



# CITY OF SALEM

## Written Testimony #3

### City Council

555 Liberty St SE  
Salem, OR 97301

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**Monday, September 27, 2021 6:00 PM**

**Virtual Meeting**

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**3.3f.** [21-421](#) Managed Temporary Camping.

Ward(s): 8

Councilor(s): Lewis

Neighborhood(s): West Salem

Result Area(s): Safe Community; Welcoming and Livable Community.

**Recommendation:**

Authorize the City Manager to establish a managed temporary camp at the 2700 Wallace Road NW parcel, within the city-owned commercial retail zoned portion.

**Attachments:** [Wallace P&R Site Plan v2.pdf](#)

[Public Comments received by 10:00 a.m. 9-27-21.pdf](#)

[Public Comments received by 3:15 p.m. 9-27-21.pdf](#)

[Additional Public Comments received by 5:00 p.m. 9-27-21.pdf](#)

*Add - Written Testimony.*

**From:** [noreply@cityofsalem.net](mailto:noreply@cityofsalem.net) on behalf of [Myrealtorandyking@gmail.com](mailto:Myrealtorandyking@gmail.com)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** City meeting public comment  
**Date:** Monday, September 27, 2021 4:06:36 PM  
**Attachments:** [ATT00001.bin](#)

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Your Name	Andy King
Your Email	Myrealtorandyking@gmail.com
Your Phone	3606323935
Street	1672 Gemma St NW
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97304
Message	Concerning the potential camp off of Wallace and Brush College Rd. I can understand that there is a need for a place to help the people facing temporary housing issues but I believe that there could be a better location. There are apartments with children, senior housing and businesses close by that this camp may impact. Please consider these surroundings when thinking of moving forward. Thank you

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 9/27/2021.

**From:** [Anne Norris](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Keep our Seniors Safe - Opposition to the Managed camp in West Salem  
**Date:** Monday, September 27, 2021 4:36:11 PM

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City Council Members,

I am writing in opposition to the plans for a temporary managed camp in West Salem at 2700 Wallace Road NW.

Placing a camp in proximity to Salemtowne- a senior community, has great potential to put the residents of SalemTowne at risk. Out of all our population ages, the elderly are not capable of defending themselves from unwanted contact by homeless camp members who will be housed next to them.

The Statesman Journal had a recent article mentioning a 55+ community in East Salem where elderly residents reported a man walking around the neighborhood at 1:00 a.m. with a bolt cutter, and another incident where an 80 year old female had her gate kicked in by one of the nearby homeless camp residents.

My mother-in-law lives in SalemTowne, and I am writing as her advocate to attempt to ensure her safety, and the safety of her senior neighbors.

Please do not place a homeless settlement next to our fragile seniors.

Thank You,

Anne Norris RN, MSN  
Concerned citizen

**From:** [Beavert, Bill](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Micro shelter on Wallace Rd. is a bad idea.  
**Date:** Monday, September 27, 2021 3:43:48 PM

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Good day,

This is a bad idea.

No services nearby. Medical, Food, Water, Waste.

Families with young children all around the area, school not far away.

The spot was set-up for and paid to aid commuting not for housing.

We need to help them get to work and become independent, not this.

They need mental and physical professional help, don't just put them somewhere, that is not helping.

Thanks –

Bill Beavert

West Salem resident for 25 years.

**From:** [Lisa Anderson-Ogilvie](#)  
**To:** [Amy Johnson](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony for 3.3f  
**Date:** Monday, September 27, 2021 4:58:18 PM

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**From:** Cory Heintz <chaindriven@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 27, 2021 4:40 PM  
**To:** Lisa Anderson-Ogilvie  
**Subject:** Re planning commission meeting

To whom it may concern,

I wish to provide comment on the following agenda item:

- Allowing managed temporary camping for the homeless and emergency shelters as temporary uses

The proposed site for temporary housing is at the intersection of Brush College Rd NW and Wallace Rd. I am concerned about moving a population of 50-60 residents miles from the agencies on which they rely for support. Are they planning to walk the 4 miles to get to services? Or ride their bikes? Crossing Wallace road to access the bike path is a dangerous proposition. Does the city plan daily transportation for those residents?

