

Written Testimony #1
City Council

Monday, October 11, 2021

6:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

3.3c. [21-437](#)

Purchase and Sale Agreement with the Bob and Sue Creamer Living Trust for acquisition of real property located at 1440 Wallace Road NW in conjunction with the Marine Drive NW project

Ward(s): 8

Councilor(s): Lewis

Neighborhood(s): WSNA

Result Area(s): Good Governance; Natural Environment Stewardship; Safe, Reliable and Efficient Infrastructure; Strong and Diverse Economy; Welcoming and Livable Community

Recommendation:

Authorize the City Manager to execute the attached Purchase and Sale Agreement for the acquisition of real property located at 1440 Wallace Road NW.

Attachments:

[Property Map](#)

[Agreement](#)

[Previous Agreement](#)

[Public Comments received by 2:00 p.m. 10-11-21.pdf](#)

Add - Written Testimony,

3.3e. [21-439](#)

Purchase and Sale Agreement with the Barfknecht Revocable Living Trust for acquisition of real property located at 1508 Wallace Road NW in conjunction with the Marine Drive NW project

Ward(s): 8

Councilor(s): Lewis

Neighborhood(s): WSNA

Result Area(s): Good Governance; Natural Environment Stewardship; Safe, Reliable and Efficient Infrastructure; Strong and Diverse Economy; Welcoming and Livable Community

Recommendation:

Authorize the City Manager to execute the attached Purchase and Sale Agreement for the acquisition of real property located at 1508 Wallace Road NW.

Attachments:

[Property Map](#)

[Agreement](#)

[Previous Agreement](#)

[Public Comment received by 2:00 p.m. 10-11-21.pdf](#)

Add - Written Testimony.

3.3f. [21-440](#)

Purchase and Sale Agreement with the Kurt and Janet Spingath for acquisition of real property located at 1460 Wallace Road NW in conjunction with the Marine Drive NW project

Ward(s): 8

Councilor(s): Lewis

Neighborhood(s): WSNA

Result Area(s): Good Governance; Natural Environment Stewardship; Safe, Reliable and Efficient Infrastructure; Strong and Diverse Economy; Welcoming and Livable Community

Recommendation:

Authorize the City Manager to execute the attached Purchase and Sale Agreement for the acquisition of real property located at 1460 Wallace Road NW.

Attachments:

[Property Map](#)

[Agreement](#)

[Previous Agreement](#)

[Public Comment received by 2:00 p.m. 10-11-21.pdf](#)

Add - Written Testimony.

5.b. [21-455](#)

Motion from Councilor Jim Lewis to reconsider Council's decision to establish a managed temporary camp at the 2700 Wallace Road NW parcel, within the city-owned commercial retail zoned portion that occurred at the September 27, 2021 Council Meeting.

Ward(s): Ward 8.

Councilor(s): Councilor Lewis

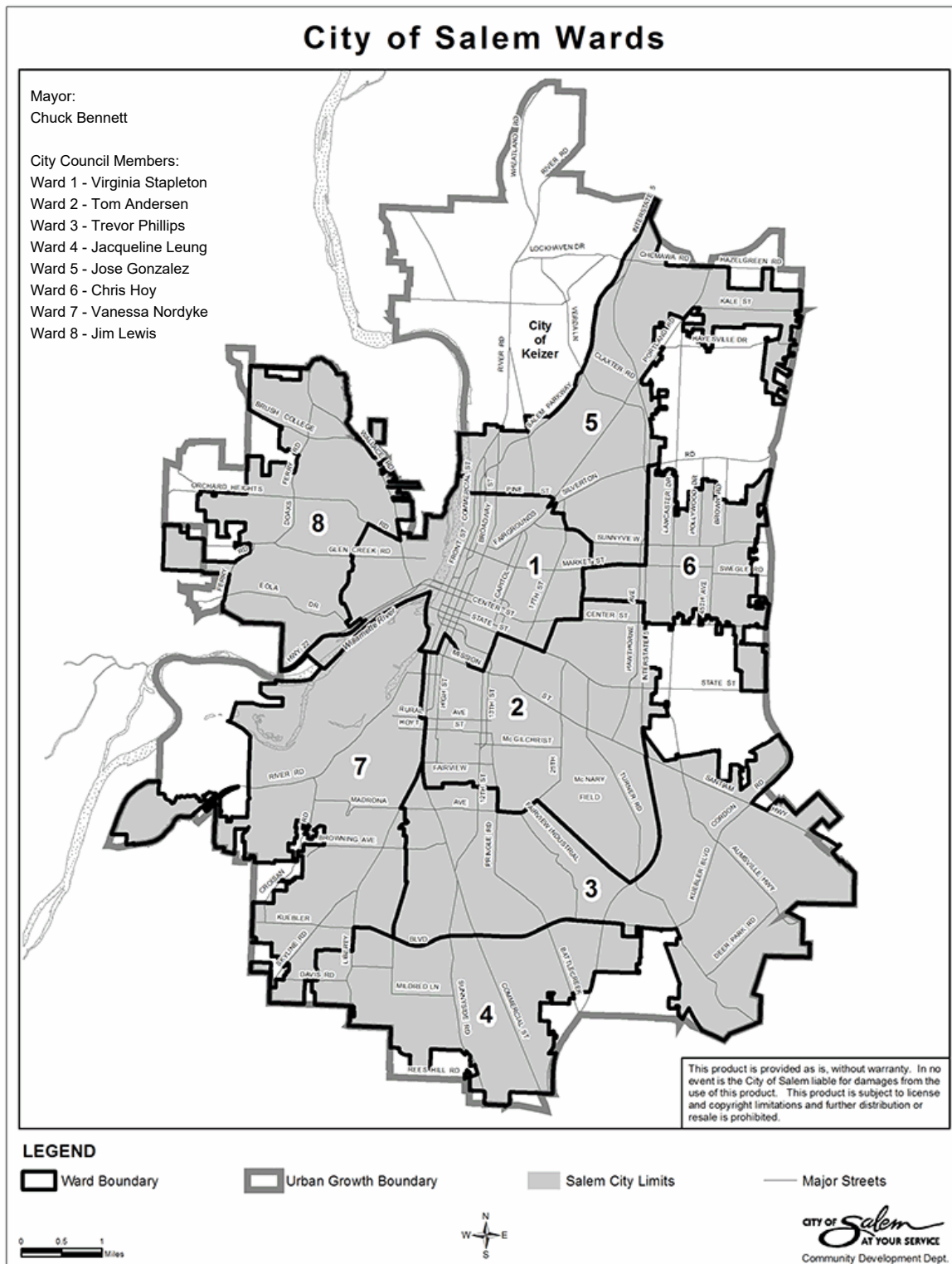
Neighborhood(s): West Salem Neighborhood Association

Attachments:

[Public Comments received by 5:00 p.m. 10-6-21.pdf](#)

[Public Comments received by 2:00 p.m. 10-11-21.pdf](#)

Add - Written Testimony.





Glenn and Gibson Creeks Watershed Council 2308 Ptarmigan St. NW, Salem, OR 97304

October 9, 2021

Salem City Council
555 Liberty St SE #240
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Agenda Items 21-437, 21-439, and 21-440

Mayor and City Councilors:

The Glenn and Gibson Creeks Watershed Council has been very interested in development along the Willamette River floodplain in the West Salem area. We have had discussions with some of the landowners along the river about their conservation interests and the important floodplain habitats on their properties along the river.

The Watershed Council is very supportive of the public acquisition of the three properties that include significant floodplain resources. The Watershed Council urges the City to engage in discussions with the Watershed Council and others to consider adding the floodplain portion of the acquired properties to the Natural Area designation associated with that of Wallace Marine Park.

We encourage the City to look at this as an opportunity to contribute to the carbon sequestration of wetland and forested areas of the City and to ensure those values and the floodplain habitat values for flood protection, fish and wildlife habitat remain into the future. These acquisitions have the potential to provide benefits for all of Salem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth F. Bierly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kenneth F. Bierly, Chair
Glenn and Gibson Creeks Watershed Council

Mission: to foster better understanding and stewardship of watershed resources

Purpose: to share information, reduce duplication of activities and to help address watershed management issues in the watershed and to provide a framework for coordination and cooperation among key interests

Vision: a balanced ecosystem that supports a healthy watershed and provides for an economic base and viable communities

GlennGibsonWC.org

From: [Mark wigg](#)
To: [Steve Powers](#); [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Accountability
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 9:24:34 AM

Dear Steve,

Do you intend to hold anyone accountable for the decision to delay spending the 2008 Bond for 13 years? The decision to delay purchase is going to cost the city millions of dollars. I understand that sometimes people make mistakes, but do you point out those mistakes to the staff that made them? How will they learn if you don't?

What makes the decision to delay acquiring the Marine Drive right of way especially disturbing is that it may have been done to settle a personal vendetta against a landowner along Marine Drive. Do you allow personal animosity to be the basis for decisions that cost the city millions of dollars?

Some are speculating that managers with authority to award millions in tax breaks and purchases have lucrative jobs with the companies receiving the benefits waiting for the managers once they retire from the City. Do you have anything in the employment contracts with managers that would prevent this? Maybe, just to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest, you should add clauses that prohibit gifts and employment from companies that do business with the City.

Respectfully,

Mark Wigg



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GlennGibsonWC.org

From: [Aaron](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Micro site
Date: Sunday, October 10, 2021 9:37:43 AM

Councilman Lewis:

I am writing as a concerned resident of West Salem near to the proposed micro sites on Wallace road.

I urge you to withdraw approval of the site and allow time for dialogue with residents in the community to determine a more appropriate option for the homeless in our city.

The proximity of the site to schools and elderly housing is of grave concern to me and my family.

We want to work with city leaders to help those less fortunate, but in a way that does not put potentially dangerous people within steps of our children's schools.

Thank you,

Aaron Barnhart

From: [Alyse LaMonte](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: West Salem Microshelter
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 11:34:43 AM

Hello-

I am writing to voice my support in pausing and re-evaluating the West Salem Microshelter plan that was previously approved.

In addition to my previously voiced concerns over location (lack of access to grocery stores essentially creating a food desert, distance to employment as the goal is temporary transitional housing, distance to resources and services) I have a few new concerns.

- 1.) There is very limited lighting in this stretch of Wallace. Those that are attempting to cross Wallace at this location are in danger as dusk becomes earlier the evening during winter.
- 2.) The flooding on this land means there was no due diligence in viability of this location. Deciding to move to the paved ODOT land without permission really negates Gretchen Bennett's quote in the Salem Reporter that there is no other suitable city owned property. The suggestion was to move to non-city owned property without permission meaning there is latitude in the location. In addition, there are city owned properties for lease and sale on the city's website. It simply isn't the only vacant property the city holds; it was a lie to lessen the backlash both she and the city council received.
- 3.) DJ Vincent reportedly said there would be "consideration" to requiring background checks. The possibility that we are allowing violent offenders so close to children and vulnerable populations is alarming. Getting my car broken into or things stolen is violating. However, the shooting at a recent homeless encampment that nearly injured 3 girls in a van is hugely concerning that safety isn't being taken more seriously.
- 4.) Camping being allowed outside of the Microshelters is the exact opposite of the success stories touted by proponents. Neighbors will never be accepting of this proposal if camping is happening outside of the Microshelters. I've driven by those on Portland road managed by the same company and I would not deem it to be successful or blending in with the neighborhood. The one in Eugene also allows camping outside of the Microshelters and is full of garbage and not well kept.

I implore the city of Salem to look at other viable locations. The Marion Square park has not been usable as a park (with the exception of the skate park) for years. It already has plumbing, running toilets and could be rezoned to allow even more Microshelters. It's location allows for closer access to resources and employment. There is access to Grocery Outlet nearby for fresh food. Please consider rezoning and allowing Marion Square park to become a permanent Microshelter encampment. Or pursue other options such as the defunct Park on Highway 22, the abandoned factories near Wallace and Edgewater, etc.

Thank you for your time,

Alyse La Monte

From: [Adela](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Stop the Micro-shelter for the homeless
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 10:25:38 AM

I am a mom of a 3rd grader at Riviera Christian School and I have serious concerns about the plans to put a permanent micro-shelter for the homeless within a short walking distance to my son's school. Riviera has three large grassy areas, and children play in two of them during recess and sometimes for PE. How will the sc ensure their safety with an influx of pedestrians who may do drugs and leave dangerous objects on the ground where our children play? This is not acceptable. What assurances will we have that there will be no sex offenders residing in this camp? According to Google Maps, it is less than 1/4 mile away, possibly even under the 1000 feet required by Oregon state law. This project must be stopped at this location.

