

**From:** [Kendra Tibbot](#)  
**To:** [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#); [lindanishioka@cityofsalem.net](mailto:lindanishioka@cityofsalem.net)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Public Comment 5/26/26  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 26, 2026 10:39:31 AM

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Hello,

My name is Kendra Taylor, and I am a resident of ward 2. I am writing to express concern regarding agenda item 5.a. I have attended more city council meetings, planning meetings, board and commission meetings, ect. than I can count. There has never been a time that I felt unsafe or witnessed any act of violence. I am vehemently opposed to metal detectors and security guards which will send a message to fellow constituents that council meetings are unsafe or places where violence is expected to occur.

I also vehemently disagree with the idea that any governing body has the right to censor our speech regardless of curse words or other "profane" language used. I have watched this council allow people to share photos and videos of vulnerable people experiencing poverty, homelessness, and mental illness without their consent, but you draw the line at curse words and 'profanity'.

We do not need more word and thought police. We need leaders and protectors of our rights.

Thank you,

Kendra Taylor

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## Carl Hoffman

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**From:** Evan West <evanwest714@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 26, 2026 10:55 AM  
**To:** CityRecorder; Vanessa Nordyke; Linda Nishioka  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Item 5a - Proposed Rule Changes

Mayor Hoy and Members of Council,

Please reject the proposal to change council rules including operating metal detectors and banning profanity. Not only is this a waste of time and resources, the City Attorney should remind you that the Supreme Court has ruled "a principle function of free speech under our system of government is to invite dispute. It may indeed best serve its high purpose when it induces a condition of unrest, creates dissatisfaction with conditions as they are, or even stirs people to anger." A blanket rule against undefined "profanity" opens the city to greater risk of litigation than currently exists without specific rules.

If Council feels that it needs to meet in a more secure location, they could arrange to use Salem Keizer School District facilities, where weapons detectors are already installed. As presented, this proposal reads as an attempt by the Mayor to dissuade public comment, and prevent having to confront criticism and uncomfortable accusations of conduct. Thank you for rejecting these proposals as they are currently written.

Sincerely,

Evan West

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Evan West, M.A.

He/Him/His

[evanwest714@gmail.com](mailto:evanwest714@gmail.com)

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**From:** [Jim Scheppke](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Public Comment on Agenda Item 5a  
**Date:** Monday, May 25, 2026 9:54:05 AM

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Councilors:

Regarding Agenda Item 5a. I wish to register my strong opposition to the Rules Committee recommendation for metal detectors and armed security guards at Council meetings.

While I am all for a prohibition on firearms at Council meetings, the use of metal detectors and armed security guards would transform the Council meetings from being welcoming, family-friendly community forums to events that feel scary and threatening to most.

When we ought to be encouraging more participation by citizens in their local government, the use of metal detectors and 2-3 armed security guards would discourage it.

What evidence did the Rules Committee consider before making this costly recommendation? Have there been instances in the past that would suggest the need for this? What other mid-sized cities in Oregon and elsewhere have had to resort to this practice and this expense?

I urge you to reject the Rules Committee recommendation.

Jim Scheppke  
Ward 2  
[jscheppke@comcast.net](mailto:jscheppke@comcast.net)

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## Carl Hoffman

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**From:** Megan Harper <megan.harper0907@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 26, 2026 11:02 AM  
**To:** CityRecorder  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Public comment for 5/26/26 5a

My name is Megan Harper and I live in Ward 4

I wanted to provide comment on item 5a for the city council meeting tonight.

The first thing I want to say is that I do want my mayor, my city councilors, and anyone else who attends City Council meetings to be safe. I do not want anyone to have their safety or wellbeing threatened while trying to serve the city, even if they disagree with me on every point.

Something about the way these rules are presented makes me uneasy. When I hear words like "decorum" or "professional," I worry that we are trending toward protecting the feelings and comfort of our leaders and I worry that impacts the ability of the public to express themselves adequately. Standards of decorum are so often dictated by people who are already in power and can be exclusive of other cultural views and lived experience.

I am worried that the suggested items including the limits on the allotted time for public comment are putting a muzzle on one of the ways the public can be involved with the dealings of the city council. The council takes frequent input from the Chamber of Commerce and the business community, and I do want small businesses to thrive in my community. I just don't want those perspectives to be heard to the exclusion of your average Joe citizen who works for someone else, and I worry that's what some of these limits may enact.

I'm taken back to the Chamber of Commerce mayoral debate when our current mayor said that one of her top 3 regrets of her time as mayor was not getting a mute button for public comment sooner. I appreciate that this can be an important tool in moving things along, but it was so cold toward members of the public who just want their leaders to hear them.

Sincerely,

Megan Harper

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