

## Rachael Gangelhoff

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**From:** Olga Levadnaya <olga\_levadnaya@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 27, 2025 3:25 PM  
**To:** CityRecorder  
**Subject:** Public Comment – Safety and Livability Strategic Action Plan (Item 5.a 25-391)

Dear Mayor Hoy and Council Members,

My name is Olga Levadnaya, and I live in Ward 8. Thank you for your work toward a safe, clean, and welcoming Salem. I support collaboration with businesses and appreciate the donation funding two Homeless Services Team officers. As the city strengthens its safety efforts, I hope we also stay guided by evidence on what truly improves livability.

The proposed statewide ballot measure to repeal Oregon’s 2021 “objectively reasonable” camping law would remove key safeguards that balance public safety with basic fairness. Cities already have authority to clear camps with notice; what this law protects is consistency, transparency, and trust.

Research on homelessness shows that enforcement alone cannot create safety. People living outside often have a “time horizon” of only 24 hours - they’re focused on survival, not long-term planning. Constant displacement shortens that horizon further, while stability allows people to begin recovering, seeking treatment, and reconnecting with community.

That’s why Housing First, low-barrier shelters, and supportive housing work: they pair accountability with stability. When people have a safe place to stay, they are far more likely to engage with mental health and substance-use treatment, find employment, and maintain contact with outreach workers. Stability turns survival mode into the possibility of planning - it restores a sense of future.

Cities that invest in these approaches see measurable improvements: fewer police calls and emergency-room visits, reduced public health costs, and cleaner, safer streets for everyone. In short, housing is not the *end* of accountability - it’s the *beginning* of it.

As Salem accepts this donation and refines its strategy, please ensure enforcement is matched by investments in housing and outreach. Safety and livability grow from stability, not from removal. Salem can model leadership that is both compassionate and effective.

Respectfully,

Olga Levadnaya  
Salem, Oregon - Ward 8

## Rachael Gangelhoff

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**From:** Christopher McFetridge <crmcfetridge@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 27, 2025 2:51 PM  
**To:** citycouncil  
**Subject:** Comment for public record: privately funded police force

My name is Christopher McFetridge and I have been a Salem resident for over 10 years. I'm writing today to oppose the use of private funds to employ public safety positions. Money talks and accepting private funds to staff police department positions looks like an easy way to backslide into authoritarianism.

Allowing local benefactors (including one who remains undisclosed) to buy their way into public policing is a dangerous strategy that prioritizes budgetary concerns and paves the way for small scale oligarchy.

## Rachael Gangelhoff

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**From:** paige stanley <ipaige@me.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 27, 2025 3:32 PM  
**To:** CityRecorder  
**Subject:** 72 Hour Notice Removal - Comments

My name is Paige I've lived in Salem my entire life. I have the privilege of interacting one on one with unhoused folks in my line of work.

It is my opinion that all unhoused individuals deserve compassion, safety and dignity.

Removing the 72 hour notice makes Salem a less safe place. Livability means protecting everyone, especially those who are more vulnerable. Real safety is having access to shelter, warmth and stability.

Thank you,  
Paige Stanley

## Rachael Gangelhoff

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**From:** Evan West <evanwest714@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 27, 2025 4:04 PM  
**To:** CityRecorder; Julie Hoy; Linda Nishioka; Vanessa Nordyke  
**Subject:** Re: Homeless Sweeps

Mayor Hoy and Members of Council,

I was deeply concerned to see that Mayor Hoy has joined as sponsor of an effort to repeal common sense laws that prevent the casual sweeping of unsheltered persons out of sight, out of mind.

In 2023 Julie Hoy responded to a question I submitted with the hope that city, county, and state would begin to work together so that money isn't being applied fruitlessly. That's good, putting the cart before the horse has only caused damage in Salem, historically. However, this effort to allow the city to sweep homeless camps without planning, does not seem to fit this bill. Once encampments are cleared, where do you envision campers will go? Are the myriad services needed in existence? If not, all we are doing is pushing a problem under the rug for our most privileged citizens, and into the backyards and parks of those who don't have the clout to raise police attention.

Mayor Hoy, you need to be clear with the citizens of Salem why you signed on as a sponsor of this initiative. What is the end result in your vision? Councilors Nordyke and Nishioka, please join your colleagues in expressing your concern that when the Mayor signs on to an initiative, even as a private citizen, it risks conveying the tacit support of the greater city council.

I am looking forward to working towards an evidence-based response to the homeless crisis in our community. Thank you for your time and your service.

Sincerely,

Evan West, Ward 7.

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Evan West, M.A.  
He/Him/His  
970-980-1445  
[evanwest714@gmail.com](mailto:evanwest714@gmail.com)

## Rachael Gangelhoff

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**From:** Felix May <bhoevem@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 27, 2025 4:45 PM  
**To:** CityRecorder  
**Subject:** Public comment for City Council regarding Julie Hoy

Hi, my name is Felix May and I live in Ward 7.

I think it's cartoonishly evil of Julie Hoy to sign onto a campaign to repeal a law that requires anti-camping laws be "objectively reasonable." I hope that City Councilors are aware that the general public does not back Mayor Hoy's goals of making it easier to criminalize the actions of our unhoused neighbors.

