

**From:** [noreply@cityofsalem.net](mailto:noreply@cityofsalem.net) on behalf of [jmrhofer@outlook.com](mailto:jmrhofer@outlook.com)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Contact City Recorder  
**Date:** Sunday, July 20, 2025 7:24:35 PM  
**Attachments:** [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	John Hofer
Your Email	jmrhofer@outlook.com
Your Phone	5035851262
Street	1460 Marshall Dr. SE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97302
Message	<p>Dear City Councilors and Mayor Hoy, I write to support your humane exploration of downtown safety, an exploration to make all of us safer, including the unhoused. We live in a difficult time when economic inequality is at its highest since the time of the Robber Barons. We have a congress that just passed a bill slashing social programs to provide tax breaks for the rich. The problem of downtown safety will be with us for a while. We will probably as a city government be on our own in our efforts to manage safety downtown. There is a dilemma for us to try to solve: to as best we can create an open and inviting downtown where customers feel welcome and safe, while at the same time creating support systems to the unhoused to avoid the usual sorts situation that are problematic. Such supports will include involvement by the Salem Police Department, but the Salem Police Department cannot carry all the weight. The task will require funding to augment Police efforts with Social Service Personnel when Police are called to handle situations involving unhoused persons. Additionally, the city can explore funding other actions to reduce downtown safety issues, such as, but not limited to: 1. Installing strategically located public restrooms which are well maintained, monitored, and free; 2. Creating safe daytime spaces for unhoused persons to gather, where they are offered food, water, warmth or cooling, operated by professional staff such as MWVCAA; 3. Promoting more affordable housing. I appreciate your continued effort to make Salem a healthy city where everyone feels safe and welcome.</p> <p>Sincerely, John Hofer Salem Resident, 47 years, 1 month</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 7/20/2025.

**From:** [Engelberg Antiks](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** police presence in downtown  
**Date:** Sunday, July 20, 2025 5:15:41 PM

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My name is John Forrest and my wife and I own Engelberg Antiks in downtown Salem. I understand you are having a work session regarding downtown public safety. there is a dire need for more police presence in the downtown core. with the issues with homeless, trespassers, theft and harassment and threats to ourselves and customers. We used to have the bicycle team downtown that was a huge help with just their visibility with the benefit of helping foster community relations with the police. We feel as if we are in the wild west and when there is an issue we need to handle it ourselves.

examples,

females being harassed on the sidewalks

people looking through cars parked on street and in lots

we had a man outside our store on the sidewalk swinging a knife, we had on camera customers coming to our store and turning to run away out of fear. we locked our door and asked our customers to remain inside until he left. when police made contact we were told it was drug induced and they talked with him.

on another occasion we had a man, who had previously stolen multiple items from our store, openly carrying a gun back in our store. we called 911 with description and case number. We were told they put the call out but everyone was busy. so, we were on our own to get him out of the store.

Please help our downtown businesses and residence, we should not have to live this way.

thank you for your attention to this situation

John Forrest

Engelberg Antiks

148 Liberty St NE

Salem, OR.

503-363-8155

**From:** [KAREN R. HEUBERGER](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Written public comments for July 21 city council per downtown public safety  
**Date:** Sunday, July 20, 2025 4:08:08 PM

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My comments per July 21 city council meeting regarding downtown public safety: Downtown Salem public safety has deteriorated. The perception that it is a dangerous, filthy, vagrant filled destination is sadly based on reality: It is all of that. Ramifications of the condition/situation which has been allowed is: Businesses failing/empty buildings/resulting in citizens/customers of businesses and restaurants staying away from downtown. This is the opposite of what we want and need. We need a vibrant, thriving, vital downtown.

The remedy for this is to make sure that downtown Salem IS NOT a dangerous, filthy, vagrant filled city. Clean it up! Move out the vagrants.

Each time that a "clean up sweep" is made----such as along Front Street/under the bridges-----it lasts for about one day. Then the vagrants and their clutter/garbage move back in. Do not allow this. Please do what other communities do that DO NOT have this problem. It isn't reinventing the wheel. It is using common sense solutions and policies, like those that safe, clean, non vagrant filled communities, non-graffiti covered communities do.

The Supreme Court decision City of Grants Pass v. Johnson upholds that laws against homelessness can be enforced. So do this!

I appreciate your consideration in this matter.