The vast majority of our school/childcare staff are female. Some are here alone early in the morning and well into the evening. Will staff be safe walking to their cars in the dark?

I am the Women's Ministry Director at West Hills Community Church (where Riviera meets) and we have various women's events that can last into the evening after dark. How can we ensure the safety of our women with potential drug addicts and sexual offenders nearby?!! This project at this location must be aborted immediately.

We will take legal action towards the city if anyone is harmed on the premises of the school/church due to your reckless decision.

Sincerely,
Adela Waldie

>

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Bill C](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Meeting questions
Date: Sunday, October 10, 2021 7:11:31 PM

Why does our city counsel continue to make decisions that are not aligned with the desires of their constituents in West Salem? Some examples include the continued rejection of the third bridge proposal, and the blatant disregard to infrastructure issues by approving multiple apartment complexes.

From: [Bob Elliott](#)
To: [Gretchen Bennett](#); [citycouncil](#)
Cc: [Rep Evans](#); [Sen Patterson](#); [Lyle Mordhorst](#); [michael freitas](#)
Subject: Re: Church of the Park cost breakdown
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 8:08:16 AM

City Council, below is a note to Ms Bennett sent prior to reading the SJ that you may vote tonight to slow down the process for the Ward 8 homeless camp. If you take the time to read my note to her you will see some concerns a small group of citizens have with the monthly cost to operate and questions on vetting of Church of the Park. I visited Portland's Oregon Trail of Hope who also works to provide homeless shelter and support. This organization was surprised with the monthly cost, however without knowing the details in the request for bid they do not know if they could have bid lower. I and some others urge you to vote to let the staff re-look the site location and the organization to manage the sites in Salem. It is apparent Ward 8 will have a homeless camp and other Wards also by your previous actions, but better staffing and community communication and buy in will assist in acceptance by citizens. I hope to hear back soon on the monthly breakdown cost requested by me and offered by Ms Bennett in the last Salemtowne meeting. Even though cold weather is coming we recommend slowing down the process in your vote tonight. Also we recommend working with Polk County when locating camps in West Salem, I do not believe Polk County was in the loop during the current process. Better staffing and citizen involvement will provide a better outcome for all. Please support Jim Lewis, he knows his Wards concerns. Bob Elliott West Salem

Sent from my iPhone

> On Oct 9, 2021, at 8:06 PM, Bob Elliott <robert.eugene.elliott@gmail.com> wrote:

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>

> Gretchen, I attended a meeting today and the conversation come up about the Church of the Park receiving \$96,000 a month. I told them I had asked last week for you to provide the breakdown of where \$96,000 goes a month. I told them 10% goes to the leadership of the Church of the Park and the rest goes to cover the expenses. I also told them I asked how the bid was vetted. FYI, I went to a Portland Friday and talked to "Oregon Trail of Hope" who work with the homeless, our conversation rolled around to the figure of Salem spending \$96,000 a month. With them not knowing the details they seemed surprised at the amount. They also do not use the white pallet design because they do not last very long, etc.... Can you also provide how the selection process was completed. The small group is concerned that "Church of the Park" may not really be a church and could really be a business making money and using the TAX code to cover themselves. As you know you stated you would provide us information if we asked. The small group did some easy math and looked down the road and thought let's see, if in the future all eight Wards have a similar homeless camp at the same monthly cost then that would come to close to \$921,000 a year. Many large church's do not bring in that much, Thank you in advance. I know this is "Free" money to Salem but still our Federal Tax Dollars that we all pay. Bob Elliott, West Salem

> Sent from my iPhone

From: [Bethany Wright](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: West Salem Managed Homeless Camp
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 11:55:14 AM

We live in West Salem, approximately 2-3 miles from the proposed managed camp on Wallace Rd.

We strongly urge you to reconsider allowing the city to establish a managed homeless camp at the location currently being considered.

Placing this managed camp in the middle of two family-filled apartment complexes and a senior living facility is a terrible idea. It is also very close to SalemTowne, which houses a vulnerable population itself, and at least two elementary schools.

While I understand there is a need for more transitional housing, and better assistance for those who are needing housing, I feel that this particular location would be a huge mistake.

Yes, there are those of us who worry about retaining our property values, but we also worry about this project drawing more and more transients to West Salem, which is already a huge issue in the shape of Wallace Marine Park, among other areas.

We fully understand that not everyone who is homeless is a thief or a druggie, however, the truth of the matter is, a site like this is likely, and understandably, going to draw more of the transient population to West Salem, and we do not have the kind of infrastructure to support this already growing problem.

West Salem lacks the police presence needed for the crime rate it already has, and most of the time, the police won't, or can't do anything to help us when someone tries to break into our homes, or destroys property. We have already seen a huge and steady increase in crime in the last two years - and now we have no faith in the city itself to help protect our interests, as they seem to be making decisions for us in West Salem without informing us of these situations or letting us vote on them ourselves.

The exorbitant cost of preparing the proposed site, not to mention the monthly cost of providing these tiny structures is more than it costs to rent a one bedroom one bathroom apartment in most places.

In addition, the land they are proposing tends to flood every year.

While again, we understand that more housing is needed for the city, and we understand that everyone wants a solution - We fail to believe that this is the best solution for all parties involved.

We implore you to find some other way to allow for transitional housing without compromising the safety and well-being of the residents in the surrounding areas.

Thank you for your consideration.

From: [Candice Molina](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Please find a new location
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 12:08:57 PM

Please stop the managed homeless camp set to go up at the park and ride in West Salem. I attended the meeting on Sunday at the park and ride. I spoke directly to a C@P representative and she could not address my issues about safety. My 3 year old and 5 year old attend a school blocks away, my 97 year old grandmother lives in the assisted living facility directly behind the camp. My Sons do not know what a used drug needle looks like or weapons and are way too young to protect themselves at the 3 large grassy areas at their school. Why are we taking a risk on these populations?!! Please think of this as your own family being in close vicinity of this camp and stop it from happening.

A very concerned citizen of Salem,

Candice Bartlett

From: [Camillea- The Altered Artistry](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Camp in West Salem
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 12:03:30 PM

After learning of what is planned for lot 2700 Wallace rd, My neighbors and I are riddled with anxiety. This will be absolutely detrimental to our community. The cost alone to construct this project is astronomical and unbeneficial to the West Salem community. Crossing the bridge is constant challenge, since it is the only way to enter and exit West Salem from town. Traffic is horrendous and backs up constantly. Constructing the camp there will only increase traffic in our small community. For them to have services brought to them will just increase issues here. There are 9 schools, 5 being elementary within a 2 mile radius of this designated space. Brush College Elementary, Kalapuya Elementary and Harriet Elementary are within walking distance. Our neighborhood playground is less the one minute from here. There are only houses and apartments in this area. The camp will be in the apartments back yard where the children ride their bikes and play basketball. It's all residential. Also this will be destroying all of our property and housing values. This is on our main road facing all the traffic coming in and out of town. It is also right next to a children's school bus stop. It does not make sense to be choosing this location. We do not have emergency responders located on this side of the bridge. Our crime has risen with homeless breaking into our cars and homes. Pushing them further into neighborhoods is ludicrous. Also after seeing our "welcome to the state capital" sign next to it is a homeless camp. Is this is the image we will advertise? Yes, homelessness is a increasingly huge problem in the state of Oregon. Mental illness and drug issues being of concern. How is moving the this camp into a residential area

surrounded by schools, families and homes. We have limited resources for this side and no immediate first responders. How would this be for the best? Please consider our children. We moved to West Salem for the safety of our family. Moving more homeless to this area and setting up this type of housing will cause so many issues that West Salem can not handle. Crime and violence will elevate putting our children in danger. Please reconsider this location for your tax payers. The impact of this camp will be devastating.

Thank you,

Camillea and Christopher Hughes

Mayor Bennett, Member of the Salem City Council and City Manager Powers

Re: Managed Temporary Camp at 2700 Wallace Road NW

Salem, like many cities in Oregon and the US, is struggling under a growing burden of unhoused citizens. We understand the need for good programs, methods, and solutions to address the ever-increasing challenge of the unhoused in Salem. Everyone wins when positive progress is made to address this chronic problem. The two managed temporary camps in NE Salem are part of the solution for this challenge.

The future site at 2700 Wallace Road would be the third such managed temporary camp in Salem, but this site's location, and its surrounding conditions are substantially different from the two previous camps. This location fails to properly protect the surrounding community and will also fail to serve the needs of the unhoused occupants of the camp. There are serious issues regarding community safety and inadequate services which are necessary to provide an effective environment for the unhoused. These issues must be addressed.

Community Safety: Unfortunately, the unhoused occupants often have histories of addiction, mental illness, and criminal behavior which creates negative and dangerous impacts to the surrounding community. This West Salem location is situated next to and near a large vulnerable population.

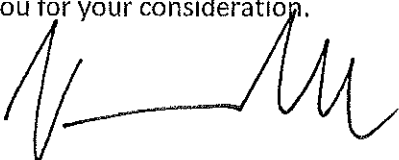
Please consider that "next door" to the camp are two low-income apartment complexes and a senior care facility. Families and children in these apartments and the seniors at the care facility are at immediate risk from the impacts of this camp. Nearby there are also two elementary schools, a pre-school/childcare facility, a city park, three churches and a large senior housing community. Additionally, the immediate surrounding neighborhoods consist of multi-family and single-family residences. This combines to create a substantial vulnerable population. Daily, families walk to and from the schools, churches, and nearby Brush College Park. Local children regularly play nearby and even in this proposed temporary camp site, amplifying concerns about safety, security, sanitation, and many other immediate and long-term impacts related to this use in their local neighborhood

Services For The Unhoused: Further diminishing the appeal of this site is its poor location for the occupants of the managed temporary camp. This West Salem location is distant and isolated from the necessary essential services, employment, goods, and supplies needed by the unsheltered occupants. The services they need to break free from being unsheltered are not readily available. The nearest grocery store is 1.8 miles from this site, along with most employment opportunities. Essential social and medical services are in the city core 3 or more miles away, isolating this predominantly aging population from the assistance and opportunities they need to survive and overcome their unhoused status.

This location at 2700 Wallace Rd NW falls short in both community safety and effectiveness for the unhoused when compared to the two existing temporary managed camps. Both camps are located apart from vulnerable residential neighborhoods, schools, parks, and senior housing. While remaining accessible to the essential goods, employment and services needed to make the managed temporary camp successful.

We implore you to reconsider this location and invest the time needed to carefully choose a location that best serve the unhoused residents and protect the communities that are impacted. We would suggest you review the section of Wallace Marine Park, just north of the ball fields. This is City owned property, it situated away from significant vulnerable populations, and it is in close proximity to the essential goods, employment and services needed to make this camp a success.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'M' or 'W' followed by a flourish.

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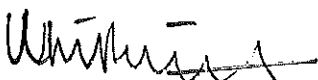
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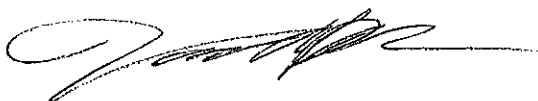
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Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "John" followed by a stylized surname, written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Bennett, Member of the Salem City Council and City Manager Powers

Re: Managed Temporary Camp at 2700 Wallace Road NW

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Caleb Gray

Mayor Bennett, Member of the Salem City Council and City Manager Powers

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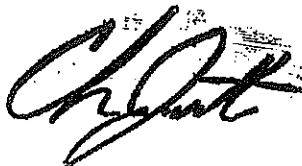
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Dunt", is located at the bottom right of the page. The signature is stylized and fluid.

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Salem City resident.

Mayor Bennett, Member of the Salem City Council and City Manager Powers

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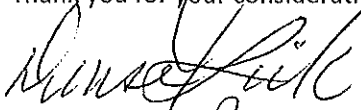
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Accounts Receivable - Bonaventure

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Margaret E. Jones

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph R. Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joseph" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Jones".

