CITY OF SALEM

Written Testimony

City Council

555 Liberty St SE
Salem, OR 97301

Tuesday, January 18, 2022 6:00 PM Virtual Meeting

City Council Work Sessions: Work Session #1 at 6:00 p.m., Unsheltered Response Activities; immediately followed by Work Session #2, 2022 Council Policy Agenda

2.a. 22-12 City's Response to the Unsheltered Emergency

Ward(s): All Wards
Councilor(s): All Councilors
Neighborhood(s): All Neighborhoods
Result Area(s): Good Governance; Welcoming and Livable Community.

Recommendation: Information and discussion.

Attachments: Sheltering Forecast

Online Survey Feedback on Proposed Micro Shelter Locations

Public Comments received through 1-12-2022.pdf

Public Comments received by 5:00 p.m. 1-18-22 File 22-12.pdf

Add - Written Testimony.

3.a. 22-23 2022 City Council Policy Agenda priorities.

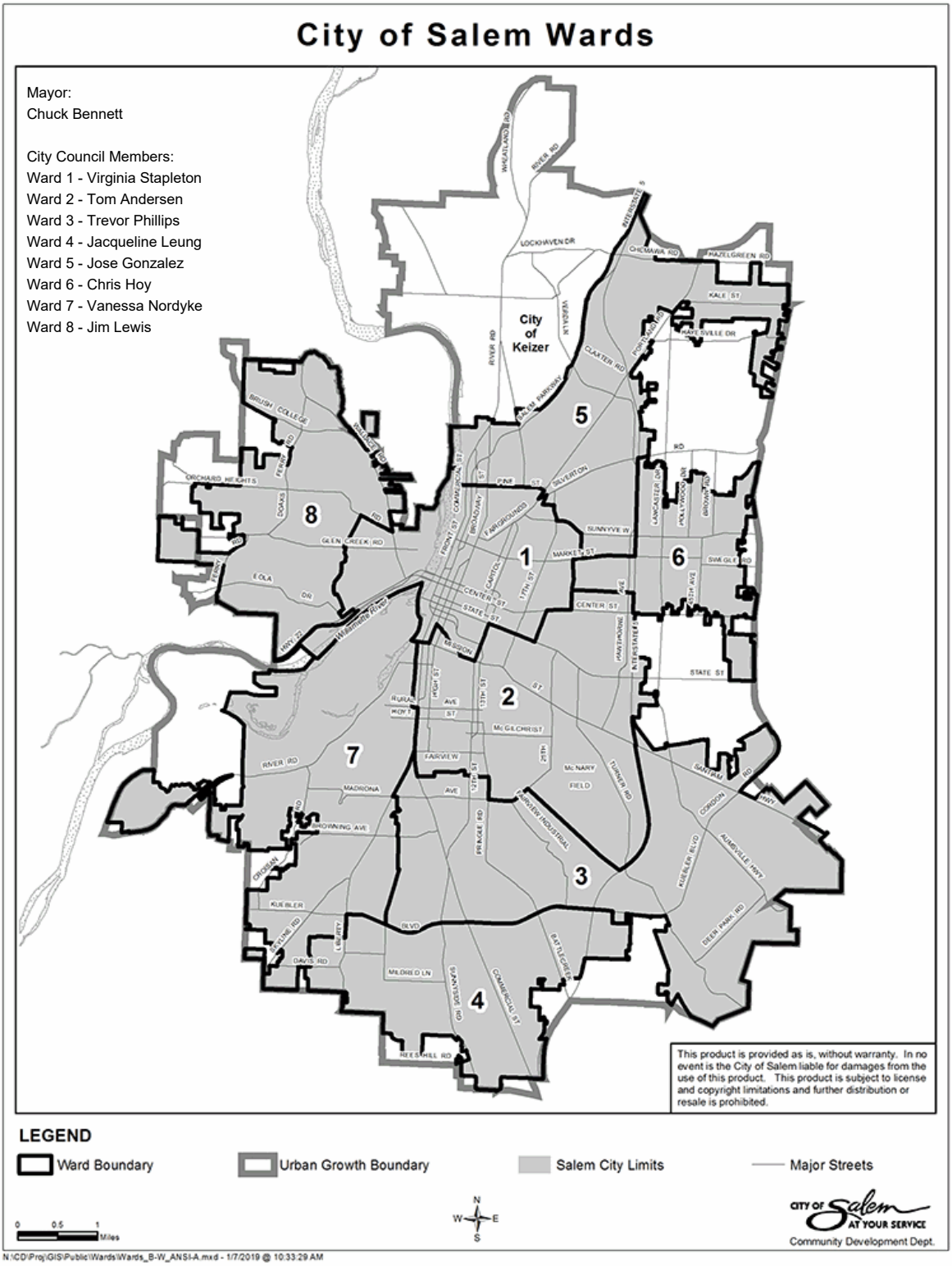
Ward(s): All Wards
Councilor(s): All Councilors
Neighborhood(s): All Neighborhoods
Result Area(s): Result Areas - Good Governance; Natural Environment Stewardship; Safe Community; Safe, Reliable and Efficient Infrastructure; Strong and Diverse Economy; Welcoming and Livable Community.

