

CITY OF SALEM

Written Testimony #2

City Council

| Mor | nday, Octobe | r 11, 2021 | 6:00 PM | Virtual Meeting |
|------|---------------------|---|---|--|
| 5.b. | <u>21-455</u> | establish a manage parcel, within the c | ilor Jim Lewis to reconsider (ed temporary camp at the 27 ity-owned commercial retail otember 27, 2021 Council Me | 00 Wallace Road NW zoned portion that |
| | | Ward(s): Ward 8. Councilor(s): Counc Neighborhood(s): | cilor Lewis West Salem Neighborhood A | ssociation |
| | <u>Attachments:</u> | Public Comments recei | ived by 5:00 p.m. 10-6-21.pdf ived by 2:00 p.m. 10-11-21.pdf ived by 5:00 p.m. 10-11-21.pdf ny. | |

Good evening,

Ive never been one to get involved in these sort of things until I heard that a "managed" homeless camp was being opened just a few blocks from our home. I, like many of my neighbors and friends have been concerned about this proposal for some time...mainly for the safety of our children. I walk that direction at least every other day and would have to reconsider that route and would fear these individuals moving into the neighborhoods more than they already have. We've already had friends experience close call break ins and encounters from homeless individuals who have made their way towards west Salem which was once a secluded and safe neighborhood.

Besides our own concerns personal concerns, I don't believe it makes any sense to send individuals out here who are even further from resources on this side of the bridge. I also don't like the idea that our tax dollars are being used to pay for something that we do not approve.

I wish I had positive things to say and I hate to complain, but I can't help but just feel worried and concerned for the safety and development of this area.

Thank you for listening to our thoughts and feelings on the matter.

Sent from my iPhone

Don't stop. Don't pause.

Keep up the momentum addressing the humanitarian crisis that challenges the depth of our compassion as a city.

As well as our resolve to make Salem a safe, hospitable place for ALL of our neighbors.

Act now, as time is of the essence, with winter weather rolling in this week. Further delays will cause injury and harm to our most vulnerable of neighbors.

Specifically, I am asking you to look past the heartless comments that came out of the community meeting in West Salem.

Do not make policy decisions on the "supposed impact" to property values or the crime rate. Which at it's most basic is, wild speculation, passed off as a fact.

City Staff put in the work. Lean on it.

If you choose to cater to the wealthy neighborhoods and suspend the rollout of the microshelters, you will be sending a message that the City of Salem considers money worth more than life itself. And that certain neighborhoods' priorities carry more weight than the others.

Microshelters are a small step towards more equitable policy. A more compassionate city.

The proposal is sound.

Now it's looking for the leaders to champion it.

Are you going to be one today?

| From: | Camillea- The Altered Artistry |
|----------|--|
| То: | Chuck Bennett; CityRecorder; Jim Lewis |
| Subject: | No to the camp |
| Date: | Monday, October 11, 2021 3:12:46 PM |

After learning of what is planned for lot 2700 Wallace rd, My neighbors and I are riddled with anxiety. This will be absolutely ditmenteral to our community. The cost alone to construct this project is astronomical and unbenifecial 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

Oct. 11, 2011

Dear Council,

I am an older Salemtowne resident and want to register my NO on the proposed Wallace Road homeless site. I am not against providing for the homeless but not at this location. There are many children who either live directly beside the camp or who play in the Park and Ride. There are 463 homes in Salemtowne with vulnerable residents.....most of us are 80 or older. Having been a victim of a major burglary years ago (here in Salemtowne) I am afraid of people the camp will bring in. I know they are suppose to be 55 and older women but there will be "friends" who come to this area too. AND DJ (Church in the Park director) admits outside of the camp there is no way to monitor the "guests".