K. R. Heuberger  
P.O. Box 724  
Salem, OR 97308

**From:** [John Lubans](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** downtown  
**Date:** Sunday, July 20, 2025 7:57:58 AM

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How about regular steam cleaning with soap of downtown sidewalks? They are filthy and just like "broken windows" promote acceptance of the squalid status quo - that nothing can change. Thanks.

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John Lubans  
Salem, Oregon, USA  
[blog.lubans.org](http://blog.lubans.org)

Visiting Professor, University of Latvia, Riga.

His "Fables for Leaders", illustrated by Béatrice Coron, is now available, ISBN: 978-0-692-90955-3

**From:** [Lynn Cardiff](#)  
**To:** [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** [SUSPECTED SPAM] Downtown homeless issues  
**Date:** Monday, July 21, 2025 7:03:27 AM

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City Councilors and Mayor Hoy,

I would like to reiterate and support the suggestions sent to you by Joan Stembridge.

1. Numerous public restrooms that are well maintained and free
2. More approved daytime gathering sites where people are offered food and water and shade or warmth, maintained by knowledgeable staff such as MWVCAA
3. Funding partnering Salem Police Department with Social Service professionals whenever SPD is called to investigate individuals who are experiencing homelessness
4. Promoting more downtown affordable housing

Lynn Cardiff  
Resident of Salem for 57 years

**From:** [J Stembridge](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#); [citycouncil](#)  
**Cc:** [jimmy.jones@mwvcaa.org](mailto:jimmy.jones@mwvcaa.org); [Trevor Womack](#); [lynellx@comcast.net](mailto:lynellx@comcast.net)  
**Subject:** Monday Council Work Session Issue  
**Date:** Sunday, July 20, 2025 11:23:48 AM

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Dear City Councilors and Mayor Hoy,

I am writing to encourage you to look at the issue of downtown "safety" with a wide and humane view. Primarily my focus is on those individuals who are living unsheltered on downtown streets.

Yes, people who are living on the streets of downtown Salem create quite a dilemma for downtown business owners. I understand and appreciate why downtown business owners want their sidewalks clean and open and inviting for customers to feel welcome. And I appreciate that owners of businesses in downtown Salem might not have the interest or knowledge or energy to become social service experts.

I am writing to encourage you to look at the issue with an eye for promoting a solution of reducing the problem both for the individuals who are living unsheltered AND for the property owners and their customers.

And, yes, I fully support having downtown Salem a safe place for everyone; which means I appreciate and support the involvement by Salem Police Department.

In light of the above, I encourage you to fund:

1. Numerous public restrooms that are well maintained and free
2. More approved daytime gathering sites where people are offered food and water and shade or warmth, maintained by knowledgeable staff such as MWVCAA
3. Funding partnering Salem Police Department with Social Service professionals whenever SPD is called to investigate individuals who are experiencing homelessness
4. Promoting more downtown affordable housing

I thank you for your efforts to make Salem a beautiful healthy inviting city where every person feels safe and welcome.