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Lisa St. Clair 10/6/2021

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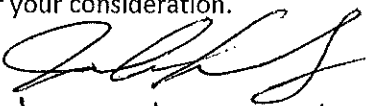
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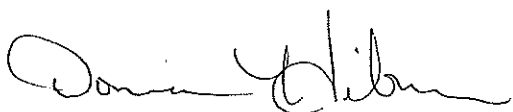
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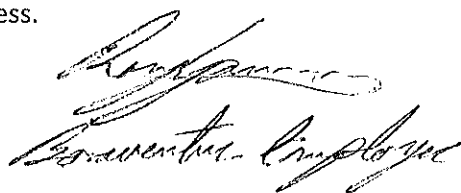
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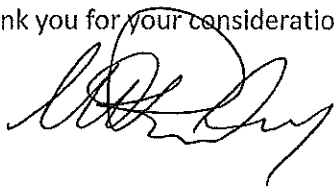
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Employee
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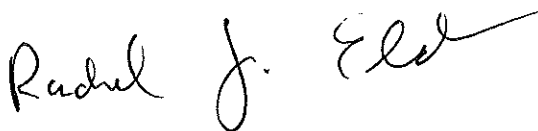
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rachel J. Elder". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rachel" being the most prominent part.

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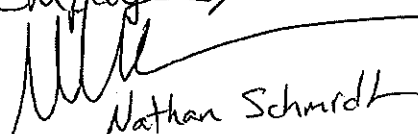
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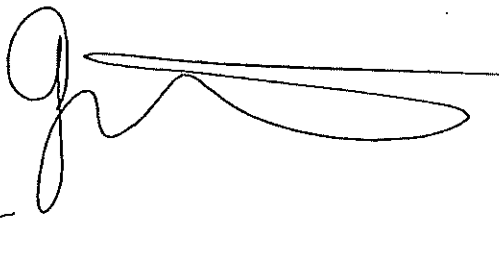
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Giselle Schneider
Staff Accountant
Bonaventure Senior Living



Mayor Bennett, Member of the Salem City Council and City Manager Powers

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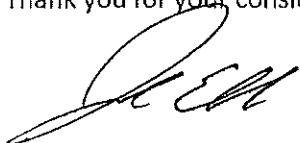
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5722 Joylake St.
Salem OR 97306

Project Manager
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Stina Campos
Bonaventure Payroll Specialist

Mayor Bennett, Member of the Salem City Council and City Manager Powers

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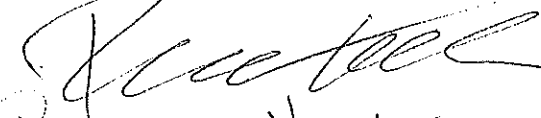
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Rachelle Wheeler

6175 Lauderback St NE
Keizer, OR 97303

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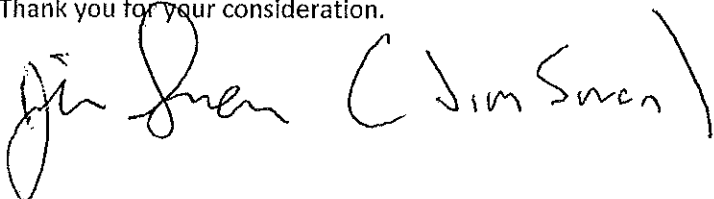
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 (Jim Swan) 10/06/21

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angela Fan", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

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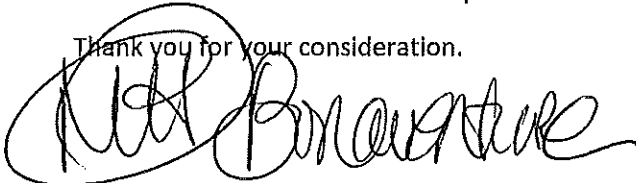
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Bonaventura", is written over the "Thank you" line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "B".

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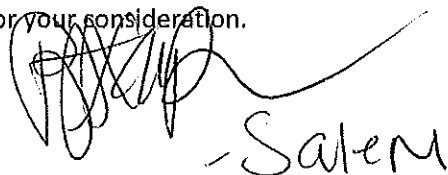
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Thank you for your consideration.



-Salem

Mayor Bennett, Member of the Salem City Council and City Manager Powers

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Denise Larsen, West Salem resident Ward 8.

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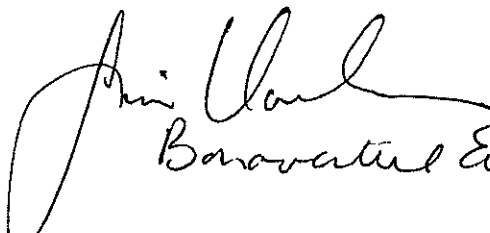
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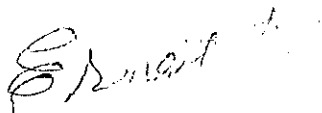
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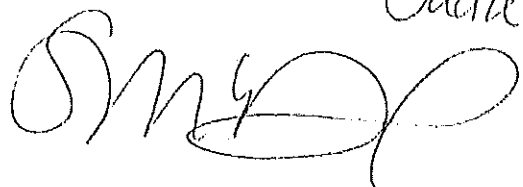
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Thank you for your consideration.


Sachie McDaniel

Mayor Bennett, Member of the Salem City Council and City Manager Powers

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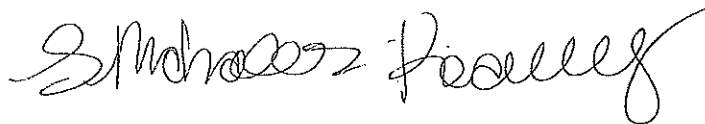
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Matthew Powell

Mayor Bennett, Member of the Salem City Council and City Manager Powers

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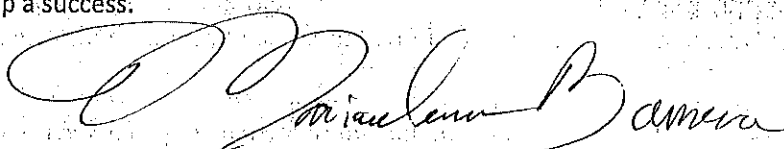
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Bennett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M".

10/07/21

Mayor Bennett, Member of the Salem City Council and City Manager Powers

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Denise Pierce

Mayor Bennett, Member of the Salem City Council and City Manager Powers

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Concerned Citizen
Salem, OR

Mayor Bennett, Member of the Salem City Council and City Manager Powers

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JS- Jessica Sanchez

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "AS Amy Jensen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "A" and "S" at the beginning.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Zupend", is written over a horizontal line.

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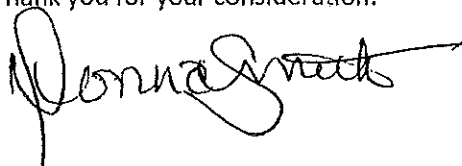
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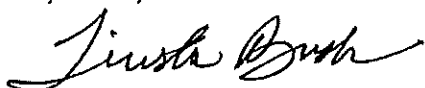
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Bill Woodrum

Mayor Bennett, Member of the Salem City Council and City Manager Powers

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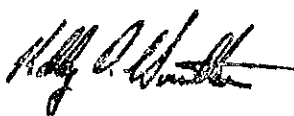
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Chelsea Montgomery Salem resident
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Merr Salem 02/10/14*

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[Signature]
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Resident Signature: S Burton

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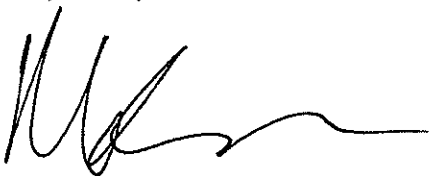
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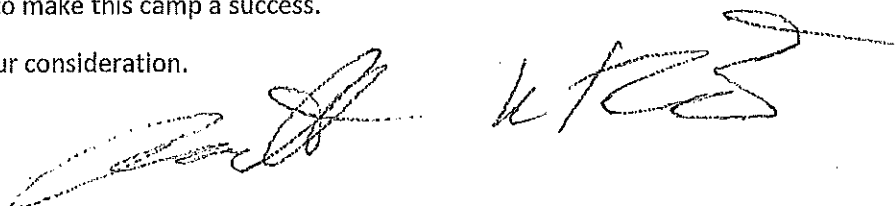
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Thank you for your consideration.

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is more fluid and cursive, while the one on the right is more angular and stylized.

Mayor Bennett, Member of the Salem City Council and City Manager Powers

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Marisol Montes ^{10/8}
Nancy Montes

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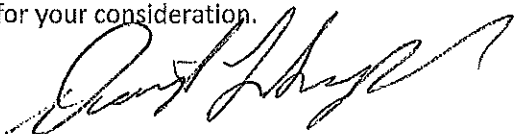
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David L. Hays", is written over the "Thank you" line.

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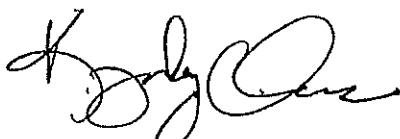
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Thank you for your consideration.

Carolene Ontige
10-6-21

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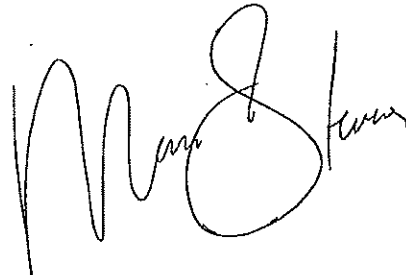
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Sten". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop for the 'M' and a long, sweeping tail for the 'S'.

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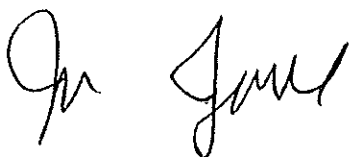
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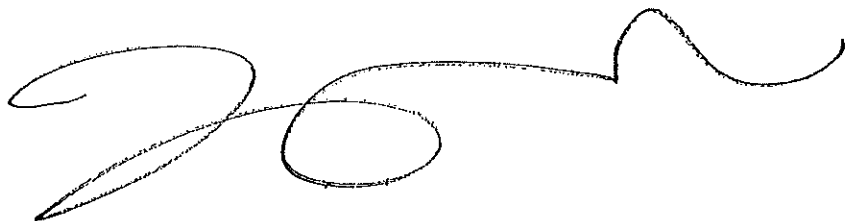
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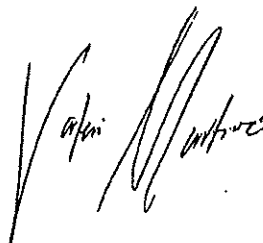
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Please consider that "next door" to the camp are two low-income apartment complexes and a senior care facility. Families and children in these apartments and the seniors at the care facility are at immediate risk from the impacts of this camp. Nearby there are also two elementary schools, a pre-school/childcare facility, a city park, three churches and a large senior housing community. Additionally, the immediate surrounding neighborhoods consist of multi-family and single-family residences. This combines to create a substantial vulnerable population. Daily, families walk to and from the schools, churches, and nearby Brush College Park. Local children regularly play nearby and even in this proposed temporary camp site, amplifying concerns about safety, security, sanitation, and many other immediate and long-term impacts related to this use in their local neighborhood.

Services For The Unhoused: Further diminishing the appeal of this site is its poor location for the occupants of the managed temporary camp. This West Salem location is distant and isolated from the necessary essential services, employment, goods, and supplies needed by the unsheltered occupants. The services they need to break free from being unsheltered are not readily available. The nearest grocery store is 1.8 miles from this site, along with most employment opportunities. Essential social and medical services are in the city core 3 or more miles away, isolating this predominantly aging population from the assistance and opportunities they need to survive and overcome their unhoused status.

This location at 2700 Wallace Rd NW falls short in both community safety and effectiveness for the unhoused when compared to the two existing temporary managed camps. Both camps are located apart from vulnerable residential neighborhoods, schools, parks, and senior housing. While remaining accessible to the essential goods, employment and services needed to make the managed temporary camp successful.

We implore you to reconsider this location and invest the time needed to carefully choose a location that best serve the unhoused residents and protect the communities that are impacted. We would suggest you review the section of Wallace Marine Park, just north of the ball fields. This is City owned property, it is situated away from significant vulnerable populations, and it is in close proximity to the essential goods, employment and services needed to make this camp a success.

Thank you for your consideration.

 - Natalie B Huentwa

Mayor Bennett, Member of the Salem City Council and City Manager Powers

Re: Managed Temporary Camp at 2700 Wallace Road NW

Salem, like many cities in Oregon and the US, is struggling under a growing burden of unhoused citizens. We understand the need for good programs, methods, and solutions to address the ever-increasing challenge of the unhoused in Salem. Everyone wins when positive progress is made to address this chronic problem. The two managed temporary camps in NE Salem are part of the solution for this challenge.

