

Carl Hoffman

From: Bill Dixon <bill.r.dixon@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2026 10:40 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Comment Regarding Agenda Item 4.b. 26-212, FY 2027 City of Salem Budget

My name is Bill Dixon, and I live in Ward 7 at 608 Salem Heights Ave. S. I write to urge that the city use funds in its 2027 budget to for a study of how its economic development programs affect the wages of local workers.

The study should encompass urban renewal areas, enterprise zones, business recruitment and any other programs that staff and the City Council identify as central to economic development. Funding for the study could come from the money set aside in the 2027 general fund budget proposal for Citywide Memberships, Services, and Subscriptions.

A resolution in support of such a study was approved by the Budget Committee in May. As noted at that time, the city has been actively engaged in formal economic development work since at least 1975, when the first urban renewal area was formed. However, there is not any current research showing how economic development programs are improving the wages of local workers.

The available data raise questions about how much URA's and economic development programs in general are helping our community members. More Salem residents live in poverty than the national and state averages. More Salem residents are unemployed than the national rate. Median household income and per capita income are lower in Salem than nationally. More Salem residents have trouble paying their housing costs than almost anywhere else in the country.

The city has shown that URA's can raise property values (which, paradoxically raise housing costs), while economic development subsidies such as tax breaks can help businesses. But programs such as these should produce improvements for more than just the owners of property and business.

I urge a study of wage impacts as a step toward ensuring that economic development programs improve the worker economy as well.

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Bill Dixon

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Carl Hoffman

From: Haley Lehman <hnproctor@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2026 8:25 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Budget feedback

Dear City Council members,

I am writing to provide feedback on the proposed city budget for 2027.

First, I would like to express my gratitude that the city's budget plan for the Salem Public Library includes a new full-time permanent position for community engagement and volunteer coordination. This is a wonderful addition to our community.

However, I would still like to advocate for the opening of a library branch in the Northeast part of the city. There are many residents in this area who have a significant need for library services, but the current public library is located quite far away.

Additionally, I would like to see an increase in funding for Parks and Recreation programs for children, specifically regarding classes and activities such as art and music. Looking toward the long term, it would also be wonderful for Salem to have a public pool again.

I believe these investments will make Salem more family-friendly, appealing to residents, and successful in the future. Thank you for your time and for considering my feedback.

Best regards,

Haley Lehman
Salem resident

Haley Lehman

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