This project is marked as managed, who is managing it? How much of the proposed \$90k+ in operating costs is earmarked for staff to provide services and support to residents? Or is it solely for maintenance and upkeep? Statistics show that the unhoused experience higher than normal rates of substance abuse and mental health. Is the City providing intervention for drug use or mental health?

Has the City talked to legal counsel regarding liabilities? For example, pedestrian/cyclist/auto accidents and injuries due to proximity to the busy Wallace corridor or crimes in camp or surrounding neighborhoods resulting from the aforementioned substance abuse and mental health issues.

These concerns are exacerbated by the proposed camp's proximity to nearby elementary schools.

Having witnessed (as many of us have) the damage caused by camps, I worry about the increased debris and litter in the surrounding countryside and environmental damage, pollution, its effects on area wildlife, the water and soil.

I fully support efforts to lift up the unhoused by providing access to housing, employment and healthcare, but I strongly question this move. I fear it merely displaces the unhoused to another location without offering a holistic and thoughtful solution.

Has anyone reached out to churches and faith leaders for partnerships? There are numerous churches in the downtown area, near services utilized by the unhoused, with empty parking lots and armies of attendees with a mandate to help their fellow human. At each location is a building with bathrooms, is heated when it's too cold and air conditioned when it's too hot...

and empty all week long. Folks at each church could work on rotation to provide a more complete support network for just a few shelters per location. With this additional support and community involvement, you may be able to put more of the budget for this project into shelters rather than operating costs, getting more off the street. If successful, each church may feel compelled to continue the good work in perpetuity.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [noreply@cityofsalem.net](mailto:noreply@cityofsalem.net) on behalf of [craig@salemdreamcenter.org](mailto:craig@salemdreamcenter.org)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** City meeting public comment  
**Date:** Monday, September 27, 2021 3:33:53 PM  
**Attachments:** [ATT00001.bin](#)

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Your Name	Craig Oviatt
Your Email	<a href="mailto:craig@salemdreamcenter.org">craig@salemdreamcenter.org</a>
Your Phone	5035607063
Street	814 Van Buren Dr NW
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97304
Message	<p>Mr Mayor and City Council, some of you know my heart for those who struggle, and the address challenged. In the past 18 years I've helped create programs to help people transition off the streets, and to meet their basic human needs, as well as helping youth and families break free from generational poverty. I'm concerned over the proposed West Salem Homeless Camp. My main concern is the lack of resources and adequate support in West Salem. Without easy access to support, such as UGM and Arches, and other programs people will be forced to find what they can on their own; and without access to resources they will be put into a position whereas they have to take in order to survive. This should be an obvious concern to all involved. It would set struggling people up to fail. A West Salem location is not in the best interest of those it's intended to help. A camp located within easy walking distance to UGM, HOME and Arches is a wiser choice, and I'm perplexed that the Council would even consider the site void of the basic services that are needed to support the the homeless population. I hope the Council make a choice that isn't just a bandaid to a chronic problem, but a solution that truly helps those in need. Respectfully Craig Oviatt</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 9/27/2021.

**From:** [Daniel Campbell](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** City Council Questions  
**Date:** Monday, September 27, 2021 4:56:09 PM

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I would like to ask a question to the council members.

1) What actions did the council take to inform the immediate residents located within a mile of the 2700 block of wallace rd. that this homeless camp would be placed in their backyard, as a figure of speech.

2) Would the council members share with your fellow Salem residents, the location of the homeless camps and number of campers that are currently located within a mile of your residences.

3. Would each council member pledge to locate a couple temporary homeless shelters on their own personal property in order to demonstrate their commitment to sheltering the homeless?