The future site at 2700 Wallace Road would be the third such managed temporary camp in Salem, but this site's location, and its surrounding conditions are substantially different from the two previous camps. This location fails to properly protect the surrounding community and will also fail to serve the needs of the unhoused occupants of the camp. There are serious issues regarding community safety and inadequate services which are necessary to provide an effective environment for the unhoused. These issues must be addressed.

Community Safety: Unfortunately, the unhoused occupants often have histories of addiction, mental illness, and criminal behavior which creates negative and dangerous impacts to the surrounding community. This West Salem location is situated next to and near a large vulnerable population.

Please consider that "next door" to the camp are two low-income apartment complexes and a senior care facility. Families and children in these apartments and the seniors at the care facility are at immediate risk from the impacts of this camp. Nearby there are also two elementary schools, a pre-school/childcare facility, a city park, three churches and a large senior housing community. Additionally, the immediate surrounding neighborhoods consist of multi-family and single-family residences. This combines to create a substantial vulnerable population. Daily, families walk to and from the schools, churches, and nearby Brush College Park. Local children regularly play nearby and even in this proposed temporary camp site, amplifying concerns about safety, security, sanitation, and many other immediate and long-term impacts related to this use in their local neighborhood.

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This location at 2700 Wallace Rd NW falls short in both community safety and effectiveness for the unhoused when compared to the two existing temporary managed camps. Both camps are located apart from vulnerable residential neighborhoods, schools, parks, and senior housing. While remaining accessible to the essential goods, employment and services needed to make the managed temporary camp successful.

We implore you to reconsider this location and invest the time needed to carefully choose a location that best serve the unhoused residents and protect the communities that are impacted. We would suggest you review the section of Wallace Marine Park, just north of the ball fields. This is City owned property, it is situated away from significant vulnerable populations, and it is in close proximity to the essential goods, employment and services needed to make this camp a success.

Thank you for your consideration.



- Dakota Smith

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of dbarricklow@gmail.com
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Contact City Council
Date: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 7:41:44 PM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Dana & Doug Barricklow
Your Email	dbarricklow@gmail.com
Your Phone	5035859381
Street	3065 Winslow Wy NW
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97304
Message	We are adamantly opposed to the Homeless village proposed for 2700 Wallace Rd NW. We believe the site is inappropriate for transients due to near by apartment houses with many children, near by senior housing, the distance from grocery stores and other necessary facilities. This is a residential area. Bringing in water and sewer would be costly. Please drop these plans.

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 10/6/2021.

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of darcygunter3540@gmail.com
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: City meeting public comment
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 12:49:05 PM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Darcy Gunter
Your Email	darcygunter3540@gmail.com
Your Phone	5416377934
Street	3407 Osage Dr. NW
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97304
Message	<p>Hello, My name is Darcy Gunter and I am urging the City Council to reconsider setting up the homeless shelter near Riviera Christian School. I am a parent & work at Riviera and I am very concerned about the safety of our school & childcare children as well as our staff who are all female. I am worried about sex offenders who may be housed at this shelter as well as drug use. All of our children play outside and use every area and I am scared to death of finding used needles and drug paraphernalia on our school property. Many of us come to work when it's dark and leave when it's dark. There are many other vacant buildings around Salem that will be better suited for a set up like this. Like I said I am urging you to please reconsider and don't put this homeless camp near our school & childcare. Thank you, Darcy Gunter Parent & Staff at Riviera Christian School</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 10/11/2021.

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of lamkid@msn.com
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Contact City Recorder
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 10:27:08 AM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Debra Lampson
Your Email	lamkid@msn.com
Your Phone	5033709762
Street	1520 Kenard St NW
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97304
Message	<p>I live a few blocks away from the proposed homeless encampment. It just makes no sense to put this in West Salem. We pay some of the highest tax rates in Salem. We moved out here to be OUT of downtown. Wallace Road has become a busy, and fast road. To move homeless people out here is going to be dangerous for them and drivers. How about all that area at city hall? All that cemented covered area? Try that...it makes sense. In town, safe, and easy access for homeless people. We do not want more trash, crime and people wandering around in the middle of the night looking to steal anything not nailed down. This city is not paying attention to the tax payers who fund it.</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 10/11/2021.

From: [Dennis Ragain](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Homeless Encampment
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 11:30:21 AM

We all know that something must be done with the multitude of homeless in our communities, but the City Council needs to think carefully as to any area used for relocation. The current location being considered in West Salem has the potential for potential danger to its citizens, both old and young.

Since no one in the site will have a background check, we will not know if there are potentially dangerous residents in this homeless shelter. Also, considering the fact that staff cleaning up each homeless site have had to deal with hundreds of syringes and needles, I would think it would be prudent to find a suitable site not close to any schools. The West Salem site being considered is close to several schools including those with very young children in attendance.

Also older residents are often the target of criminal minded individuals due to their age and possible infirmities. This proposed site is quite close to a retirement community.

There are other minor problems like lack of services for the inhabitants of the site. But the primary consideration must be the safety of the citizens of the community first and then a compassionate solution for those who are homeless.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [EVAN WHITE](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: micro shelters for the houseless
Date: Sunday, October 10, 2021 12:01:33 PM

Long ago a very wise teacher used a hypothetical king to pose the following question: "...I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me..." and so on. Matthew 25: 34-35. In our day and time, that question might be rephrased as "I was cold and living in a wet tent during the Oregon winter..." We heartily endorse micro-shelters for the homeless, and we have contributed toward the construction of one of these shelters. Thank you for your service to all who live in our city. Evan and Pat White (Ward 7)

From: lmgb@earthlink.net
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: microshelter community
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 1:02:34 PM

Are you really "reconsidering" allowing over 55 and primarily woman to have a managed and safe place to live? I cannot believe that you are caving in to a bunch of NIMBY's who are selfish and short sighted. People complain when they are on the streets and under overpasses because of unhealthy conditions and garbage. Now, the city has the opportunity to safely house primarily women over 55 and selfish people rail about "danger" and "their children".....really? When was the last time a 60-year old homeless woman endangered anyone. You need to ignore the community, proceed with this plan as it is city owned property and it's the right thing to do. Please locate your spines and do the Christian and humane action on behalf of these homeless people.

Lora Meisner & Glenn Baly
1347 Spyglass Court SE
Salem, OR 97306
503-588-6924

From: oberyfamily@comcast.net
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Reaffirm your support
Date: Friday, October 8, 2021 6:49:03 PM

Dear Councilors-

I urge you to reaffirm your support for the managed homeless camp in West Salem.

After the Council's original decision to approve the site, my family sent a financial donation to the Church in the Park aimed to help make the program a success.

The staffing, structure, and services planned for the site ensure that residents in (and nearby) the camp will receive the attention they need, problems will be quickly addressed, and our entire community can work towards ending homelessness. There are no easy answers, but further delay in assisting those in need will lead to more hardship for us all.

In addition, my family and I welcome the other site (in South Salem) that is currently being planned. This site is less than a half mile from my home. We support the idea that each Ward being home to these programs. We support models that seek housing first. We support leadership in Salem that considers the most vulnerable among us.

Respectfully,
Gary & Angela Obery
SCAN Neighbor

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of hmstaats@gmail.com
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: City meeting public comment
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 10:20:48 AM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Heather
Your Email	hmstaats@gmail.com
Your Phone	4259194233
Street	1164 35th Ave nw
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97304
Message	Good morning! I am writing in response to pause or stop the homeless shelters on Wallace road in West Salem. I am not against helping or finding locations for these shelters, however a better location would be preferred. My small kids go to school nearby and a lot of parents And teachers are there early in the morning and later into the evening. Please consider a different location so we can continue to help keep our kids safe.

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 10/11/2021.

From: [Jillian Barnhart](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: West Salem Micro Shelters on tonight's City Council meeting agenda
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 10:44:32 AM

I am a resident of West Salem and I would like to request a withdrawal of the approval of the micro shelter camp on Wallace road in West Salem and that its location be moved elsewhere.

I attended both in-person meetings last week and listened to what Councilor Jim Lewis and those associated with this project had to say. The following reasons are why my family opposes this project:

- This location is terrible. It's close to a park and ride, multiple schools, and a retirement community. It lacks public transportation and access to services and stores for the people who would live here. Also, according to some who live nearby, this field floods in the winter which would make the site unlivable.
- Residents of this micro shelter will not be background checked. I repeat: residents will not be background checked because they will lose their federal funding because it is "discriminatory" to do so.
- They claim that the site will focus on housing 55+ women, however they are going to fill 30 micro shelters with 60 people. Women in the homeless community are vulnerable and commonly preyed on by the exact kind of men that we do not want living, unchecked near our children's schools.
- Questions regarding security at the site were vaguely answered with talk of a digital check-in system. The Police officer who attended the meeting said that Salem Police will not increase patrols in West Salem when this micro shelter goes in.
- The people running this project are not trained or equipped to do so. Based on their responses to questions at the meetings, they have no tangible plans for actually rehabilitating residents, getting them clean, getting them job training, etc.
- The claim has been that this site will be federally funded but this article points out that "additional funding may be needed" = our taxes/property taxes.

I have served thousands of hours volunteering my time at multiple homeless shelters with programs that have actually been successful at rehabilitating and helping people long-term. Creating a shanty town of people who will not even undergo basic background checks or receive actual help at a cost of close to 1.5 million dollars per year is not the answer.

My 3-year-old daughter goes to Riviera Christian School a couple thousand feet away from this site. I will continue to adamantly oppose this project to protect her and all vulnerable people near this site. If this project gets pushed through, please know that I plan to organize a protest to prevent this micro shelter from going in whenever they plan to start building it. I know that from seeing how many people came out to the meetings last week that hundreds will stand with me in opposition of this project. Please move this project to a site that makes sense.

- Jillian Barnhart

From: [Jinx Brandt](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Homeless shelters
Date: Sunday, October 10, 2021 7:52:33 AM

To Our City Council Members,

I have lived in Salem for over 50 years and in our home near South Salem HS for over 30.

Please do not back down from establishing homeless shelter communities in our wards. I am pleased that the Council is dedicated to sharing this need throughout Salem. We are our brother's keeper and share this planet with everyone.

Hang in there, folks. I know the ride is already bumpy.

Sincerely,

Jenan R Brandt

From: [Jeanne Collins](#)
To: [J Stembidge](#)
Cc: [Gretchen Bennett](#); [citycouncil](#); [Kristin Retherford](#); [Steve Powers](#); [Jimmy Jones](#); [DJ Vincent](#)
Subject: Re: Thoughts for you regarding the West Salem Neighborhood's reaction to the creation of a managed shelter...
Date: Thursday, October 7, 2021 10:53:56 AM

Thank you, Joan, for so clearly describing the gradual evolution of the neighborhood relationship surrounding Kenton Women's Village. The key is that it is a process that takes time and care, and it is important to realize that while the first few neighborhood meetings may be challenging, it does not mean that the relationship can't be built. I urge you all to review the chapter in our report in which we describe the gradual development of neighborhood support for Kenton Women's Village. I sincerely believe that given enough time and patience, we can do this in Salem as well. If Joan or I can be of any help in this process, please let us know.

We know that the City Council has the talent to accomplish this. Thank you for all of your efforts in trying to find solutions for people experiencing homelessness.

Best,
Jeanne Collins

On Thu, Oct 7, 2021 at 10:25 AM J Stembidge <stembrij@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Councilor Lewis, Ms. Gretchen Bennett, Mr. Vincent, and City Council,

It is with dismay that I read of your meeting with residents of West Salem who expressed strong opposition to establishing a managed shelter in their neighborhood.

However, I was not surprised, based upon the concerns expressed, as reported in the Statesman. It appears that most of the objections from the residents centered around their fears about deterioration of their neighborhood, and feeling left out of the decision-making process.

It sounds like you did a stellar job listening to the concerns and being responsive to the issues raised. Congratulations on your efforts. Not easy to do.

I would like to encourage you to reread the chapter on the Kenton Women's Village (Chapter 18) in the report Jeanne Collins and I sent to you in early 2020 entitled: "Strategies for Addressing Homelessness: A Search for Best Practices in and around Northwest Oregon". Specifically, the same type of program was being set up in a neighborhood in North Portland. Initially the neighborhood was almost unanimous in opposition. The fears and concerns neighbors brought were that the Kenton Women's Village project would cause neighborhood blight, property value deterioration, and an increase in crime. Sounds like the same issues brought up at your neighborhood meeting last night...