Recommendation: Information and discussion.

Attachments: Proposed sequencing of Planning Our Future activities.pdf

Public Comments received from L. Dougherty.pdf

Add - Written Testimony.


City of Salem Wards
Mayor:
Chuck Bennett
City Council Members:
Ward 1 - Virginia Stapleton
Ward 2 - Tom Andersen
Ward 3 - Trevor Phillips
Ward 4 - Jacqueline Leung
Ward 5 - Jose Gonzalez
Ward 6 - Chris Hoy
Ward 7 - Vanessa Nordyke
Ward 8 - Jim Lewis
City of Keizer
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LEGEND
Ward Boundary
Urban Growth Boundary
Salem City Limits
Major Streets
0 0.5 1 Miles
N
W E
S
CITY OF Salem AT YOUR SERVICE
Community Development Dept.
N:\CD\Proj\GIS\Public\Wards\Wards_B-W_ANSI-A.mxd - 1/7/2019 @ 10:33:29 AM

From: darcychris777@gmail.com
To: CityRecorder; Vanessa Nordyke
Subject: Public comment on proposed micro-shelter village sites in City of Salem - Peace Plaza
Date: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 11:52:39 AM

The City of Salem and its residents supported a bond to seismically retrofit the Salem Public Library – resulting in a beautifully designed improvement with huge public safety benefits for all who use that City resource. Following the construction, the landscaping surrounding the library was improved, and the fencing around the construction job site was removed. The City cleaned up the Peace Plaza, removing weeds and clutter – and drawing attention to the major element of the plaza, the central *Crescent Probe* sculpture by artist James Lee Hansen.

This sculpture was appraised several years ago as the City looked at the value of its publicly-owned collection. *Crescent Probe* is valued at $450,000. The Salem community contributed the funds which enabled the sculpture's installation in 1974.

The Peace Plaza was designed as a public shared space for gathering, celebration and reflection. Now, with the library improvements made, the Civic Center being considered for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, and the City of Salem preparing to celebrate, in August, 2022, the 50th anniversary of the development of the Salem Civic Center, siting a micro shelter site at the Peace Plaza seems like the wrong location at the wrong time.

The Peace Plaza is a shared resource with historic, community and cultural value – and is an asset that belongs to the whole community. I encourage you to consider other sites for the micro shelters.

Christine D'Arcy
1628 Fairmount Ave S
Salem, Oregon 97302
503/510-3633
darcychris777@gmail.com

From:	DJ Vincent
To:	citycouncil
Cc:	Gretchen Bennett; Sam Dompier
Subject:	Documents on budgeted cost for new Micro Shelter Sites and Clean Start
Date:	Friday, January 14, 2022 12:39:44 PM
Attachments:	C@P pg 1 for 1-3 sites.png C@P pg 2 for 4-5 sites.png City of Salem - CLEAN START LOI.pdf Annual Report 2021 pg 2.pdf

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Councilors,

It has been an honor for Church at the Park to partner on the Safe Parking program and the opening of 2 Micro Shelter communities in 2021.

As you examine the budget priorities for the next year I would encourage you to consider the strong outcomes being produced through Safe Parking and Micro Shelter beds (Attached Annual Report).

Our team has examined the cost for Micro-Shelter sites of 40, 80 and 120 beds (attached). We have also done the cost proforma on how these sites could be operated at our current low barrier vulnerability driven service level. I am hoping the Council will see fit to approve as many sites as financially possible.

I have also included the proposal for a "Clean Start" program to coordinate with the Cities own sanitation efforts (attached).

Thank you for your consideration on these items. Let me know if they need to be submitted in any different format for consideration.

Serving together,

--
DJ Vincent
503.949.2124
Pastor & Founder
Church-at-the-Park.org
Being homeless begins with broken relationships. Church@thePark creates a table of love and acceptance for those who need it most.