Please listen to the voices of the neighbors. We need to be represented. Christine Romine Salemtowne Resident

| From: | noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of christinavarga@outlook.com |
|--------------|---|
| То: | <u>citycouncil</u> |
| Subject: | Contact City Council |
| Date: | Monday, October 11, 2021 4:37:19 PM |
| Attachments: | ATT00001.bin |

| Your Name | Christina Varga |
|---------------|--|
| Your Email | christinavarga@outlook.com |
| Your Phone | 5032697863 |
| Street | 2165 15th Ave NW |
| City | Salem |
| State | OR |
| Zip | 97304 |
| Message | Attn: Councilors, I'm sure you are getting inundated with emails regarding the proposed homeless shelter to be established on Wallace Road. As a long time resident of West Salem, I am hoping that our concerns will be taken into consideration. The biggest area of concern is the fact that Riviera has been informed that residents of this micro shelter community will not be required to submit to a background check prior to becoming a tenant at the shelter. As the mother of two young children who attend Riviera, this is incredibly concerning. How can the city ensure the safety of children who are frequently outside the school, being taken on walks, playing outside, from being approached by potential criminals and sex offenders? How can the city ensure that the sidewalks our children walk on will not be littered with trash, including hypodermic needles and soiled clothing? Renters/tenants in standard situations typically have to undergo background checks. I'm really trying to find a justifiable reason for not ensuring the safety of the vulnerable populations that will be directly impacted by the high potential crime this will bring to the surrounding community. Foot traffic and pedestrian accidents have become an increasing issue in this area. I personally cannot count the number of accidents that I have thankfully avoided as a result of the constant presence of homeless individuals constantly illegally crossing and using the roadway. Whether that be bikes swerving in and out of lanes, individuals crossing the streets at incredibly dangerous locations (e.g., the main curve coming onto Wallace from the bridge where the footpath into the marine park is), the traffic issues in the area have been getting worse and worse. This location will only extend that issue further up Wallace as the location is too far away from the resources these individuals need access to. There are so many other concerns that have been brought up that we are also concerned about: lowered property values, crime rates in general rising in the surr |

| and surrounding communities, issues concerning drug use and dealing, traffic | |
|--|--|
| issues and an increase in pedestrian/vehicle accidents, environmental impacts, | |
| location being in a potential flood plane, etc. I do recognize that these are all issues | |
| that have been brought to your attention so I am not going to waste your valuable | |
| time in elaborating on my personal concerns regarding each of those points. I just | |
| want to make it known that the compilation of all of these many, many concerns is | |
| enough to warrant my strong reaction and need to voice my concerns. Thank you | |
| for your time, Christina Varga | |

| From: | noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of lampsond@msn.com |
|--------------|---|
| То: | CityRecorder |
| Subject: | Contact City Recorder |
| Date: | Monday, October 11, 2021 4:21:36 PM |
| Attachments: | ATT00001.bin |

| Your Name | Dale Lampson |
|---------------|---|
| Your Email | lampsond@msn.com |
| Your Phone | 5035108245 |
| Street | 1520 Kenard St NW |
| City | Salem |
| State | OR |
| Zip | 97304 |
| Message | I am opposed to the proposal of having a homeless encampment in West Salem. It is a poor location in a residential neighborhood, and it is not close to any homeless services. We seem to have a lower police patrol the last couple of years in this area. Homeless camps should be in the main area of Salem, not out on Wallace Road. They seem to leave trash everywhere, bring derelict vehicles, and crime goes up. We should have been notified much earlier of this proposal. I am very dissatisfied with the actions of the city council and the way we were NOT notified. |

| From: | noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of Bulamatari755@yahoo.com |
|--------------|--|
| To: | <u>citycouncil</u> |
| Subject: | Contact City Council |
| Date: | Monday, October 11, 2021 4:12:22 PM |
| Attachments: | ATT00001.bin |