Here is a quote from the Community relations section of our report: "When development of the program first began, the agencies that were involved held weekly and bi-monthly conversations with neighbors of the site for four months. In these meetings, the agency representatives listened to neighbors' concerns, thoughts, and ideas, and told personal stories of the villagers who would become neighbors. This series of meetings served to educate the neighbors about issues of homelessness and broke down barriers. As a result, the neighborhood welcomed the formation of the village in their midst."

At the conclusion of the series of neighborhood meetings; a vote was held and the community overwhelmingly voted to support the project. Again, quoting the report: "In fact, the neighborhood became strong advocates for the village, and the message was "How can we be sure to keep our ladies safe?".

Perhaps the most interesting outcome of the neighborhood relations effort was the development of a "Good Neighbor Agreement". A written document that was signed by the neighborhood association, Catholic Charities (the manager of the village), and the Kenton Women's Village representatives. That written agreement addressed the specific issues that had caused intense anxiety for the neighborhood and provided a specific remedy for each concern, such as:

- + No pop-up camping outside of the village
- + No overnight guests in the village
- + No friends sleeping in cars outside of the village

Please do not be discouraged by the reaction from last night's meeting in West Salem. It was the beginning of educating neighbors that we are all part of the solution to the problem of homelessness. And, last night's meeting was the beginning of how West Salem will eventually become supportive of such a project in their midst.

Please do continue to educate the neighbors in each ward. Each ward of our fair city needs to have such a shelter. Each ward needs to be encouraged to voice any concerns about having a well-managed shelter in their neighborhood. Each ward needs to increase community understanding that having such a shelter will enhance the livability of the City of Salem, as well as create a positive impact on the neighborhood.

It can happen. It is doable. It is important. It is necessary.

Thank you again for your good work.

Thank you again for your humanity.

Thank you again for your public service.

Sincerely,

Joan Stembridge

503 569-7968

1695 Winter St. S.E.

Salem

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of fairchild0314@hotmail.com
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: City meeting public comment
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 12:57:45 PM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Jeff Fairchild
Your Email	fairchild0314@hotmail.com
Your Phone	5038718656
Street	3425 Oak Knoll Road Northwest
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97304
Message	<p>To whom it may concern. I am a life long resident of Polk county, living in West Salem for the past 24 years. It is of great concern for the homeless encampment being proposed in West Salem. I have read the guidelines outlined for the proposed camp and strong feel these are not safe for the residents of the community. This site is in close proximity to 2 schools (Brush College and Riviera Christian), of which I am school board member and long term supporter of Riviera Christian. This encampment, allowing dangerous things such as drug use, is unacceptable and in the area especially in such proximity to students. I feel that the city council has made a dangerous proposal and should reconsider/rescind the direction. It is in the long-term best interest of the community at large to address the mental health issues and reduce drug and alcohol abuse (not allowing it) that will be in the best interest of Salem. Please reconsider and reverse the direction for this unwise decision. Sincerely, Jeff Fairchild</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 10/11/2021.

From: [Jack n Jeanie](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Micro shelters
Date: Sunday, October 10, 2021 3:26:50 PM

As a big supporter of the concept of the managed microshelters for homeless people I was disappointed when I read the article in the paper the other day. The most disturbing to me is the “not in my neighborhood” attitude. Especially the comment about they shouldn’t be close to an affluent neighborhood as it might lower property values.

We are blessed to be among those who own our own home in a nice neighborhood. I would hope, if it was in our neighborhood we would not object. It’s not, so maybe I shouldn’t comment, but my heart breaks for the people who have no good shelter and for the eye sores of the unmanaged camps we see so often by the freeways, downtown, etc.

So we have decided we want to support the microshelters with both finances and our voice. I hope and pray people would come around and be supportive rather than objecting.

Jeanie Hills,
In South East Salem

Jeanie,
Sent from my SE iPhone

From: [Joan Lloyd](#)
To: [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: pallet homes in West Salem
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 1:26:35 PM

I am appalled that Salem City Council would consider moving the location of the microshelters/pallet homes because the rich residents of West Salem are worried that the shelters would adversely affect the value of their properties. The City of Salem has a Human Rights Commission but it would seem that homeless folks don't count as humans. They were among those that experienced a great deal of discrimination according to the results of the recent survey regarding prejudice. I believe that survey was generated by the City.

The pallet neighborhood is deemed to be temporary and supervised with help necessary for finding jobs, more permanent housing and health care. This is much different from the unsupervised camping at Cascade Gateway Park where campers did steal from low income folks living at Paradise Island, had dangerous fires to keep warm and left mounds of trash and garbage.

No matter where the shelters are located they will be near other people. I don't want to think that our City Council is biased.

Joan Lloyd, resident of Salem
Ward 1

From: [Janet Romine](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Council Meeting Oct. 11....Homeless Camp at Wallace Rd.
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 11:29:53 AM

October 11, 2021

NO! NO! NO! NO! Just to be clear this is a “NO!” letter.

Dear City of Salem Council Members,
You have heard from many.....almost all “no” responses to the proposed Wallace Road homeless shelter.

You have been given **reasons** why this is not a good site. It is near the most vulnerable in our society, ones with no or small voices.....elderly and children.

You have been given **different location** possibilities. Question: Why does housing for the unsheltered have to happen in every ward? Why not.....

- The old Hillcrest School for Girls.
- The former Fairview Home.
- Wallace Marine park where the homeless already reside.
- Motels or buildings that have gone out of business.

You have been told the Wallace Road site is **not ideal for the homeless.**

- Far from services.
- In an area that floods.

Listen to your constituents!!!! Listen to the ones you represent. I personally have been very proud of the apartment residents. They have been extremely vocal and passionate about protecting their children. Have you been to their homes? These very residents are on the fringe of society too, but as they have stated over and over they work at low paying jobs but still pay their bills. Do they count less than the homeless? As one former homeless young woman told you at the Salemtowne meeting, we do care, we do want help for the homeless, but the Wallace Road site is not the correct site.

Yes, the wealthy and upper middle class think Wallace Road is a perfect place. Most likely that opinion would quickly change if a camp was proposed in close proximity to their property, their children, their schools. Talk is cheap when there is no chance a homeless camp will ever be on your doorstep!

It seems to be a pattern of placing these camps with little or no neighbor input; on land where the lower economic residents live. Are you just figuring there won't be much pushback from those residents?

Please **do “what is right” for our elderly and children!!! Vote NO** for the 2700 Wallace Road site!

Janet Romine

503-871-9309

2915 Eric Ct. NW

Salem, OR 97304

romine@teleport.com

From: [Jeremy Stamback](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: NO HOMELESS CAMP in WEST!!!
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 12:30:52 PM

I am adamantly opposed to the homeless camp that is proposed on the corner of Wallace and Brush College!

Stop this now. Our entire neighborhood does not want this!

Jeremy Stamback

From: [Jason Steiger](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Homeless micro shelter.
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 12:22:08 PM

Hi I'm just leaving my comment in opposition of the location of the West Salem Micro shelter site. Not to beat a dead horse but the process in which this shelter was approved was very sneaky. I have watched many of the council meetings over the years and it's normal to spend a few meetings discussing topics before implementation. That was not the case and this deserves at the least a pause for discussion. Second the location is not at all acceptable for humans to live at. Having the homeless much closer to the city greatly benefits them. We are talking about humans here and the city is shuffling them out of the city and out of site. Your placing them inbetween multiple schools and multiple apartment's with no consideration to the current residents.

Another concern I have here is the micro shelters in question you have chosen. Pallet Shelter is a venture capital backed for profit company. These shelters are not fire safe and they provide no insulation making them extremely expensive to heat and cool against external temps. I believe more research should have been done into housing options for the homeless. How come the city isn't asking the federal govt to help and give more housing choice voucher a for Marion and Polk county? Ultimately we need about 2k more vouchers for Polk and Marion in the city of Salem. That would remove nearly every homeless person off the streets. The city could also use the newly available parkade that rhe former police department used for their squad cars to house a village. Thank you again for every thing everyone does.
-Jason.

From: [J Stemberge](#)
To: [Gretchen Bennett](#); [citycouncil](#)
Cc: [Kristin Retherford](#); [Steve Powers](#); [Jimmy Jones](#); [DJ Vincent](#)
Subject: Thoughts for you regarding the West Salem Neighborhood's reaction to the creation of a managed shelter...
Date: Thursday, October 7, 2021 10:25:33 AM

Dear Councilor Lewis, Ms. Gretchen Bennett, Mr. Vincent, and City Council,

It is with dismay that I read of your meeting with residents of West Salem who expressed strong opposition to establishing a managed shelter in their neighborhood.

However, I was not surprised, based upon the concerns expressed, as reported in the Statesman. It appears that most of the objections from the residents centered around their fears about deterioration of their neighborhood, and feeling left out of the decision-making process.

It sounds like you did a stellar job listening to the concerns and being responsive to the issues raised. Congratulations on your efforts. Not easy to do.

I would like to encourage you to reread the chapter on the Kenton Women's Village (Chapter 18) in the report Jeanne Collins and I sent to you in early 2020 entitled: "Strategies for Addressing Homelessness: A Search for Best Practices in and around Northwest Oregon". Specifically, the same type of program was being set up in a neighborhood in North Portland. Initially the neighborhood was almost unanimous in opposition. The fears and concerns neighbors brought were that the Kenton Women's Village project would cause neighborhood blight, property value deterioration, and an increase in crime. Sounds like the same issues brought up at your neighborhood meeting last night...

Here is a quote from the Community relations section of our report: "When development of the program first began, the agencies that were involved held weekly and bi-monthly conversations with neighbors of the site for four months. In these meetings, the agency representatives listened to neighbors' concerns, thoughts, and ideas, and told personal stories of the villagers who would become neighbors. This series of meetings served to educate the neighbors about issues of homelessness and broke down barriers. As a result, the neighborhood welcomed the formation of the village in their midst."

At the conclusion of the series of neighborhood meetings; a vote was held and the community overwhelmingly voted to support the project. Again, quoting the report: "In fact, the neighborhood became strong advocates for the village, and the message was "How can we be sure to keep our ladies safe?".

Perhaps the most interesting outcome of the neighborhood relations effort was the development of a "Good Neighbor Agreement". A written document that was signed by the neighborhood association, Catholic Charities (the manager of the village), and the Kenton Women's Village representatives. That written agreement addressed the specific issues that had caused intense anxiety for the neighborhood and provided a specific remedy for each concern, such as:

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Please do not be discouraged by the reaction from last night's meeting in West Salem. It was the beginning of educating neighbors that we are all part of the solution to the problem of homelessness. And, last night's meeting was the beginning of how West Salem will eventually become supportive of such a project in their midst.

Please do continue to educate the neighbors in each ward. Each ward of our fair city needs to have such a shelter. Each ward needs to be encouraged to voice any concerns about having a well-managed shelter in their neighborhood. Each ward needs to increase community understanding that having such a shelter will enhance the livability of the City of Salem, as well as create a positive impact on the neighborhood.

It can happen. It is doable. It is important. It is necessary.

Thank you again for your good work.

Thank you again for your humanity.

Thank you again for your public service.

