

Rachael Gangelhoff

From: Kendra Tibbot <ktibbot@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 8, 2025 12:48 PM
To: CityRecorder; citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public Testimony 12/08

Mayor and City Council,

I am writing as a resident of Ward 2 and community advocate. As Salem City Council recognizes Homeless Persons' Memorial Day. I want to pay mention to my friend Jim who experienced homelessness for decades on the streets of Salem. Jim passed away in early 2025. If it were not for our amazing friends at [Little Critters Rescue](#) and Fetch through Salem Hospital, Jim would have likely passed away outside or in his vehicle. Against all odds and thanks to the help of caring nonprofit partners, he passed away in a warm home with hospice care.

I loved Jim from the first day I met him serving at our small day center hosting the Arches shower truck in Ward 5. He made me smile often with his cranky scratchy voice and random complaints and small joys found in Converse tennis shoes and gas station biscuits and gravy. He loved Center50+ meals and the opportunity to air his grievances.

I miss him. I enjoy talking about him and smile when I think about all the love he must have felt in the last year of his life which sounded much different than the trauma and pain of his earlier years.

Jim experienced the best things commUNITY has to offer in the form of love, connection, support, reciprocity, and acceptance.

His much beloved dogs, Buddy, Cookie, and Carmel are all living their best lives with amazing owners which was Jim's one and only concern at the end of his life.

I feel so honored to have shared a connection and be a tiny piece of the puzzle because I know how rare these happy peaceful endings for people experiencing homelessness truly are. Salem is far from perfect, but we have something really special with the network we've created together.

I know Jim's story is one in a sea of others that so often go unrecognized. Let us never turn a cold shoulder or a blind eye to the suffering of so many on our streets.

Thank you for your time,

Kendra Taylor, CSWA
Executive Director of Kindness Closet of Salem

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Rachael Gangelhoff

From: lorrie walker <dakotalor@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, December 8, 2025 2:07 PM
To: citycouncil; CityRecorder; les@salemreporter.com; clynn@statesmanjournal.com; jimmy.jones@mwwcaa.org; lorrie walker; dj@church-at-the-park.org; Gretchen Bennett; Sen Patterson; H Tom Anderson; sgoins@nwhumanservices.org; csmith@ugmsalem.org
Subject: [EXTERNAL]National Homeless Persons Memorial Day

Mayor Hoy, Salem City Councilors, Others,

I am disturbed that Mayor Julie Hoy would write up a proclamation regarding National Homeless Persons Memorial Day.

I am appalled that such a proclamation would be made that excludes naming Community Action Agency, Arches Project, Church at the Park and UGM.

Arches serves thousands of people a year. Arches is and has been Salem's leader in keeping unsheltered people alive during winter months, summer hot days, operating warming shelters, cooling centers.

Church at the Park too. Yet, You, Mayor Hoy exclude mentioning them. WHY? BIAS.

I would like to request that someone other than you read the proclamation tonight.

I would like to request that the proclamation wording be immediately changed as to not show your bias.

Vanessa Nordyke and other city people have attended memorials for unsheltered people who have died.

I don't believe you have. You have never mentioned Unsheltered deaths of people, did you know any personally? Their loved ones? They have names. I have known many. Sisters. Brothers. Children.

Parents. Loved ones.

With your most recent very public action to criminalize homeless people I believe you are the wrong person to present this proclamation. Make it real.

With your push Mayor Hoy to get low barrier places out of downtown. Really!

Mayor Hoy you should stop pretending you care about unsheltered or unsheltered mentally ill.

Your actions clearly present the truth.

Respectfully,

Lorrie Walker

Legal Guardian, Unsheltered and Mentally ill Advocate,

Ward 2 / SCAN

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