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Dan Campbell (503) 871-2924 cell



**From:** [Esta Carter](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** A Managed Camp in West Salem  
**Date:** Monday, September 27, 2021 4:33:51 PM

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I strongly wish this item on the Salem City Councils Agenda be reconsidered ... I have lived in West Salem for 7 years now and in that time I have seen a failed attempt at building a 3rd Bridge into town failed, several apartments built along a crowded Wallace Road, and the homeless staging themselves outside Walgreens Drugstore, MacDonalds and Taco Bell Restaurants. I know everyone thinks, "not in my backyard" when it comes to housing the Homeless and I have compassion for these people. However, by appearances, it seems to me that West Salem has become an ugly stepchild for the City of Salem as we swell and become the "dumping ground" for Salem's pet projects. West Salem is a desirable location for those doing business in Polk County. There is real pride in homes and many residents keep their homes and yards maintained and believe in the "value" of their homes and are concerned with that value decreasing due to apartments and now a possible homeless camp in their community. Do I have a great idea for housing the homeless? no, I probably do not. I would like to think that the City of Salem has looked to other homeless solutions in other towns dealing with this sensitive situation. The word "Temporary" bothers me as what that means?? I already see "temporary" as the homeless move from "temporary" to "temporary" leaving trash everywhere they go. I know Portland was going to erect a "tent city". I wonder how that has worked for them?? Has this been explored?

**From:** [Emily Means](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Brush College homeless camp  
**Date:** Monday, September 27, 2021 4:53:20 PM

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City of Salem,

I have been a resident in the surrounding neighborhood for 3 years. Hearing that the city is proposing to place a homeless camp near many homes, and schools is concerning. I feel that there are lack of services this far out in West Salem, and due to this it will lead to an increase of crime in our neighborhoods.

Thank you,

Emily Sessa

**From:** [Erica Phelps](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed homeless camp-Brush College Rd  
**Date:** Monday, September 27, 2021 4:56:14 PM

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I am writing to oppose the current proposal of the homeless camp on Brush College Road and Wallace Road.

The issue is not with the homeless but rather the City's desire to sweep them away from heavily populated and traveled areas.

The City is employing what appears to be dumping these people in what they deem a lower socioeconomic area of town. Knowing full well that this increase in homeless will increase garbage pile up, trespassing, and potential for break ins, drugs, and graffiti. If the other locations the City has dumped these people are any indication of what is to come, there needs to be additional plans in place.

You can't just put these camps where you feel the lowest class of people dwell. You can't put them in the areas where you don't think property values will be affected. You can't just keep ruining area after area by moving them around.

There is no good solution to the cease the homeless epidemic because there are no resources, as there are no resources for mental health.

The majority of this neighborhood is full of children, especially the apartment complex you plan to put them in front of. The drug epidemic is bad enough without moving it directly to the children.

This is exactly the types of propaganda that has occurred for years. Big tobacco corporations setting up shop and advertising in predominantly poor African American neighborhoods to influence smoking. There are studies and statistics regarding the homeless population. Think of a stronger and better plan before you go straight to stereotyping the population of your city. And think before you move these people further from the homeless resources that do exist for them.

Erica Phelps  
Adult Protective Services Specialist  
Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments  
1400 Queen Ave SE  
Albany, OR 97322  
(541) 918-2770 (Phone)  
(541) 497-5171 (Fax)  
[www.ocwcog.org](http://www.ocwcog.org)

**From:** [Erica Randall](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Comments and questions for tonight's meeting  
**Date:** Monday, September 27, 2021 4:00:27 PM

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As a long standing member of the west Salem community, I have several questions to be added to tonight's meeting in regards to the managed homeless camp that the city council is looking at building in west Salem:

What is the official definition of a "managed homeless camp?"

Who manages it?

Do the tenants sign a contract in order to live in the camp?

Are residence of the camp screened for drug use? If there are problems at/with the camp, who enforces compliance?

Will our underfunded/understaffed law enforcement officers going to have an increased presence?

Where in West Salem?

Who cleans up the excess litter that always accompanies homeless camps? How often?

Do my tax dollars pay for this?

How Could this negatively impact my homeowners insurance?

There has to be better locations, more centralized in Salem for this. Fair grounds overflow parking area that is only used 2 weeks out of the year.

Thank you,  
Erica Randall

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Al Rossmeisl](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless encampment at Wallace and Brush College  
**Date:** Monday, September 27, 2021 4:37:55 PM

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Bad idea!

elderly citizens in close proximity

multi unit (young family with children) apartments nearby

not cost effective if the goal is to provide "a hand" to permanent housing

I am certain there will be significant neighborhood pushback causing unrest in an otherwise quite upscale community

**Al Rossmeisl**  
**2954 OakCrest Dr NW**  
**503.931.2334**

**From:** [Gregory Denney](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Temporary Housing in West Salem  
**Date:** Monday, September 27, 2021 4:08:40 PM

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Dear City Council Members,

I read about the proposed temporary housing for the homeless on Wallace Road in West Salem.