Sincerely,

Joan Stembridge

503 569-7968

1695 Winter St. S.E.

Salem

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of stormwarning72@msn.com
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Contact City Council
Date: Sunday, October 10, 2021 8:29:32 PM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Joan Storm
Your Email	stormwarning72@msn.com
Your Phone	503-363-4336
Street	6865 Lemongrass Loop SE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97306
Message	<p>Micro-shelters for the homeless I read about the City's proposal for temporary managed camping on Wallace Road. The article in Sunday's Statesman Journal (October 10, 2021) said that it would have room for about 60 campers, and would cost \$96,000 a month, just for operations. Can anyone on the Council do some simple math! \$96,000 a month for 60 people is \$1600 per person each month. For that amount, the City could rent a decent apartment for each of the 60 homeless, and pay for all utilities for those apartments, rather than pay for a piece of wet ground and a 10"x10" windowless building. Add the per-shelter cost of \$2500 for each 60 of the homeless. Are you out of your mind! If these sheds were just a stop-gap measure for these people as they struggled to get back on their feet, I think the citizens on Salem might be more receptive to your plans. I haven't heard, though, about how the city plans on helping move the homeless from sheds in an open field to productive taxpaying jobs. What we're seeing, though, is an ever-increasing number of homeless who toss trash all over, drop used needles and empty alcohol bottles wherever it's convenient, and have turned our city into a disgusting dump. For so many of the homeless, the problem is not the lack of a safe and secure place to sleep at night. There are problems with drugs and alcohol and lifestyle choices, and providing overpriced sheds won't solve this problem. I would think you would have learned by now that throwing money at a problem doesn't solve it. Let's strike a deal with the homeless. If we provide 60 of them with a very expensive shed coupled with astronomical operations cost, we will expect the following in return. They are to keep the entire place clean, even if that means picking up their neighbor's garbage and mess. They need to pick up and deposit the trash in the provided receptacles, not leave human waste on the ground, and stop accumulating other people's discarded items. They will not spend their days and nights drunk or high. They will work diligently with counselors and social workers to become independent. They need to do something positive each and every day to justify society's expenditure into their well-being. I will oppose your plan until you have something more concrete to offer than spending MY money.</p>

From: [Keith Riggs](#)
To: [Virginia Stapleton](#); [Tom Andersen](#); [Trevor Phillips](#); [Jackie Leung](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Chris Hoy](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Jim Lewis](#); [Chuck Bennett](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: managed homeless camp in Ward 8
Date: Saturday, October 9, 2021 10:31:30 AM

All,

I do not object to the establishment of a managed homeless camp in Ward 8 – I object to the proposed siting. Its proximity to the Salemtowne senior community, apartments, Riviera Christian School and the Gibson Creek Bonaventure assisted living facility make it an unsuitable spot for a temporary shelter site. It is too close to children. It is too close to vulnerable people.

The other managed micro-camps in the city are sited in commercial areas – not residential locations.

The plan has raised fears of increased crime in a quiet residential neighborhood. How will this be addressed?

The city's published plan does not describe how food, water, and sewer will be provided to the camp's residents. Also, the proposed location is far from necessary mental health and addiction services.

Has staff considered leasing land for the camp from the owners of the closed industrial property located north and west of the Goodwill store?

I understand the city's desire to make use of the funds from the American Rescue Plan Act before they expire.

I encourage you to vote to reconsider the council's previous approval of a managed camp along Wallace Road and to ask staff to develop an alternative plan and location for the camp away from residential housing.

--

Keith Riggs
cell: [541-680-1044](tel:541-680-1044)

From: [Karen Sjogren](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Re: Proposed homeless camp at 2700 Wallace Road
Date: Sunday, October 10, 2021 2:13:49 PM

This is a follow up on my original comment on this issue, which I incorporate by reference. If you do consider an alternate location, please don't make it any of the west salem parks, for all of the reasons stated previously. If you must put these people in a temporary camping situation on city land, make it Marion Square park, where they are already. The services they need are right next door, as is the police department. Maybe the combined services of both these entities will get these folks to clean up after themselves and not vandalize or destroy public property. I still prefer a location or locations that are not park land, as these lands are designated for recreational purposes. I don't understand why all that land along Mission Street which is vacant cannot be used. Even though the homeless are supposed to be out of Wallace marine park, they keep trying to come back and continue to trash the park. One individual destroyed a \$2000 door for the new restrooms at Riverfront, another destroyed a toilet. Graffiti is a never ending problem. Please consider the impact on our parks when locating this population. The mattress is still hanging off the railroad trestle.

On Sat, Sep 25, 2021, 6:16 PM Karen Sjogren <sjogrenkaren2@gmail.com> wrote:

Please accept this as my public comment on the proposed camp, which I oppose. I would like to simply add my name to the excellent comment submitted by Jim and Jody Davis; I agree and incorporate by reference every point they made. I and my neighbors have tolerated the camp at Wallace Marine park for over a year so I know the Davis' points are valid. Please check out the other locations they have mentioned which do not utilize green space, are closer to needed services, and not in proximity to schools or churches. Also the development of this site is way too expensive. I daresay the city would not be spending this kind of money if it were not coming from federal funds. The duration of this camp and its construction are also too permanent in nature, giving the occupants a feeling of entitlement which will make it much more difficult to move them out eventually. Camps are not a good idea in general due to the garbage generated and cost of cleanup. I just talked to a parks employee about getting the mattress off the railroad trestle that's hanging over a wetland, and have spent several hours removing hundreds of cigarette butts from around the benches in Wallace Marine. SOLV helped out today. There are still people living in the north end of the park. Let's do better for both the public and the homeless by putting them in real housing, especially as the rainy season approaches. For this amount of money other alternatives are surely available.

From: [Karen Sjogren](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#); [Deb Patterson](#); [Linda Bierly](#); [Sandra Whittington](#)
Subject: Multiple agreements to acquire property for Marine Drive alignment project
Date: Sunday, October 10, 2021 6:31:02 PM

Like a specter of Halloween past, Marine Drive has appeared on the City Council agenda to haunt my sleep. I thought we had killed this project in 2017 along with punching a road out to connect quiet 5th Avenue to Harriet drive to the north of me. I have fought for years to protect and keep intact my low income neighborhood consisting of Pioneer Village and several large apartment complexes by not allowing through traffic. I am incorporating by reference my letters to the city council on these issues, dated October 23, 2017 (5th Avenue), River Crossing resource impacts, dated July 7, 2017 (Marine Drive), and a copy of my June 18, 2012 DEIS comments sent to the Salem City Council on November 5, 2012. Please read them. I don't want to have to restate my arguments against Marine Drive. (Paragraph). As I look at the map, Marine Drive is a short road segment on the backside of an apartment complex, bounded on the south by Harriet Dr. N.W. South of that are open fields, and at the north end are some nice woodlands. My rational brain suggests the property to be acquired is at either end of this short segment, rather than where there are already houses or the apartment complexes, since open land is cheaper to acquire. I don't know what the purpose is in buying this land except to use up the bond money from I think the 2008 safe streets issue, where Marine Drive was snuck in. The money is better spent on improving and adding sidewalks, as is occurring on Wallace Road at present, and improving pedestrian crossings and bike lanes. (Paragraph) This alignment is in the vicinity of Glen Creek, so it's not a good location for a road. The optimist in me hopes that the city will finally recognize the value of its open spaces and leave the acquired right of way as green space, perhaps as a walkway/park/dog park for all those apartment dwellers so they don't have to get in a car and drive on Wallace Road to get to a park to exercise or walk their dogs. Maybe provide a view for people in the Memory Care place (I'm thinking ahead). I know that ROW s are not always for roads, thinking of the ROW by the railroad tracks along River Road. So please think ahead about what you plan to accomplish by acquiring these properties.

From: [Lee Ann Nail](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Wallace Road Homeless Eco Village needs a better location
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 8:20:20 AM

Dear Salem City Council -

Please reconsider the proposed Homeless Eco Village on Wallace Road. It has 5 apartments within a few hundred feet all of which seem to have a number of small children as residents. There are two schools within a city block. Residents have even identified that the proposed property is often flooded, providing an ecosystem as a small pond for ducks in the winter months. I'm sure there would be a more appropriate site.

Lee Ann Nail, LCSW

Roseburg Therapy, LLC

DBA Stronger Oregon

Roseburg, Eugene, Springfield, Salem, Bend, Coos Bay, Portland

Phone 541-900-4285

National Suicide Prevention Hotline 800-273-8255

****CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE****

This e-mail may contain information that is privileged, confidential, or otherwise exempt from disclosure under applicable state or federal law.

If you are not the addressee or receive this e-mail in error, please advise me immediately by reply e-mail,

keep the contents confidential, and immediately delete the message
and any attachments from your system.

Thank you.

From: [Luanne Whitaker](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: FW: Proposed Homeless Camp on Wallace Road
Date: Sunday, October 10, 2021 11:47:52 AM

This message was sent to the Mayor and all City Council yesterday, 10/9/2021.

From: Luanne Whitaker <whitaker62@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, October 9, 2021 12:49 PM
To: 'vstapleton@cityofsalem.net' <vstapleton@cityofsalem.net>; 'tandersen@cityofsalem.net' <tandersen@cityofsalem.net>; 'tphillips@cityofsalem.net' <tphillips@cityofsalem.net>; 'jleung@cityofsalem.net' <jleung@cityofsalem.net>; 'jgonzalez@cityofsalem.net' <jgonzalez@cityofsalem.net>; 'choy@cityofsalem.net' <choy@cityofsalem.net>; 'vnordyke@cityofsalem.net' <vnordyke@cityofsalem.net>; 'jlewis@cityofsalem.net' <jlewis@cityofsalem.net>; 'cbennett@cityofsalem.net' <cbennett@cityofsalem.net>; 'gbennett@cityofsalem.net' <gbennett@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Proposed Homeless Camp on Wallace Road

Mayor Bennett, Council Members & Gretchen Bennett:

I understand the need for a location for the homeless to sleep. The Wallace Road location is not acceptable for multiple reasons.

- Adjacent to two apartment complexes where young families and children live. The children play in the ODOT Park and Ride and the grassy area.
- Salem Keizer School busses pick up and drop off children at the ODOT Park and Ride.
- Adjacent to a Bonaventure care home.
- Located within 500 feet of Riviera School and Day Care.
- Located within ¼ mile of Salemtowne, a 55+ community where many people are age 55 but far more are in their 80's and 90's.
- The City owned land floods during the winter and an apartment resident has provided photos.
- There are no amenities except a gas station, Plaid Pantry and BBQ Restaurant.
- There is no evidence that ODOT is agreeable to have vehicles parked overnight at the Park & Ride or that the proposed camp would block access from Wallace Road.

Please provide me with information on how an "emergency" is declared within the City Council.

I find it interesting that Gretchen Bennett has apologized for not providing any communication to surrounding neighbors however if you read the April 2, 2021 article in the Statesman Journal, the same non-communication happened before a homeless camp was established on Portland Road. Will motor homes, pickups/campers and trailers be allowed like the camp on Portland Road?

Because this lack of thorough planning has created much anger and fear in surrounding neighborhoods, perhaps the Council should pursue opening a camp in another Ward until a suitable location is found in Ward 8.

One thing I do not find understandable is why has the Council determined that a camp must be located in each Ward? The homeless could be housed at the Hillcrest School for Girls, more recently occupied by the Oregon Youth Authority. It closed our years ago, so the buildings must be habitable. It is not near schools or neighborhoods and has a kitchen so food could be prepared on site. Or develop a managed homeless camp on the former Fairview Home property which is vacant.

Thank you.

Luanne Whitaker

503-689-1429

From: [Lora Wilson](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: West Salem Micro-Shelter/Managed Homeless Camp Site
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 11:22:38 AM

Greetings,

My name is Lora Goodenough and I have been a West Salem resident for 20 years. I have attended both community meetings in the past week, regarding the proposed Managed Homeless Camp in West Salem. Like everyone else, I found out about this just two days prior to it being passed at the last City Council meeting, two weeks ago. I have gotten up to speed on this in a hurry!

First of all, let me say that I am in support of this model for helping the homeless population in Salem. Let me also say that I am in support of finding an appropriate location to bring this model to West Salem. I understand that Central and North Salem have carried more than their fair share of this burden. But, I AM OPPOSED TO THIS MANAGED CAMP BEING PLACED AT THE PROPOSED SITE.

The proposed site is in the middle of a residential neighborhood, between two low-income multi-family apartment buildings, in a field and a parking lot where unsupervised children play and ride their bicycles. There is no other place for them to do so, nearby. Section 8 housing is difficult to obtain and the residents of these apartment buildings likely have nowhere else to go. They already live in an undesirable area, on a highway, on the outskirts of town. It further marginalizes them to take away the only safe place their children have to play by placing this camp in their front yard. The reality is, many of the moms who live there (and showed up to the first meeting) feel unsafe with this option. They openly expressed in the meeting on 10/3/21 that they are in recovery and/or have serious trauma histories and that they fear for the safety and well being of their children should a homeless camp be placed next to them.

As you know, this location is also two blocks from a daycare, preK and K-5 elementary school that is staffed only by women with NO formal security on site. It is also one block away from a senior, assisted living facility with ground-level living units that are easily accessible.

This site is a terrible choice for this credible project and placing it there will not only compromise and disrespect the surrounding neighbors, it will alienate what could be, significant allies and supporters to making this vision a reality in West Salem. Please, let us work together!