| Your Name | David Sellers |
|---------------|--|
| Your Email | Bulamatari755@yahoo.com |
| Your Phone | 503-871-6725 |
| Street | 1843 Brush College rd Ne |
| City | Salem |
| State | OR |
| Zip | 97304 |
| Message | Dear Council, You must stop the placement of the homeless camp on Wallace rd. Would this site have been considered if it wasn't on the outskirts of town surrounded by low income and minority housing? Also the residents would be isolated from services that they would need to be successful. This is a very bad location Dave Sellers |

| From: | Eileen Gottschalk |
|----------|--|
| To: | <u>CityRecorder</u> |
| Subject: | Comment on Proposed Homeless Shelter in West Salem |
| Date: | Monday, October 11, 2021 4:42:32 PM |

Dear City Council,

I am not disputing any of the claims about the safety or oversight of the homeless encampment.

It sounds like a good idea that is long overdue. But the site of the proposed camp is wrong. Another area needs to be found. It's too close to schools, daycare centers, and low-income housing.

Many kids play in this area. If I had kids in the adjacent apartments, I would be very afraid to let them walk or play in the area. It's too close to park and ride. Who wants to leave their car all day next to a homeless camp? The camp may be managed but there will be many other homeless people who will be attracted to the area . The area floods in winter and photos of the flooding have been provided. This area has a lack of access to services, transportation, and grocery stores. We were never given any time to express our opinions about this project. It was said that neighbors within ¼ mile were contacted about this but nobody in this area has been able to find a single person who was contacted. It was said that the manager and owner of the adjacent apartments was contacted. They both have denied being contacted. The Christian school was not contacted and they expressed dismay about it and wrote a letter to the council advising against this project. It's too close to the school.

With Kindest Regards, Eileen Gottschalk

| From: | Emil Graziani |
|----------|-------------------------------------|
| To: | <u>CityRecorder</u> |
| Cc: | Emil Graziani |
| Subject: | Micro shelters in West Salem |
| Date: | Monday, October 11, 2021 4:26:40 PM |

Mayor and City Councilors,

I'm in support of locating the micro shelter community at the proposed West Salem site and I beg you not to reverse your decision on this at tonight's meeting. I fear that if you do so, every neighborhood will reject their site based on the same arguments you've been hearing on this site. We've all heard these arguments before based on fear and selfishness. What we will be left with will be substantially less than sites in community settings, where the homeless will be isolated, out of view, segregated from the community.

In addition, to reject this site will delay 30 additional micro shelters (serving upwards of 60 homeless people) from coming on line in time to provide housing this coming winter. Please stay the course.

Respectfully,

Emil Graziani 1190 Newport Rd SE Salem OR 97306

503-949-2095

| From: | noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of Jessrcruz@yahoo.com |
|--------------|---|
| То: | <u>citycouncil</u> |
| Subject: | Contact the City of Salem |
| Date: | Monday, October 11, 2021 4:59:42 PM |
| Attachments: | ATT00001.bin |

| Your Name | jesus |
|---------------|--|
| Your Email | Jessrcruz@yahoo.com |
| Your Phone | 619-417-8152 |
| Street | 2142 Stortz Av. NE |
| City | Salem |
| State | OR |
| Zip | 97301 |
| Message | To all city councilors, I'm very concern how there is so much opposition to a plan for a shelter in West Salem . But here the thing all the reason W. Salem are using are exactly what the church in the park faced with the shelter at Portland Rd and Pine . Results , No crime , no lower of property value , yes schools near by and also a 55+community center near by , and no homeless people hanging around the area . Yes church in the park has done en excellent job . Please I urge you and don't allow this project from stopping we all need and take responsibility and get this homeless situation under control which includes W. Salem and S. Salem . |

| From: | Gahee Bartels |
|----------|---|
| То: | <u>CityRecorder</u> |
| Subject: | Concern on homeless shelter on Wallace Road |
| Date: | Monday, October 11, 2021 4:57:45 PM |

Dear whom it may concern,

This is Kahui Bartels and I am one of the residents of West Salem. I am writing an email as I have concerns on building a homeless shelter on Wallace road. I am very aware of the seriousness of the homeless crisis in Salem and I appreciate the efforts the city is attempting to find solutions. However, the location doesn't seem to fit for the safety of neighborhood children, the Gibson Creek retirement home, and a couple of schools within 1/4 miles of a projected location of a homeless shelter. As a resident, woman, mom, and parent, I don't think this is a good location for a homeless shelter and I want this project to be stopped and to find a better location. Please reconsider building a homeless shelter on Wallace road for the safety of the community and our children.

