



City of Salem
Urban Renewal Agency
555 Liberty Street SE
Salem, OR 97301

20 June 2019

Re: Union Gospel Mission's application for a RDURA Capital Improvement grant

CANDO adopted annual goals for 2019-2020. One of those goals is to "Support initiatives offering practical solutions for neighbors living in the streets."

Having participated on the Downtown Homeless Solutions Task Force through the undersigned, the Central Area Neighborhood Association, consistent with its obligations under SRC 64.290 (c), (d), (h), (j) and (l), voted unanimously on June 18, 2019, to support the Union Gospel Mission's application for a Riverfront Downtown Capital Improvement grant to help fund essential components of the new Men's Mission to be constructed a few blocks north of its current location downtown.

In addition to offering practical solutions for neighbors living in the streets, the staff and administration of the Men's Mission regularly attend CANDO meetings and are always responsive to questions, complaints and requests for information and assistance.

Sincerely,
Neal Kern/s
CANDO Chair

Amy Johnson

From: Kristin Retherford
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2019 10:08 AM
To: Amy Johnson; Sheri Wahrgren
Subject: FW: Public Comment
Attachments: 2019_UGM Letter of Support.pdf

For tonight's proposed grant to the UGM.

Kristin Retherford

Urban Development Director

City of Salem | Urban Development Department

350 Commercial St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

kretherford@cityofsalem.net | 503-540-2486

From: Jimmy Jones [mailto:Jimmy.Jones@mwvcaa.org]
Sent: Sunday, June 23, 2019 2:15 PM
To: Kristin Retherford <KRetherford@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Public Comment

Kristin:

I want to provide the attached letter as public comment on UGM's request for an exception to the Capital Improvement Grant Program, for the purpose of building a new men's mission.

Jimmy

Jimmy Jones

Executive Director

Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency

2475 Center Street NE

Salem, Oregon 97301

503-585-6232 (ext 1100) (Main Office); 503-559-2488 (Work Cell); 501-827-7547 (Personal Cell)



23 June 2019

SENT BY EMAIL

Kristin Retherford
Director, Urban Development Department
City of Salem
350 Commercial Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Director Retherford:

On behalf of the Community Action Agency, I ask that the City of Salem approve Union Gospel Mission's request for \$749,000 in Urban Development funds, for the purpose of constructing the new Men's Mission here in Salem. I further request that the City grant Union Gospel Mission exceptions under the formal regulations of the Capital Improvements Grant Program that would otherwise exclude them as a non-profit applicant and limit any such award to a maximum of \$300,000.

The construction of a new Men's Mission serves a vital purpose in our community. The number of literally homeless persons in Salem continues to grow steadily, and will likely push over the 2,000 mark in the urban growth boundary by 2021. The community as a whole lacks an adequate number of shelter beds. Without shelter, our homeless are left outside to suffer in very difficult conditions, often dying at surprisingly young ages from violence, addictions, and aggravated health conditions. We are facing a public health crisis, and every resource in the community needs to be marshalled toward harm reduction strategies for the homeless, of which shelter is a critical element. This new shelter will provide a higher level of assistance than currently available, including medical triage and substance and mental health counseling, storage, showers and laundry, and 24/7 restrooms. UGM will also connect those clients with their transitional housing program, and make referrals to other state and federal housing programs in the community. UGM's shelter philosophy matches national best practices, especially in their commitment to ending, instead of only managing, homelessness. Shelters should exist not just to provide these critical services, but also to provide connections to permanent housing. UGM is dedicated to that work as well.

This new shelter, combined with our completion of the renovations of the ARCHES Project this summer, on-going support for the Salem Housing Authority's HRAP program, and Northwest Human Services continued vital services, will give the City of Salem its best homeless services delivery system for the unsheltered homeless in its history, and one of the best in the state of Oregon. UGM and Community Action are working closer than ever before, participating in Coordinated Entry together, and actively planning homeless strategies together. We are both working closely with the City of Salem to reduce the danger of homelessness in the downtown, and limit the impacts of this public health crisis on our downtown business partners and neighbors. We ask that the City of Salem move quickly to approve in full Union Gospel Mission's request for these grant dollars, and to permit the exceptions under the Capital Improvements Grant Program that they have requested. Such a decision would be consistent with the Council's commitment to Salem Housing Authority's HRAP program, the ARCHES Project, and its support for a Marion-Polk Continuum of Care.

Yours respectfully,



Jimmy Jones
Executive Director



COMMUNITY ACTION

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EXIT POVERTY**