In the past week, I have been in communication with Salem Leadership Foundation, Gretchen Bennett and several property owners to work toward the location of a more appropriate site. I have located THREE more appropriate sites and need time to have the conversations and make the appropriate connections.

In the meantime, I plead with you to locate this site more quickly in one of the other wards (if an appropriate site is available) and allow us, West Salem residents and allies, to find a site that we can all get behind!

Thank you,
Lora Goodenough
(503)884-5388

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of nadene@yatesguitar.com
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Contact City Council
Date: Friday, October 8, 2021 6:28:05 PM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Nadene LeCheminant
Your Email	nadene@yatesguitar.com
Your Phone	503-409-6666
Street	1665 Cottage Street SE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97302
Message	Dear Mayor and City Councilors, Thank you for your courageous decision regarding the unsheltered community. I think the West Salem location for micro-shelters looks like a reasonable one, with bus service and a smaller impact on nearby neighbors. I also applaud the idea of having shelters located in each ward. This shouldn't be the responsibility of any single neighborhood, but of the entire community. I appreciate the many, many hours, and the heart and dedication you have brought to this issue. With gratitude, Nadene LeCheminant

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 10/8/2021.

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of mtnhimike@yahoo.com
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Date: Sunday, October 10, 2021 8:02:01 AM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Michael A Groat
Your Email	mtnhimike@yahoo.com
Your Phone	5414807922
Street	461 Inverness Dr. SE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97306
Message	<p>All Council Members, You are such a bunch of worthless council members when you screwed up the West Salem homeless Camp. Yes those homes you want to build will just make for more homeless folks. If these folks want a job they have hundreds of jobs in Salem. But no as long as you keep feeding them, housing them and give them more time then you do the Tax paying folks you will get blow back. Get a Bridge build, Get the Streets of Salem fixed ! Jim Lewis learned a lesson in how angry folks can get and so did the council. But I am sure the Council will do all they can to help the homeless but do not give a damn about the folks that pay the bills. Wake up and smell the Coffee and do what is right for ALL the Tax Payers in Salem not the folks that do not contribute one penny to the tax base of Salem.</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 10/10/2021.

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of natalkagt@gmail.com
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Date: Saturday, October 9, 2021 3:14:35 AM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Natalia g Makarenko
Your Email	natalkagt@gmail.com
Your Phone	5034093231
Street	3024 BRUSH COLLEGE RD NW
City	SALEM
State	OR
Zip	97304
Message	<p>Hello, I am a mother of five beautiful children living in West Salem area. We have been attending public schools and private school for the last 10 years. We never had fear or problem if my kids ever wanting to walk home or ride their bikes around the neighborhood. At this point my concern is this will be no longer a good idea due to campground City counsel proposed on Wallace road. Safety of my children is my number one priority. God forbid I will have to hear horror stories of someone's child being hurt or misled. I am not looking forward to this decision being a reality, it will upset many community members as well as puts all of us at risk with the zoning. All I am asking is please consider the young kids who are still free to ride their bikes to gas station and around the neighborhood freely without fear. Because at this point it has made us realize what we are about to lose. Our safety and security. Thank you for understanding. Natalia M. 503.409.3231</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 10/9/2021.

From: beebalmbees@gmail.com
To: [citycouncil](#)
Cc: [Irma Dowd](#)
Subject: FW: NW Salem Homeless Shelter pods
Date: Friday, October 8, 2021 4:24:04 PM

Dear City Councilors,

This letter has obviously been already sent to the mayor, city manager and homeless liaison. Please note that although the mayor and city manager already received this email but since they are included in this email address, we hope they understand the intention is to address the rest of the councilors at City Council through this email address.

Hello Chuck Bennett, Mayor; Steve Powers, City Manager; Gretchen Bennett, Homeless Liaison and City Councilors,

The NW Salem people don't seem to understand that the communities in Salem's different wards all have to pitch in and take in the homeless people into their wards. We, in NE side of Salem, got in a position where we had to take in two sets of city-selected pods besides the emergency shelter we had to provide at the pavilion during the winter months of 2020-2021. Some of those people were mixed in with the bad lot as you may already know.

The people at the NW side of Salem need to accept what they were brought forth by the City because we, at Northgate, believe we have taken enough homeless people in, while the NW and the South side of Salem have no homeless pod camps. It is about time they step up and take some responsibility with this issue. And, Gretchen promised us last November that all of Salem will be evenly dispersed with the homeless shelters.

Those are the managed camps. We already have some unmanaged ones to still be concerned about.

Kindly be advised that we had enough and we are at our capacity of taking any more homeless people in.

Thank you.

Bayard Mentrumb, Chair; Don Jensen, Land Use Chair; Flora Morales, Communications Liaison; Kaethe Mentrumb, Secretary/Park Chair; Pennie Morley, Board Member; Jess Cruz, Board Member; Rebecca Strieper, Board Member; Pedro Mayoral, Board Member; Joanne Barnhart, Board Member; Ross Black, Board Member; Timothy Beck, Board Member.

Northgate Neighborhood Association

From: [Patrick Featherstone](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Homeless camp on Wallace Road
Date: Sunday, October 10, 2021 7:11:43 PM

We are against the planned homeless camp on Wallace Road.

1. Why was this decided and made a done deal without any input from the surrounding neighborhood that this camp will impact?
2. The other homeless camps are in non-residential, industrial areas. What is the reasoning behind placing this in a residential area, especially where young children live and play.
3. With a budget of over \$1 million annually, this was the only option available to help a small number of people?
4. How will this budget be used? A breakdown of where the money is going would be helpful.
5. What oversight will there be on DJ/Church in the Park who is an unknown now in charge of a huge budget? What safety measures are in place to make sure taxpayer money is being used as earmarked? How frequently will the budget be reviewed to make sure it is being used as it should be?
6. Knowing that there is only 1 police officer assigned to all of West Salem, what additional security will be assigned to cover the people living in the homeless camp? The panel at a recent meeting said there was nothing that could be done to prevent people outside the program from living at the same site, creating trash, vandalizing & stealing from the surrounding neighborhood. Not very reassuring.
7. If no background checks are being done, how will you protect the residents & children of this area from sex offenders and drug use?
8. Why was the Wallace Rd site selected knowing there are no nearby services, no bus?
9. Is there any type of back up plan in place if the funding runs out, if there are no volunteers to bring in every service, pick up the trash, make sure the tenants are obeying the rules?

We ask that you would spend more time researching this and that you are more transparent in your dealings in the future.

Patrick & Anna Featherstone

From: rpilemer@gmail.com
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Homeless shelter in West Salem
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 12:30:21 PM

Dear City Council

I know you will be reviewing the decision again about setting up homeless transition shelters off Wallace in West Salem. Again, as you are aware of, the residents (including my family) are not at all in support of this decision. It is not that we aren't disagreeing with trying to help people in need that are wanting help to transition from homeless back into society, but it is how this has been handled and where this should happen is the issue.

Aren't there already pre-existing buildings somewhere in Marion county that aren't being used that could be converted to house homeless as well as having this closer to amenities for them??

I feel that spending the money that has been discussed to build these shelters is directly coming out of tax payers hard earned money and does not seem cost effective.

This shelter is next to apartments and from what I understand in a flood area. My husband and I walked around where proposed site would be and saw that there were huge flood drains to help with flooding.

In addition, the poor church pastor is supposed to be responsible for helping and overseeing these folks. What is this isn't enough support, who will be blamed? The poor pastor?

I think the city is trying to put a bandaid on a situation that is far more complex and needs more services that dumping these people in a shelter in an area next to residents, school, park , senior centers and church. Why not closer to the mission by the police department???

I hope the city does not continue with the decision they originally intended.

Sincerely
Concerned resident
Pam Lerner

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Rick Cornish](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Proposed Wallace Road managed housing
Date: Sunday, October 10, 2021 11:29:43 AM

Salem City Council:

Regardless of the final site chosen, I want to vouch for the integrity and purpose of Church @ the Park in regards to managing a setting such as this. It's a very difficult job very few are willing to step up and do, and still they are vital link in the long road to attempt to alleviate the current homeless problem.

Richard E. (Rick) Cornish
South Salem.

From: [Rockie Leach](#)
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Fwd: homeless camp
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 1:04:39 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rockie Leach** <rockieleach@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Oct 8, 2021 at 8:08 PM
Subject: homeless camp
To: <jlewis@cityofsalem.net>

Here we are once again throwing good money after bad, why don't you stop reinventing the wheel and work with the established agencies that have years of experience working with the homeless and have a great deal of understanding of the need. Many do NOT want to live in a controlled environment; they have become disillusioned with society and do not care to have a part in it, but for those that do there are already existing resources.

We just spent 12 million to purchase the hotel off market to house the homeless. If the individuals that you are looking at for this latest project meets the criteria for their project then they would meet the criteria for the UGM and the hotel. These locations will also provide access to public transportation to get to and from employment opportunities, medical care, groceries. The employment department is a tremendous resource for employment, that's what they are there for, and their staff will assist the individuals in creating an iMatch account, running scans to be matched to employment, helping with interview skills, building a resume, everything they will need to become employed. They also have access to other agencies that can help them with housing, medical care, transportation, education etc. etc. Why are we not utilizing the already existing resources?

Housing them in a small box on a paved lot with access to a port a potty when they can be in the USM or the 70 room hotel with access to everything they will need to become self-sufficient, with some dignity, is just ridiculous at another tremendous expense to the community as well as the reduction of their property values, security for their family's etc. They may be homeless, but they shouldn't be housed in a box smaller than a jail cell so that another do-gooder can pocket more taxpayer funds. We are already paying for the monthly expenses of the hotel and now add more. And this was done without any consideration to the community. It was all done behind our backs,

UTILIZE THE AGENCIES THAT ALREADY EXIST AND ARE SET UP
TO TRULY HELP HOMELESS AND THOSE IN NEED.

Center for Hope and Safety

Women at the Well Grace House

UGM

Employment Department

70 room hotel off market

DHS

The list goes on...stop spending money that we do NOT have.

From: [Rex Turner](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#); [Chuck Bennett](#); [Jim Lewis](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Chris Hoy](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Jackie Leung](#); [Trevor Phillips](#); [Tom Andersen](#); [Virginia Stapleton](#)
Subject: Proposed homeless micro-shelter plan - 2700 Wallace Road
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 1:01:32 PM

Dear Council Member,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed homeless micro-shelter plan now being contemplated for 2700 Wallace Road. Please consider the following in your decision:

- Via emergency order, the site selection bypassed land use process and did not amply notify or consider the opinions and concerns of the neighborhood.
- The grassy field is at a lower elevation than any of the adjacent parcels, and therefore receives runoff. The site has been documented as a “wet” location.
- The site is adjacent to low-income population including children whose safety may be jeopardized by the camp residents. Project management has stated that camp residents can not be vetted by background checks, nor can they guarantee the residents will remain at the site after-hours.
- The site is near schools and a senior assisted living facility.
- The site is a three-minute walk away from the Salemtowne community, a population of several hundred vulnerable seniors.
- The site is approximately two miles from medical and other human services.

The monthly operation budget is extraordinarily high. Please consider existing properties that can be leased or purchased with that money. At the very least, **please consider a more appropriate site.**

Thanks for your consideration.

Rex Turner, 541-591-1738
3010 Twin Oak Pl NW, Salem 97304

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of pmaryinoregon@gmail.com
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 1:58:55 PM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Pat Reisinger
Your Email	pmaryinoregon@gmail.com
Your Phone	5038301120
Street	3043 Winslow Way NW
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97304
Message	<p>The decision to set up a homeless center off Wallace Road was railroaded through the West Salem communities most impacted by it. • The apartments directly behind the proposed camp are full of families and more than 50 school age children. They were not contacted. • Many of the residents of Salemtowne who live less than a half mile from the proposed site are in their 70s, 80's and 90's and medically fragile. They were not contacted. • These communities contain some of the most vulnerable residents of Salem - children, the aged and disabled. I am retired from a corporation where I helped manage major change management initiatives. One of the basic tenants of change management is to engage with your key stakeholders before moving ahead, listen to their concerns and provide the information they need to understand the value of what you propose. Yes, this takes a lot of work. Failure to take these critical steps almost always results in the deep unhappiness and anger you see in the West Salem community now. Please do not decry the direct results of your inaction. Surely, you noticed earlier than Oct that the homeless in our city needed help with housing for the coming winter. Best case, your poor planning and inaction constitutes an emergency for the homeless in our community. Worst case (and I hope this isn't true) this delay in communication was a conscious ploy on your part to jam this decision through. During the meeting at Salemtowne, several people offered to work to find an alternative location for this camp. Give us the chance to be of help and reconsider this disastrous location. Jim, this lack of engagement with your constituents is not the kind of representation I vote for. Other members of the council, I doubt that residents in your wards will find this lack of engagement vote worthy either.</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 10/11/2021.