While I would like to find more solutions to alleviate the problem of homelessness in Salem, I have serious concerns regarding this project.

**I request that this item be tabled for this month.**

Additionally, I humbly request that you please present a report to the West Salem Neighborhood Association meeting about the facts and realities of this type of project and how it fits in the city's overall plan. If it has been presented before, please do it again. Many more people are now listening, and you would have an opportunity for greater buy-in, so to speak, from more of the community.

There has been lots of online discussion this weekend with opinions across the spectrum. Some good questions that were posed include:

- It's stated that it is a temporary camp. How long is temporary?
- Who will staff this area and keep it safe and sanitary?
- How will it be managed so there is no camp overflow into the park and ride lot?
- Who will provide the medical and social services that people need? These services aren't located in this area.
- We know crime, harassment, trespassing and sanitation issues increases around homeless camps. How will the surrounding community be kept safe?
- How will the \$96,000 per month be spent? At \$1600 per resident, where does that go?

Some neighbors shared: "In the last two years we have had encounters with homeless people who seemed mentally unstable and it's concerning. How do we know we won't be opening our neighborhood to more of this? Please consider these questions and consider the suggestions for other properties that are not within a neighborhood."

**Again, I ask you to remove the item from tonight's agenda to allow more factual information to be shared that we may better work together to find some solutions.** Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Greg Denney  
West Salem resident

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**From:** [Jamie Dobrowolski](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to West Salem Homeless Transition Community  
**Date:** Monday, September 27, 2021 4:37:41 PM

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Hello.

My name is Jamie Dobrowolski and I am the owner of 2 West Salem businesses and 2 West Salem kiddos, 13 & 9 years old. Our residence, two elementary schools and a senior community all are within blocks from the proposed location for this camp. I do not support this proposal based on the following concerns:

- SAFETY of CHILDREN & SENIORS

How will this "camp" be monitored for drug use, sex trafficking or other crimes?  
If rules are broken and the residents are "kicked out", where will they go? Into our neighborhood for shelter?

- Decreased PROPERTY VALUE

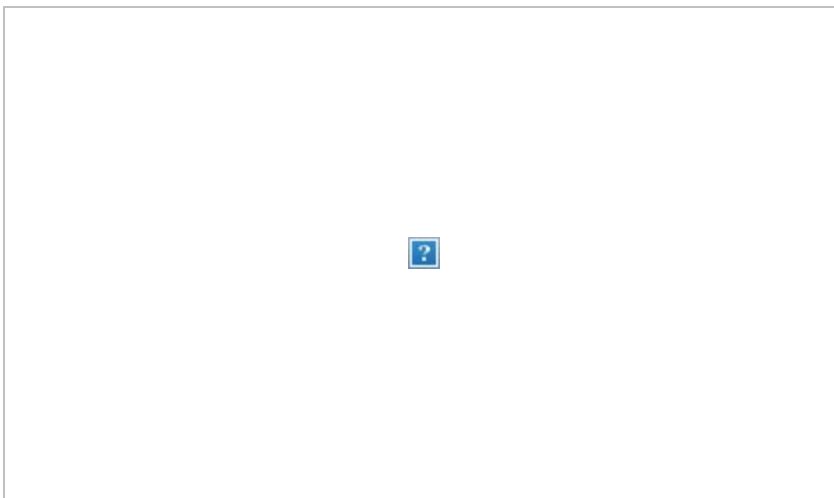
Who wants to live within blocks of a homeless camp? Not me or my family.

