councilors, Solving the problem of homeless people camping in the downtown area is obviously at an impasse. No solution appears to be in the offing. It's a conundrum, for sure. However --- have any of you heard of, or read about, what the city of Walla Walla, Washington has done to provide temporary shelter for their homeless citizens? Several years ago someone, or some group of people, came up with the idea of using volunteers to help to construct conestoga huts --- uniquely-designed shelters that provide protection from the brunt of the elements, and a measure of privacy and safety. Please see the attached photo. The huts I saw when I visited Walla Walla a couple of years ago were set up on a blacktopped area behind a chain link fence with privacy slats in an industrial area on the edge of the downtown. Could something like this work in Salem? Does the city have a piece of property near downtown where conestoga huts could be set up? Or, is there a private property owner who would be willing to donate the use of a suitable space near downtown? I'll bet there are people, organizations, and businesses in the Salem area who would volunteer their time and resources to construct the huts. I urge you all to check out https://communitysupportedshelters.org/ to find out more about these unique shelters. Thank you all for the time and energy you devote to the City of Salem --- you have a very tough job! Susan Friesen

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Amy Johnson

From: Sadie Blackhall <Sadie@acgilbert.org>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 1:26 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Gilbert House Children's Museum and Homeless Camping

Dear City Council-

My name is Sadie Blackhall and I am on the Board of Directors for Gilbert House Children's Museum. As I am sure you are aware, homeless camping surrounding the Gilbert House has been a serious issue for some time. The city has been very helpful and cooperative with working with us in the past regarding this, and I am thankful for everything you have done to help keep the Gilbert House and surrounding area a safe and clean place for Salem's children and families.

For the past several weeks, there have been tents in the ravine east of the Gilbert House and increasing activity. Unfortunately, there was a recent incident involving police arresting a shoplifter near the museum, and police had their guns out and a dog was killed. The next day, a fire was started in the area.

These events have been very difficult on Gilbert House staff and have happened while families are on the premises. We have had to move families indoors during these events. We have been communicating with members and visitors that we value their safety, however, these events will continue to impact our museum and our patrons.

We understand there are limited options with asking campers to leave. However, one thing that can be done to help keep the Gilbert House safe and the surrounding area clean for Salem's families is to designate the area around the Museum a school zone. This would allow a perimeter around the Gilbert House that would not allow camping. The Board of Directors strongly supports this designation and we feel it will benefit Salem's children and families.

Thank you for your time and continued work in supporting our cause of inspiring children to learn through creative play. We are very thankful to be a part of Salem and the surrounding communities.

Sadie Blackhall
Board of Directors
Gilbert House Children's Museum



Amy Johnson

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of sameolemark@msn.com
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 4:19 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Attachments: ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Mark Lee
Your Email	sameolemark@msn.com
Your Phone	541.990.5937
Street	2791 Sonora Dr NE
City	Albany
State	OR
Zip	97321
Message	I do not live in Salem, but travel up to Salem quite a bit for my self employment after retiring from law enforcement. In regards to the street people and camping in the parks, sidewalks, etc. I have an idea and don't know if anyone suggested it but here goes. The women's prison on State Street has been closed for years and not used, right? Convince the Dept of Corrections and use this for homeless persons. Another thought, Hillcrest off Reed Rd, can this be used as well? I understand it has been closed as well. Thanks for listening. Mark Lee

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 1/24/2020.

Amy Johnson

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of salemrmcf@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2020 5:19 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Attachments: ATT00001.bin

Your Name	R. Little
Your Email	salemrmcf@gmail.com
Your Phone	5038516088
Street	401 Center St. SE Ste. 285
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97301
Message	<p>Hello city leadership, I am a downtown business owner at Salem Center. I am writing again to you all as I continue to have grave concerns about our business' future due to takeover of our area by the homeless subjects. This weekend I walked about outside and the homeless have taken over and prevent the safe use of our area by customers. I observed several bikes in pieces piled up or locked to a bike stand and a person basically appearing to run a bike repair area. My understanding is that they are not allowed to develop structures but the reality is they are including the use of pallets, tarps, shopping carts, etc.. In addition, I observed food items and significant trash making this a public health hazard for all citizens. I am concerned that police are not enforcing theft of shopping carts, littering, and taking over the entire sidewalk in areas. I understand that there are court rulings regarding the use of public areas. However, I believe upon review that it is not the spirit of the law that others are allowed to impede upon the rights and general health of others, move permanently into a public location, acquire and store large amounts of personal belongings, dispose of trash/unwanted items on the street, and damage private and city property. I recently stood at our back dock area and could smell the odor of bodily fluids from subjects using the area as a bathroom. In addition, I watch folks stop and offer items to the subjects who routinely turn it down or leave it laying as trash as they appear to only want money. I respectfully request that officials including the police adopt a stronger stance against such choices and protect the rights of others. I recommend a more frequent police supervision/action, daily cleaning of the area, and policies passed to prevent such behavior completely before there is damage to commerce that cannot be repaired. I understand this is a challenging issue and thank you for your time. Best regards, R. Little</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 1/26/2020.

Amy Johnson

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of caratapken@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2020 5:03 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Attachments: ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Cara Tapken
Your Email	caratapken@gmail.com
Your Phone	9717729570
Street	1121 11th ct
City	Lyons
State	OR
Zip	97358
Message	Jones said he would lift the camping ban and invest in a low-barrier shelter to house the most vulnerable and struggling homeless...this makes no sense. If Pringle Hall wouldnt work then how come low barrier housing would work? What option is there to the old hillcrest? If has everything needed for the homeless and for those who would oversee the program? Neighbors are not as close either. Twice a day shuttle could be implemented. The cost of cleaning up the city as has been done...over time you would spend more to do so than to open hillcrest. At least hill crest has the option to house more homeless than what we have. Low barrier shelter and allowing camping will turn us into a pdx issue. Many have stated that the hillcrest area is a good option.

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