Thanks for reading this email.

Sincerely, Kahui Bartels Dear city council,

As we approach another cold, rainy season that may see record numbers due to a La Nina weather pattern, we must think of and do right by our unhoused neighbors. Intersecting crises have made living conditions precarious for many, and we see more and more people without roofs over their heads. As a community, we have a moral obligation to provide care for each other, especially those who are the most vulnerable. I am worried that without any kind of emergency housing, we will see more people die from avoidable circumstances. We absolutely have the resources to provide emergency housing and we must. Please move forward with your plans for emergency housing in West Salem. We're looking at our first frost of the season tonight-- we can't delay this. Lives are in danger. Please do everything you can to ensure we have this resource available. Our community mutual aid and volunteerism can only do so much. We need you to do this.

Kris Bifulco

| <u>Kara Radu</u> |
|-------------------------------------|
| <u>CityRecorder</u> |
| Micro shelter in west salem |
| Monday, October 11, 2021 3:29:27 PM |
| |

Greetings,

I am a homeowner in west salem. I strongly oppose the shelter as we have children living too close to the area. Please consider their safety before all else.

Thank you.

Kara Radu

No shelters on the west side

-residential area ~ these people are going to walk the streets and do what for 10 hours a day ?

There are no resources available to help them or get them back on their feet .

-there are 5 schools within 2 miles of the shelter , we have been told the vetting process will not eliminate sex offenders , how could this possibly be a good idea .

-resources, we are already bottleneck in and out to get over the bridge. We have no police on the war side and now you want to add an entire community with no supporting resources to the residents.

The cost \sim why are we not using a pre existing building in a commercial area , keeping our costs down and residents and children safe.

There are so many other areas that would be a better fit for this, but west Salem is not the place .

My house values are going to take a substantial hit.

None of this seems well planned out and there seems to be more priority and consideration for the folks using the shelters then those paying and living next to it.

Please hear our voices of the 100's of tax paying, homeowners are concerned about this and are asking for better solutions to this problem .

Doing these shelters may fix one problem but it is creating a much bigger ones .

Katcina Smith Creative Hand & More CEO Real Estate Broker with MORE Realty GRI~ABR~AHWD~MRP~PSA~RSPS~SFR~SRS Licensed in Oregon 503-400-5994

| From: | LARRY CORNELIUS |
|----------|---|
| To: | <u>CityRecorder</u> |
| Subject: | Proposed Homeless Camp at Brush College / Wallace Rd. |
| Date: | Monday, October 11, 2021 3:19:15 PM |

As per my communication to the Salem City Council through this channel previously, I remain opposed to placement of a homeless village in this locale for the same reasons stated before.

* West Salem is generally regarded as the most expensive area of Salem for housing, gas, food, etc; and thus it begs the question why would you place the homeless (the poorest of our population) in this area? Plaid Pantry is not inexpensive, nor is Roger That BBQ! The only two places they can buy food within 2 miles. Ridiculous. * We have not been given a detailed accounting of why it will cost \$96,000 tax payer dollars per month to sustain this operation. What is being paid for, to whom, for how much? Transparency on this is critical to public trust. For this type of money you surely have alternative options!

* Transportation will be required just to get them to and from downtown West Salem, about a 2 mile walk. Additional cost to taxpayers.