December 1st, 2021

C@P and Clean Start Background: Church at the Park (C@P) is a non-profit organization 501(c)(3) serving unsheltered individuals and families since 2007. C@P seeks the mutual transformation of unsheltered people, our staff, and our volunteers through relationships, agency partnerships, and tangible resources. Our areas of primary focus are to provide low barrier shelter and employment opportunities.

In 2020, in partnership with the City of Salem, C@P initiated the Cash for Trash program. Now named Clean Start, the program offers unhoused individuals financial or material incentive to maintain the cleanliness of their camps. Similar efforts across the nation have proven to be successful in keeping cities cleaner, strengthening relationships between unhoused individuals and the greater community, increasing employment and housing opportunities, as well as in saving cities money. For example, Trash for Peace, a program supported by the City of Portland, has revitalized neighborhoods through trash collection, conservation and land management, and recycling programs that provide job training for individuals experiencing homelessness.

To reach similar ends, Clean Start partners with a variety of organizations and businesses to steward the funds provided by the City of Salem. Through Clean Start, C@P aims to strengthen relationships with unhoused individuals and develop opportunities to move those individuals toward stability, increase public access to and safety within parks, and to enhance overall environmental wellbeing.

City of Salem Partnership Request:

Funding for the Cash for Trash / Clean Start program ended in May of 2021 and we are requesting funding from the City of Salem to develop the program in the following ways:

- C@P will maintain a 5 day / week response system for trash clean up across the City of Salem;
- C@P will partner with the City's code enforcement, public works and first responder teams to address areas of public safety related to unsheltered camping;
- C@P will leverage our existing safety, transportation, and outreach teams to assist in resource navigation and supporting transitions from unsafe / illegal camping locations;

Clean Start Program	
Direct Costs	
.5 FTE Program Manager + 14% fringe	$32,604.00
1 FTE Safety + 14 % fringe	$53,352.00
1 FTE Outreach + 14% fringe	$53,352.00
40 hrs / week workforce development employment	$31,200.00
Outreach Supplies / Transportation	$15,000.00
Indirect Costs	
10% Indirect Cost Rate	$18,550.80
Total Program Cost	**$204,058.80**

Anticipated Outcomes:

1. Increased access to public areas and a greater sense of public safety.
2. Job and skills training through earned-income opportunities.
3. In continuing to develop relationships with unhoused individuals, there will be greater opportunities for C@P to help people move towards stability.
4. Promote environmental wellbeing.

Thank you for your interest and consideration.

Sincerely,

DJ Vincent
Founder / Pastor
Church at the Park
dj@church-at-the-park.org
503-949-2124

Church

12,000 meals provided by meal partners to unsheltered neighbors

605 households / **945** individuals served with a weekly food box

200 unsheltered individuals participated in keeping Cascades Gateway Park safe + sanitary through garbage clean-up

outreach team connected with **360** individuals in encampments to offer services

Micro-Sheltering

104 people served **37%** exits with a positive destination

87 people served (49 adults, 34 children) **72%** exits with a positive destination

Overwhelming Community Support! **125** micro-shelter units sponsored!

Safe Parking

10 unique host locations **80** people served

6 households moved to stable housing

2021

1,300 unique individuals served

126 unique individuals employed

CHURCH AT THE PARK - SAMPLE PRO FORMAS

BASELINE SITE INFORMATION

	FTE Number	FTE Cost	Site Ops	Indirect @ 10%	EST. TOTAL	Cost / Guest
40 Guests	27.2	$1,426,708.00	$300,000.00	$172,670.80	$1,899,378.80	$3,957.04
80 Guests	28.2	$1,476,503.20	$444,000.00	$192,050.32	$2,112,553.52	$2,200.58
120 Guests	34.4	$1,740,018.40	$540,000.00	$228,001.84	$2,508,020.24	$1,741.68

TWO SITES

	2 Site FTE	2 Site FTE Cost	2 Site Ops	Indirect @ 10%	EST. TOTAL	Cost / Guest
2 X 40	43.4	$2,209,900.80	$600,000.00	$280,990.08	$3,090,890.88	$3,219.68
1 X 40 / 1 X 80	44.4	$2,259,696.00	$744,000.00	$300,369.60	$3,304,065.60	$2,294.49
1 X 40 / 1 X 120	48.6	$2,392,795.20	$840,000.00	$323,279.52	$3,556,074.72	$1,852.12
2 X 80	45.4	$2,309,491.20	$888,000.00	$319,749.12	$3,517,240.32	$1,831.90
1 X 80 / 1 X 120	49.6	$2,442,590.40	$984,000.00	$342,659.04	$3,769,249.44	$1,570.52
2 X 120	55.8	$2,706,105.60	$1,080,000.00	$378,610.56	$4,164,716.16	$1,446.08