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of thestayathomesoprano@gmail.com
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Contact the City of Salem
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 10:29:55 AM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Sarah Adams
Your Email	thestayathomesoprano@gmail.com
Message	Regarding the transient camp proposed at Wallace rd: there are children very close by - presumably closer than sex offender distance laws allow. Yet, I have been informed that you will not check offender status due to a federal funding rules issue? Our kids matter, and you are not keeping them safe. If they will be harmed in any way from these "campers" we will come for you in court and every dollar we can get. This speaks volumes to the amount of care you have for the most vulnerable among us - our youth. Also, placing a camp far away from affecting the city center and wiping your hands of the matter and giving your self a pat on the back and a humanitarian of the year award doesn't hide the fact that instead of solving the problem of homelessness - by mental health and helping people back to work - you are callously just pushing these homeless aside like sweeping dust into a pile and into a unseen corner. These homeless people and our children deserve better than that.

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 10/11/2021.

From: [Sue Crothers](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Managed Camps in Salem
Date: Sunday, October 10, 2021 9:44:11 AM

To the City Council:

I am writing in support of the City Council establishing managed sleeping pod and/or safe parking communities throughout the city for the unhoused. Church at the Park or other social service agencies can, though these managed sites, make a real difference. Already a portion of those served have transitioned to "real" housing. Church at the Park has proven themselves capable of keeping these temporary "neighborhoods" safe and clean.

Heck, if managed pods could be placed in my own back yard, I would welcome them!

I am distressed by the fear and vitriol that was expressed at the West Salem meeting. Perhaps one reason is that you are referring to them as "camps." Please find a less loaded word!

I understand that people do not want filth and crime at their door, but the proposal recently approved by City Council guards against that. Solutions cannot always be in "someone else's" back door. Risk and sacrifice are part of being a citizen.

Please stick to your guns. Approve the West Salem pod space and allow the results to speak for themselves. Do not give in to enraged, ignorant, and self-serving fears of personal loss to trump this opportunity to provide safety, stability, and a better future to suffering people.

Susan Crothers
1530 Chemeketa St NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-400-1133

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of bunny.se@gmail.com
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: City meeting public comment
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 11:08:26 AM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Sarah LeDoux
Your Email	bunny.se@gmail.com
Your Phone	5038282423
Street	1878 Michigan City Ln NW
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97304
Message	<p>The plan for the micro-shelter on Wallace needs to be relocated, the idea of it being so far out in the boonies with almost no access to any resources is ridiculous. No grocery store, no immediate medical or police response, no homeless out reach programs or job opportunities along with a limited bus system that they would be required to use. My final complaint against this is that there are not one but two elementary schools within walking distance of the proposed site, a child care with infants, an elderly care facility and a large senior community. ALL of which are at risk and easily targeted, but no-- let's put this plan on pause to investigate the needs of the local ducks... I am disgusted that over 200+ children aren't a priority for the city, but a couple dozen ducks' habitats are the highlighted cause of concern. It's insanity.</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 10/11/2021.

From: [Shea McElroy](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Public written comment on NW microshelter
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 9:28:02 AM

I live one block from the microshelter on Portland Road NE. I am writing to share my experience living in proximity to this microshelter because I am distressed by the public outcry against the proposed microshelter on Wallace Road NW.

I have not experienced any negative impacts from the microshelter. Its residents do not make my neighborhood or home less safe. I am a young woman living alone, and I feel equally as safe walking alone in my neighborhood at any time of day as I did before.

The microshelter is a positive contribution to our neighborhood. Residents have placed potted plants outside their microshelter and tended to them, what was an empty lot is now filled with neighbors who are as grateful to live in this neighborhood as I am. Every time I go past the microshelter I am grateful to live in a city that is take—albeit small and insufficient, but nonetheless—steps to care for our in sheltered citizens.

Shame on the ungenerous community members who refuse to welcome their unsheltered neighbors into what small safety the microshelter in NW could offer them. As citizens with the privilege of shelter, not getting in the way of our unsheltered neighbors seeking safety is the very least we can do.

Thank you for your consideration,
Shea McElroy
(Pronounced: Shay Macelroy)

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of mcfadds@comcast.net
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Date: Thursday, October 7, 2021 2:57:12 PM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	SUSAN MCFADDEN
Your Email	mcfadds@comcast.net
Your Phone	503 363 3029
Street	1115 Cardinal St NW
City	SALEM
State	OR
Zip	97304
Message	<p>I was troubled by what I read in Tuesday Statesman Journal about the tenor of a meeting at Salemtowne concerning a proposed micro shelter. I was not at that meeting. I would like to note that I support establishing managed micro shelters for homeless people on the city-owned vacant property near ODOT's Wallace Road Park and Ride. What I read leads me to believe the shelter would be well managed as the residents would be vetted in advance.</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 10/7/2021.

From: [Susan McNaught](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Micro shelters
Date: Sunday, October 10, 2021 5:03:05 PM

I am a member of Prince of Peace Episcopal church which has a community garden across the road from where the shelters are planned. We strongly support the location. We applaud the city for taking on this challenge and working to help those who are houseless. We urge you to go ahead with this location so more folks can get off the street before the weather gets so cold.

Dr. Susan McNaught
susanmcnaught@comcast.net

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of 2tbucktoo@gmail.com
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 12:51:50 PM
Attachments: ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Tim Buckley
Your Email	2tbucktoo@gmail.com
Your Phone	5039906781
Street	1570 Aerial Way SE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97302
Message	<p>Please, please do not back down from your commitment to site a sheltered camp for homeless people in West Salem (as well as all wards in the city). The rabble-rousers who turned the last meetings into mincemeat smell blood in the water. If you cave to them, it will send a message to other NIMBYs. It takes courage and conviction to stand up to bullies. But it's the right thing. The same people fight against taxes and bemoan "big government." It's an all too familiar refrain: "I've got mine. I don't care a fig about anybody else, so don't bother me with helping those who can't help themselves." If you back out, and allow uncompassionate misers to dictate public policy, excluding themselves from responsibility for common ills in society dictate, you'll be heading towards plutocracy, rule of the rich and privileged. If you missed it, this was my Letter to the Editor yesterday. Anger and fear of pallet-home site understandable To those who oppose managed sites for unsheltered families, your anger and fear are understandable. I was the Highland Neighborhood Association chairman when a couple of well-meaning Christians came to us with a proposal to turn a vacant 40-bed nursing home into Salem's first transition house for men leaving prison. I was against it, for all the reasons you listed: fear of litter, crime, traffic, a nearby elementary school, and lowering property values. The neighborhood association vocalized its opposition, but the City Council gave it the green light anyway. I was livid. Six months later, my objections softened. Why? Because none of the things I predicted came true. "Samaritan's Inn" became a good neighbor, helping with local projects and sponsoring BBQ cookouts and an open house for the neighbors. Within a year, I was raising money to help the nonprofit thrive. Twenty-five years later, Restoration House is still there, helping men find traction in society. Emergency rooms "triage" cases to prioritize the caregiving. Restoration House, much like Church at the Park, uses the same idea. The key to success – whether in business or community living – is effective and compassionate management. Tim Buckley, Salem</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 10/11/2021.

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of fairchild0324@gmail.com
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Contact the City of Salem
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 12:43:06 PM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Teresa Fairchild
Your Email	fairchild0324@gmail.com
Message	<p>To Whom It May Concern, I am writing to express my objection to the permanent homeless camp designated for Wallace Rd. As a former teacher and current school board member at Riviera Christian School and Childcare, the safety of these precious little ones, as well as the safety of those up the road at Brush College Elementary school, is of utmost concern. I have read the plans and rules to be put in place and they do not satisfy me. First and foremost drug use is allowed as long as it is not done in public. I am not a drug user, but I DO know drugs change the mental state of the user often making them unpredictable and unsafe to be around, leading them to break additional rules and laws. This is NOT acceptable at all, let alone in such close proximity to two Elementary schools. I have many other concerns including, but not limited to sanitation, theft, and other crimes associated with drug use. I plead with you to please reconsider the location of this permanent camp. Sincerely, Teresa Fairchild</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 10/11/2021.

From: [lane.nebeker](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Proposed homeless camp
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 11:30:46 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

Far away from medical help. Far away from extra resources. Far away from an area with stores. Close to schools. Close to apartments. Close to parks. Does this sound like an ideal location for a managed homeless camp?

We have hardly any information on what this camp is or how it will be run. Yes, we know there will be 30 dwellings. Yes, we know that it's supposed to be for those 55+ and women. Yes, we know there will be some services available directly on-site. However, there are many more questions for each of these little pieces of information. Questions such as:

- How will the rest of the funds for the camp be raised (there is currently not enough money to even build what is being proposed)?
- Specifically, what kind of services will be provided?
- How does the (hopefully high, according to the little information I've been able to find) temporary homeless population turnover affect safety?
- How will the homeless get around? Will they be bussed? Will they have to walk (this location is far away from everything and those over 55 probably wouldn't want to be walking very far)?
- Are they expecting to put 2 people in a shelter since there are only 30 micro shelters but they are looking for 60 people?
- What happens when the 55+ and women categories are filled and they still have empty shelters? Who fills them?
- Will the homeless be thoroughly vetted to make sure there are no sexual predators since it is so close to many schools, apartments, and parks?

These questions are just off the top of my head, listed in about 2 minutes. If I have this many questions I can come up with in the amount of time I'm supposed to be brushing my teeth, how many more things are unanswered that we haven't even considered? Why do we *need* a managed homeless camp in each ward in the city? West Salem is so far away from the rest of the city. There are other areas that are much more conducive to assisting the homeless, and these are where we need to focus our attention. There is not enough information, but more importantly, there is not enough local support or benefit to the homeless on the outskirts of the city of Salem. However good intentions may be, the current proposed site in West Salem is not the place for a managed temporary homeless camp.

Sincerely,

Theron Lane Nebeker

From: [Vonnie Jacob](#)
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Fwd: homeless camp suggestions
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 1:09:11 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Vonnie Jacob <vonniejacob87@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Oct 8, 2021 at 8:12 PM
Subject: homeless camp suggestions
To: <jlewis@cityofsalem.net>

Good Day, this letter is in opposition to the homeless camps that are planned for our communities. There are many other options available to assist the homeless other than building shops for them away from all the resources they will need to get back on their feet.

Why are you not using some of the many empty buildings throughout the city of Salem? For example the old chase building, if they want to build, utilize these buildings and build individual rooms. They will at least be indoors, have access to real facilities, as well as the 70 room hotel that was just purchased by the state at a cost of 12 million, you want to work with small groups, well this hotel holds small groups, and they will have access to public transportation to get to and from agencies such as the employment department where staff is well skilled in helping the unemployed get employed. This agency has access to other resources that they will need. Instead of spending more tax dollars to have sitters guide them.

There are many organization available to assist them in clothing, transportation, these organization are well skilled in working with the homeless and can better guide them to success instead of once again another group coming in with another idea that cost the taxpayer a fortune, brings down there property value and add to their already low level of safety for themselves and their family.

Work with the UGM, DHS, Hope and Safety the many thrift shops, dress for success. There are so many agencies and organizations that are skilled and equipped to truly evaluate them and help them in every direction that they need to go.

Instead of “lets do this” and “lets try this” the tax payers and communities do not benefit from these types of bad ideas and it most certainly doesn’t help the homeless resolve their current situation.

If you want to continue to employ your project manager, put her in charge of organizing with the various agencies that already exist to put together a true plan. There are also dentists that have volunteered to provide dental care to the homeless. Contact them please stop wasting taxpayer funds and destroying our communities.



From: [Micki Vander Linden](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: 96,000.00 a month for homeless camp
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 9:06:05 AM

Would like to see spreadsheet regarding this cost per month. Should have reached out to West Salem first, response would have been different. Communication is key!

Micki Vander linden
Sent from my iPhone