* From previous discussions it was stated there will be no background checks for those you intend to put into our neighborhood? The criminal element that we've come to KNOW exists within the homeless community is not welcome here.

* People do not buy property in West Salem at the prices we pay just to end up living near a homeless camp. It will reduce the desirability and property values in this immediate area.

* Why not place something like this in a more industrial location, for example, wide open spaces along Patterson Ave NW? It's much closer to downtown resources. It really seems like the City hasn't tried very hard to find the more suitable locations that exist.

* Your chosen location reportedly becomes a wetland during the winter months. Nobody is going to want to live in that situation.

* It's close to various schools, retirement homes, a thriving retirement community, an apartment complex, and expensive homes. Residents are opposed in the majority to this proposal.

* No plan for increased Police patrols after this goes into operation? The police are almost non-existent as it is, which is why we already have night time prowlers, car break-ins, mailbox tampering and theft. I personally have seen the homeless from Wallace Marine Park come this far out (on Doakes Ferry Road) riding their bikes with their backpacks on at 4am looking for "opportunities". My neighbor next door had his new truck broken into. A neighbor around the corner on Banyonwood same thing. I found his personal belongings (of no value to the thiefs) thrown into the bushes in my yard! Nighttime visitors are somewhat frequently captured on security cameras checking cars in driveways for unlocked doors. Because there are no police patrols, no prosecution concerns, and obviously no morals on the part of the criminals.

* What are the ground rules for residents that will live there? What are the security measures to help protect the neighborhoods? What services will be provided to the residents to get them on their feet in the shortest time. Will there be a clean Drug test required periodically? Job training and placement assistance? Drugs and alcohol

prohibited? Medical needs provided? Trash and clutter management?

Respectfully yours,

Larry Cornelius Brush College Estates III

| From: | Misty Bingham |
|----------|---|
| To: | <u>CityRecorder</u> |
| Subject: | Proposed Managed Homeless Camp West Salem |
| Date: | Monday, October 11, 2021 3:26:42 PM |

Dear Mayor and City Councilors,

As you reconsider moving forward with the location for the Wallace Road Managed Homeless Camp, please consider the following recommendation:

Do not move forward until you are able to commit to background checks and thorough vetting of the individuals to be served. If you were able to promise this, as you are not currently able to do, I would feel completely different about having a temporary transitional micro shelter community so close to families in apartment complexes, schools, and the senior community nearby.

I am still opposed the location for many reasons, but I am most disturbed by the laissez-fair attitude displayed by Jim Lewis, DJ Vincent, and Gretchen Bennett in the community meeting last Tuesday, with regards to carefully selecting residents of the camp. As members of the West Salem community, we have the right to hear that you will offer this innovative charity to only those with the clearest records and safest profiles. Considering the current number of homeless in Salem, I must assume there are many who would qualify.

Unfortunately, considering the city's treatment of homeless individuals and camps up to this point creates a strong feeling of distrust that any promise will be kept. Still a promise would be far better than "we don't currently do background checks" and "there are state and federal laws prohibiting background checks" and "we will look into that."

Respectfully, Misty Bingham West Salem Resident (503) 924-9492 Council Members,

I am a NO on the placement of this homeless camp site on Wallace Road.

I don't know why neighbors were not given adequate notice of the proposal. I don't know why neighbors were not given due process to express their opinions and suggestions. It seems like the Council thought they could slip this through and have a done deal with no issues. I am especially upset with Councilor Jim Lewis for not standing up for his constituents and voting no on the first vote. He told us he was not a "typical" politician and voted his belief/conscious. I beg to disagree, Mr. Lewis, you are very much typical. You were elected to use the office for a platform of your personal beliefs! Feel free to say, "I support (whatever the issue) but my constituents vehemently say no."

Vote No tonight, Mr. Lewis, along with the other councilors!