Furthermore, I find it deeply disturbing the way Julie Hoy speaks about homeless people. It is obvious that she does not see them as people. Salem's population of unhoused folks are predominantly chronically homeless individuals who have been unhoused for 3+ years due to an underlying condition. Our current social structure is not set up to support folks with severe mental illness, a chronic disability, or a lack of familial support. These people are not scary or bad. They are PEOPLE who need support and safety so that they can find stability.

I really appreciate those councilors (and Mayor Hoy) who voted in support of extending the park safe program. I think more of these programs should exist in Salem and that the city should continue to partner with community members in this way.

Thank you.

## Rachael Gangelhoff

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**From:** Ruth Braun <ruthbraun@centurylink.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 27, 2025 4:32 PM  
**To:** CityRecorder  
**Subject:** police mental health unit

Good afternoon city council members,

My name is Ruth Braun. I am writing to you in support of adding more mental health units to our police dept. My family has had contact with Salem Police in the past. Our son experienced many psychotic episodes while living at home with us. Each time we called 911, the police showed up and tried to help. But quite honestly, we didn't feel supported and our son didn't get the help he needed. The police tried their best. They just weren't equipped with the right tools and training to intervene at the level needed for these health emergencies. When we called 911, we were expecting the police to offer support services and resources, not only for our son, but also for us, the family. When the police left, none of us were any better off than before the call. In fact, it may have made it worse for our son. He should have been taken and admitted to the psych ward for evaluation and treatment. (that's a whole other topic for advocating for more beds to be made available) As of today, our son is estranged from us, believing that we tried to kill him back in 2018. He lives on the streets and we don't know where he is. It's the most hopeless and heart breaking feeling ever. I hope that you will consider adding this mental health unit to our police dept. They will need to be trained well. (If you want a resource for this, I can provide some ideas). They will need to be well educated in psychosis and severe mental illnesses. In my opinion, they will need to provide resources and support for not only the individuals they will serve, but their families also.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Ruth Braun

## Rachael Gangelhoff

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**From:** Charlotte Gunning <char.gunning15@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 27, 2025 4:52 PM  
**To:** CityRecorder  
**Subject:** Comment for city council agenda item 5a

My name is Charlotte Gunning. I live on Northeast High Street in Ward 1.

I'm submitting this comment due to concerns my neighbors and I have about the source of the donations for the HST officers and the purpose of this action plan.

Firstly, Larry Tokarski, through Mountain West Investments, is one of the donors behind the \$180,000 that will sponsor the two officers. This raises concerns for myself and other residents due to the donations that Tokarski made to Mayor Hoy's campaign PAC a few weeks before this proposal was established. This is not the first time that Hoy has unethically accepted donations from Tokarski. In 2024, she violated city ethics rules by accepting money from him prior to a vote that would benefit him directly.

Second, this action plan claims that it will promote safety and livability. However, in connection with Julie Hoy's support of the repeal of ORS 195.530 which protects our unhoused neighbors from unreasonable enforcement, I'm extremely concerned about how "safe and livable" this action plan really is. Displacing unhoused community members does not solve homelessness and causes real harm to our neighbors. It is not the way to create a safe and livable city.

As a Salem resident who lives downtown and works with previously unhoused individuals through my doctoral program, I do not support funding for a Homeless Service Team that does not do anything to solve homelessness in our community. I especially do not support funding that is being accepted to serve the interests of businessmen who are in the pocket of our mayor.

Due to her unethical connections to the funding of this action plan and her personal advocacy against the rights of our unhoused neighbors, I call upon Mayor Hoy to recuse herself from discussion or vote related to this agenda item. And I ask the city council to hold Julie Hoy accountable to the ethical standards that Salem residents expect from their city representatives.

Thank you.

## Rachael Gangelhoff

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**From:** Kelly Wadsworth <kelly.n.wadsworth@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 27, 2025 4:59 PM  
**To:** CityRecorder  
**Subject:** Written comment - 25-391

Public comment for Special Order of Business 25-391 "Donation in support of the Safety and Livability Strategic Action Plan."

Good evening City Council,

I am a resident of Salem, serve as the pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church in South Salem and co-lead the Oregon chapter of the Poor People's Campaign.

This evening, on agenda item #25-391, the council is exploring the possibility of accepting a private donation to be used for public purposes. Westminster has been a nonprofit organization in Salem for the past 77 years and has a wealth of experience with best practices around donations, as do our other nonprofit partners in the city. There are a number of essential factors to both consider and to articulate:

First, whether private donations should be anonymous or public.

Second, whether private donations should be restricted or unrestricted. Only accepting unrestricted donations is a common practice as it would maintain the council's ability to prioritize need, i.e. can the current donation be used for food if the council deems that a more urgent need among the citizens of Salem?

Third, whether private donations should take the form of taxation and how to maintain the public's direct and immediate control over public finances, decisions, and resources.

I strongly encourage the council, in consultation with local experts, to develop and adopt a donation policy before entertaining the possibility of private dollars for public purposes. I am willing to help with this project if that would be of service to the council.

Sincerely,  
Rev. Kelly Wadsworth, PhD  
Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Oregon Poor People's Campaign  
[pastorkelly@salemwestpres.org](mailto:pastorkelly@salemwestpres.org)