

**From:** [Valorie Freeman](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Subject:** City Budget May 2023  
**Date:** Monday, May 15, 2023 1:04:34 AM  
**Attachments:** [FIND A WAY May 2023.docx](#)

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Please accept this written statement of support for the Budget Committee and City Council as they move toward finalizing the budget.

Thank you.

Valorie Freeman  
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Salem, OR 97301  
503-510-6463

**I support funding the City of Salem 23-24 budget fully and building revenues for the future:**

- **Increase the Operations Fee;**
- **Implement an Employee Paid Payroll Tax without sending the issue to a November public vote to avoid revenue delay that creates service cuts; and**
- **Shield minimum wage earners from the Employee Paid Tax.**

**Why I support the proposed budget and revenue strategies:**

- **Salem deserves a vibrant library and**
- **Sheltering Program Initiatives are essential to the health of our community.**

**As you reach the budget deadlines, don't let years of old barriers in public funding hold Salem and its people hostage in a philosophy of scarcity.**

**Building budgetary and services capacity sustains business and creates scenarios of a strong City infrastructure and supports a quality environment in which to live.**

**We are at the cusp of recovery from the challenges of the pandemic stall – economically and socially. The pathway to improved funding of City services, including a dynamic library and vigorous houseless outreach supports the growth of our community and the City's success.**

**FIND A WAY ..... To realize the budget you've developed.**

## SUPPORT LIBRARY SERVICES

I am writing this sitting in the library. On Mother's Day. Among young families in the Discovery Center, teens studying, people using wireless and computers, checking out the new Library of Things and a father following his son from book to book. There is a free concert in the Louck's Auditorium. All this without an entrance fee, though it does take the financial support of our community.

I am struck each time I visit the library with how respectful, welcoming and opportunity rich a community resource it is. It is a safe and expansive space to learn about oneself, about others, experience art and culture and generally enlarge one's world view. Each week it provides programming for preschool enrichment, STEAM activities, Spanish language services and events, and facilitated conversations about challenging issues that match City values of diversity inclusion and knowledge exploration. It's a place where Teens expand their world and give back in projects like "Take What You Need" – the kind of service approach that generates citizenship and community participation in adulthood. These are services worth financial support.

The library is a critically important lever in the City's efforts to realize the best version of itself. It reaches into homes and lives in important ways.

### RETAIN AND GROW THESE SERVICES.

## FUND SHELTERING PROGRAMS

The City and State are beginning to gain traction in serving our increasing numbers of unhoused residents. Strategic support to our neighbors who struggle in this basic way is both complex and important. Continued funding and expansion of these services is essential to the short and long term livability of Salem.

The Homeless Navigation Center, Salem Outreach and Livability Services Team and SPD Homeless Services Team are essential to Salem's health as a community.

I live in downtown Salem and encounter unsheltered individuals each day. Their visible presence exhorts us to make a difference – for them and for our city.

### CONTINUE AND EXPAND TARGETED SERVICES TO THOSE WITHOUT BENEFIT OF HOUSING AND STABILITY IN THEIR LIVES.

**From:** [AlHolland49](mailto:AlHolland49)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](mailto:budgetoffice)  
**Subject:** Budget meeting comment  
**Date:** Thursday, June 1, 2023 7:50:54 AM

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From:  
Alan Holland  
2099 WoodhavenCt, NW  
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503 551 0580

With ever increasing demands on limited City funds nearing a crisis level in Salem, airport subsidies have been proposed for Salem Air Service to be restored. Is there reliable information that this is an investment that will pay dividends to Salem in some form or an expense being made when competing interests seem more important??  
Please explain and justify the comparison of airport subsidy versus funding a full "Cahoots"-like program?  
Thank you  
Alan Holland  
[AlHolland49@comcast.net](mailto:AlHolland49@comcast.net)

Sent from Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

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