Ron Relaford 2915 Eric Ct. NW Salem, OR 97304 Dear Salem City Council members,

With all due respect, please stick with your earlier decision to place a managed homeless site in West Salem. Do not buckel under to the uninformed screamers shouting N.I.M.Neighborhood. To lodge a complaint they should only qualify if they have actually visited a site. All of them are scare tactics, fueled by fear not fact, documentation or police records. The shelter communities are a great solution to homelessness.

Please do the right thing.

Ron Steiner 5055 Cultus Av. SE Salem, 97306

Dear Council:

I am opposed to the Homeless shelter that you have approved, with not input from the community. No studies for land use, no comments from the community! Our worthless Council person, who approved the site with the rest of Council members; sat at meetings made faces, when people in the community spoke, is an embarrassment, and useless. No representation of community.

I have lived in West Salem for about 12 years, we have driven through downtown now for, seeing homeless, but able bodied individual urinating and defecating on the streets; yes, leaning against the wall, squatting down and "crapping" in the streets. You moved them to West Salem Parks, claiming Covid..... they took over the Parks years ago living along the river; and the City Council did nothing! My family and I have not been able to go down to Wallace Marine Park and walk for the last 3 or 4 years.

It is clear that your lack of planning is the reason for this knee jerk reaction. Oh, the government is giving us money, and we have to spend it fast before we loose it! You didn't plan......

The traffic is bad in West Salem, you said no bridge.... But here are is a homeless camp for you

Next to low income housing! Not large affluent neighborhoods. Along a busy highway! Near parks, within walking distance of a grade school, a middle school, and a high school. Yes, walking and biking. Since the great Pastor, also likes to give out bikes. Where the neighborhoods have had people stealing things out of cars and vandalism.

Quit acting like homeless over 55 are simply nice seniors; many of these people are drug addicted, and some have mental issues. If you care about them, why don't you get them into a hotel type environment? Instead you are sticking them in what appears to be storage sheds; yes, 64 feet is a storage shed. You are ignorant if you think they are going to sit there day and night in a "box"..... that is ridiculous! They will be all over these neighborhood's.

And this DJ Vincent; who is the CEO of his company "Pastor", and he makes his living this. Its not for profit, but he profits! He doesn't have a church, he has a movement. A movement of doing what he wants! How did you pick a religion? Do we citizens of West Salem go online and become pastors to get what we want?

Bragging about shacks, built by homeless in Washington! \$5,000 each. Go to Lowes, and get something with a window that looks nice for 4,000.

And quit calling it temporary! You are trying to set up a long term cluster of storage units, that will be poorly treated, and be shacks in so time.

These religious speakers talk about all the success the camps have been responsible for; really, 9 people got jobs, one woman said. Really, in a state that is begging for help, and has about 50,000 jobs available.... She sounded like an idiot, trying to justify their reasoning.

Do your due diligence, and DO NOT use "our", not your public land for the reasons "we" own it; it is Retail Space!

NO! To placing shacks in our neighborhood.

I and many others plan to "vote" out as many of you as we can.....

Sent from Mail for Windows

| From: | noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of Onemix@comcast.net |
|--------------|---|
| То: | CityRecorder |
| Subject: | City meeting public comment |
| Date: | Monday, October 11, 2021 4:15:50 PM |
| Attachments: | ATT00001.bin |

| Your Name | Shelley Kuykendall |
|---------------|---|
| Your Email | Onemix@comcast.net |
| Street | 1815 Whitcomb Court Northwest |
| City | Salem |
| State | OR |
| Zip | 97304 |
| Message | Please reconsider the pod shelter location. #1- that is a bus drop off location #2- no services close by #3- too close to multi family housing and children from the apt complex play in the Park and Ride lot (ride bikes, catch, soccer). |

| From: | Teresa Fairchild |
|----------|-------------------------------------|
| То: | <u>CityRecorder</u> |
| Subject: | Homeless Camp |
| Date: | Monday, October 11, 2021 2:27:06 PM |

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