Sincerely,

Joan Stembridge

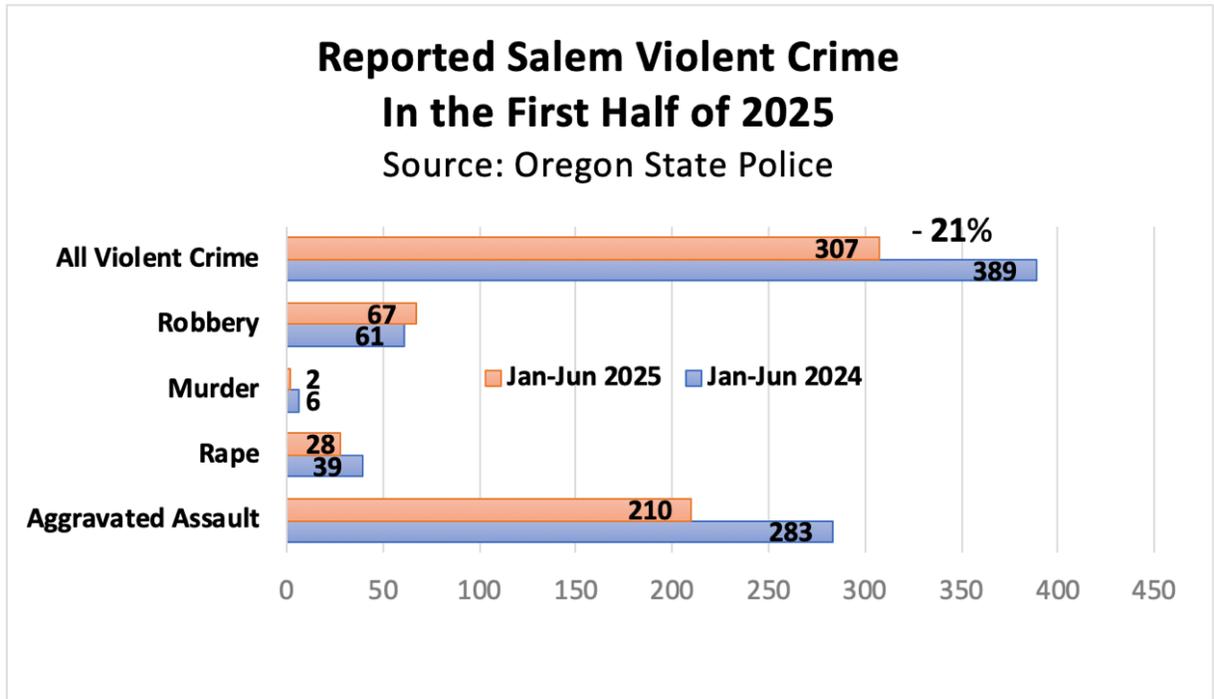
Resident of Salem for 47 years

**From:** [Jim Scheppke](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony for the 7/21/25 Work Session  
**Date:** Saturday, July 19, 2025 11:23:24 AM  
**Attachments:** [Screenshot 2025-07-19 at 10.43.29 AM.png](#)  
[Screenshot 2025-07-19 at 10.58.06 AM.png](#)

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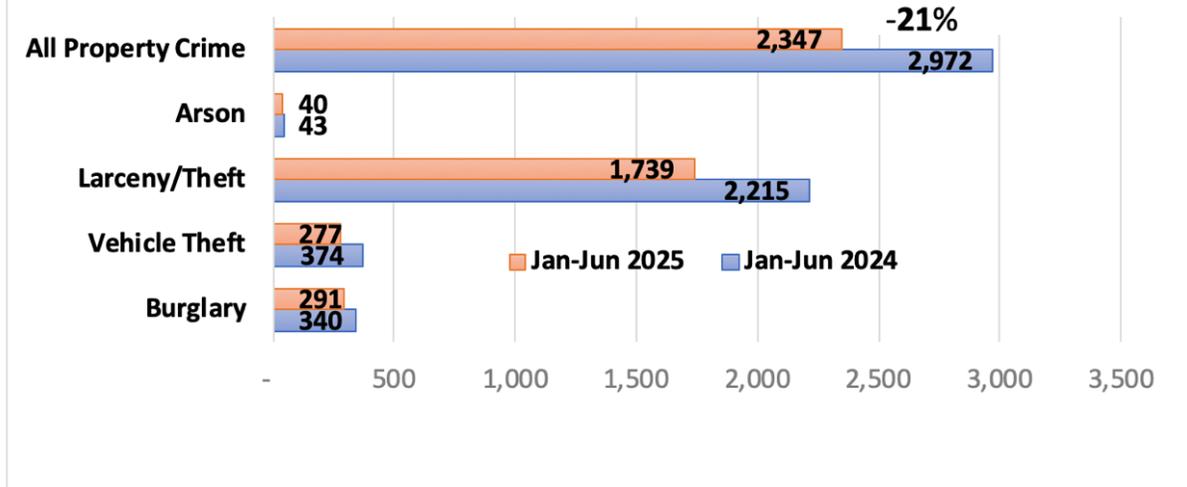
Dear Councilors:

As you discuss the possible need for more policing in the downtown and elsewhere in Salem I hope you will consider this new data from the Oregon State Police about reported crime through the first half of this year which shows a 21% decline in both violent crime and property crime. This is part of a national trend of much lower crime.



## Reported Salem Property Crime Through the First Half Of 2025

Source: Oregon State Police



According to the Real-Time Crime Index <<https://realtimecrimeindex.com/>> violent crime nationwide is down by 10.9% through May. In Oregon it is down by 8% so Salem is faring much better than the state as a whole. Property crime nationwide is down 12.3% and 6% in Oregon. Again, Salem is doing much better.

Some analysts are predicting that 2025 may see the lowest violent crime rate since the 1960's nationwide and possibly the lowest murder rate ever recorded.

We should be grateful to the Salem Police Department for their role in these positive developments. But we should question the need for more policing, particularly if these trends continue.

Jim Scheppke, Ward 2  
jscheppke@comcast.net