

## Ruth Stellmacher

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**From:** Bill Dixon <bill.r.dixon@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 2, 2024 8:59 AM  
**To:** CityRecorder  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 5.a. 24-473 Governance Implementation Update

I urge the Council to pause adoption of the recommendations in its subcommittee report on the governance implementation update.

Before adoption, the Council should invite staff to report on the impact on staff workload of developing standardized bylaws, application materials and application processes - and then implementing these new activities across the city's 47 boards, commissions, committees and neighborhood associations.

More broadly, I urge the Council to consider whether standing committees/commissions and staff support for independent neighborhood associations are in the best interest of the organization (both in terms of efficiency and budget impact) and the community - or whether all would be better served by using temporary task forces to address specific critical needs as they arise.

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*Bill Dixon, Ward 7  
608 Salem Heights Ave. S, Salem 97302*

## Ruth Stellmacher

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**From:** Carole Smith <carole@smithkittleson.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 1, 2024 6:01 PM  
**To:** citycouncil  
**Subject:** Urban renewal

**Categories:** Follow-up

The staffs idea to condense all urban renewal boards into one board is a spectacularly bad idea.

If you vote for this you are cutting out the input from over 100 citizens which serve and provide input to the cities direction. You will be cutting citizens input to save city staff time and effort.

We value our opportunities for wide citizen input into how urban renewal districts plan and budget funds. Severely reducing citizen input is an awful decision. Each district is unique needs and opportunities.

One of the most negative aspects of living in Salem is that city council seems to be far more interested in saving staff jobs at the expense of citizens desires. City staff are not good at solving problems or creating solutions that would improve quality of life in Salem. Year after year, staff have dumbed down citizen solutions in an effort to save money for staff salaries. This is not your job. You are suppose to balance what citizens want in their community with city financial needs. This has been way out of balance. Council only seems interested in city funding, and not representing citizens.

Please understand citizens often create the best solutions and provide new solutions for the future. Staff only seem to care about funding everyone's paycheck at the expense of our successful future. Just concentrating on city funding does nothing to create a successful creative city to attract new residents and increase livability.

Unfortunately you need to cut staff. What you are voting on Monday evening is whether citizens input is important or whether city finances are more important.

If you vote to silence our voices, why would we listen to you about passing more bonds in May? We understand what you are doing, do you?

Thank you for considering my input.