Please, for the love of West Salem and all who reside here, DO NOT put our lives and lifestyles in harm's way. There surely is a better location that is better suited for this type of program - preferably away from schools, senior citizens or neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

Jamie Dobrowolski  
2949 Ferguson St NW  
Salem, Oregon 97304

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**Project LTD | Marketing Resource**  
503-881-4338 | [jamie@projectltd.org](mailto:jamie@projectltd.org)  
[PROJECTLTD.ORG](http://PROJECTLTD.ORG)



		
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**From:** [noreply@cityofsalem.net](mailto:noreply@cityofsalem.net) on behalf of [jamie@projectltd.org](mailto:jamie@projectltd.org)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** City meeting public comment  
**Date:** Monday, September 27, 2021 4:38:19 PM  
**Attachments:** [ATT00001.bin](#)

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Your Name	Jamie Dobrowolski
Your Email	<a href="mailto:jamie@projectltd.org">jamie@projectltd.org</a>
Your Phone	5038814338
Street	2949 Ferguson St NW
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97304
Message	<p>Hello. My name is Jamie Dobrowolski and I am the owner of 2 West Salem businesses and 2 West Salem kiddos, 13 &amp; 9 years old. Our residence, two elementary schools and a senior community all are within blocks from the proposed location for this camp. I do not support this proposal based on the following concerns: - SAFETY of CHILDREN &amp; SENIORS How will this "camp" be monitored for drug use, sex trafficking or other crimes? If rules are broken and the residents are "kicked out", where will they go? Into our neighborhood for shelter? - Decreased PROPERTY VALUE Who wants to live within blocks of a homeless camp? Not me or my family. Please, for the love of West Salem and all who reside here, DO NOT put our lives and lifestyles in harm's way. There surely is a better location that is better suited for this type of program - preferably away from schools, senior citizens or neighborhoods. Sincerely, Jamie Dobrowolski 2949 Ferguson St NW Salem, Oregon 97304</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 9/27/2021.

**From:** [joshvanlue@gmail.com](mailto:joshvanlue@gmail.com)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless Camp Wallace  
**Date:** Monday, September 27, 2021 4:24:19 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this email to voice my concern with the proposal of placing a homeless camp on Wallace Rd. This is in the middle of a residential area and within two blocks of two separate elementary schools. Homeless camps raise crime and it would drastically change the safety and peace of our neighborhood.

Please reconsider this location as it would place our entire neighborhood at risk and increase the crime in our neighborhoods. My wife runs every morning . Placing a camp here would inhibit her from doing that safely.

I urge you to find a different location that would not put so many people at risk.

Thank you

Josh Vanlue Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Michael Randall](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** questions for tonight's meeting  
**Date:** Monday, September 27, 2021 4:09:53 PM

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>> Please add these questions to tonight's meeting in regards to the managed homeless camp that the city council is looking at building in west Salem:

>>

>> What is the official definition of a "managed homeless camp?"

>>

>> Who manages it?

>>

>> Do the tenants sign a contract in order to live in the camp?

>>

>> Are residence of the camp screened for drug use? If there are problems at/with the camp, who enforces compliance?

>>

>> Will our underfunded/understaffed law enforcement officers going to have an increased presence?

>>

>> Where in West Salem?

>>

>> Who cleans up the excess litter that always accompanies homeless camps? How often?

>>

>> Do my tax dollars pay for this?

>>

>> How Could this negatively impact my homeowners insurance?

>>

>> There has to be better locations, more centralized in Salem for this. Fair grounds overflow parking area that is only used 2 weeks out of the year.

>>

Why not invest resources to fix the solution instead of investing money in destroying the west salem community?

What is the literature that supports these camps are effective and provide sustainable improvement to the situation?

>> Thank you,

>> Mike Randall

>>

>> Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Ronda Blacker](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless Camp on Wallace Road  
**Date:** Monday, September 27, 2021 4:44:39 PM

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What are the other locations that the City explored?  
Ronda Blacker

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Ronda Blacker

**From:** [noreply@cityofsalem.net](mailto:noreply@cityofsalem.net) on behalf of [rsteckly@me.com](mailto:rsteckly@me.com)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** City meeting public comment  
**Date:** Monday, September 27, 2021 3:30:06 PM  
**Attachments:** [ATT00001.bin](#)

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Your Name	Ryan Steckly
Your Email	rsteckly@me.com
Your Phone	5035071808
Street	2725 Bald eagle ave
City	Salem
Zip	97304
Message	In regards to the proposed homeless camp on Wallace and Brush college, this is a very bad idea. Placing this right next to apartments, and close to neighborhoods and schools?? Will there be a larger police presence in these areas? Crime is already skyrocketing because you've tied the hands of the police. Please don't allow this to happen in West Salem.

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 9/27/2021.