THREE SITES

	3 Site FTE	3 Site FTE Cost	3 Site Ops	Indirect @ 10%	EST. TOTAL	Cost / Guest
3 X 40	70.1	$3,666,696.80	$900,000.00	$456,669.68	$5,023,366.48	$3,488.45
2 X 40 / 1 X 80	71.1	$3,716,492.00	$1,188,000.00	$490,449.20	$5,394,941.20	$2,809.87
2 X 40 / 1 X 120	76.3	$3,817,899.20	$1,140,000.00	$495,789.92	$5,453,689.12	$2,272.37
1 X 40 / 2 X 80	72.1	$3,766,287.20	$1,188,000.00	$495,428.72	$5,449,715.92	$2,270.71
1 X 40 / 2 X 120	81.5	$4,000,793.60	$1,380,000.00	$538,079.36	$5,918,872.96	$1,761.57
3 X 80	73.1	$3,816,082.40	$1,332,000.00	$514,808.24	$5,662,890.64	$1,966.28
2 X 80 / 1 X 120	78.3	$3,917,489.60	$1,428,000.00	$534,548.96	$5,880,038.56	$1,750.01
1 X 80 / 2 X 120	82.5	$4,050,588.80	$1,524,000.00	$557,458.88	$6,132,047.68	$1,596.89
3 X 120	88.7	$4,314,104.00	$1,620,000.00	$593,410.40	$6,527,514.40	$1,511.00

FOUR SITES

	4 Site FTE	4 Site FTE Cost	4 Site Ops	Indirect @ 10%	EST. TOTAL	Cost / Guest
4 X 40	85.3	$4,384,681.60	$1,200,000.00	$558,468.16	$6,143,149.76	$3,199.56
3 X 40 / 1 X 80	86.3	$4,434,476.80	$1,344,000.00	$577,847.68	$6,356,324.48	$2,648.47
3 X 40 / 1 X 120	91.5	$4,632,784.00	**$1,440,000.00**	$607,278.40	$6,680,062.40	$2,319.47
2 X 40 / 2 X 80	87.3	$4,484,272.00	$1,488,000.00	$597,227.20	$6,569,499.20	$2,281.08
2 X 40 / 2 X 120	97.7	$4,783,986.40	$1,680,000.00	$646,398.64	$7,110,385.04	$1,851.66
1 X 40 / 3 X 80	87.3	$4,534,067.20	$1,920,000.00	$645,406.72	$7,099,473.92	$2,112.94
1 X 40 / 2 X 80 / 1 X 120	93.5	$4,732,374.40	$1,728,000.00	$646,037.44	$7,106,411.84	$1,910.33
1 X 40 / 1 X 80 / 2 X 120	98.7	$4,833,781.60	$1,824,000.00	$665,778.16	$7,323,559.76	$1,695.27
1 X 40 / 3 X 120	102.9	$4,966,880.80	$1,920,000.00	$688,688.08	$7,575,568.88	$1,578.24
4 X 80	89.3	$4,583,862.40	$1,776,000.00	$635,986.24	$6,995,848.64	$1,821.84
3 X 80 / 1 X 120	94.5	$4,782,169.60	$1,872,000.00	$665,416.96	$7,319,586.56	$1,694.35
2 X 80 / 2 X 120	99.7	$4,883,576.80	$1,968,000.00	$685,157.68	$7,536,734.48	$1,570.15
1 X 80 / 3 X 120	103.9	$5,016,676.00	$2,064,000.00	$708,067.60	$7,788,743.60	$1,475.14
4 X 120	110.1	$5,280,191.20	$2,160,000.00	$744,019.12	$8,184,210.32	$1,420.87

FIVE SITES

	5 Site FTE	5 Site FTE Cost	5 Site Ops	Indirect @ 10%	EST. TOTAL	Cost / Guest
5 X 40	100.5	$5,102,666.40	$1,500,000.00	$660,266.64	$7,262,933.04	$3,026.22
4 X 40 / 1 X 80	101.5	$5,152,461.60	$1,644,000.00	$679,646.16	$7,476,107.76	$2,595.87
4 X 40 / 1 X 120	106.7	$5,350,768.80	$1,740,000.00	$709,076.88	$7,799,845.68	$2,321.38
3 X 40 / 2 X 80	102.5	$5,202,256.80	$1,788,000.00	$699,025.68	$7,689,282.48	$2,288.48
3 X 40 / 1 X 80 / 1 X 120	107.7	$5,400,564.00	$1,884,000.00	$728,456.40	$8,013,020.40	$2,086.72
3 X 40 / 2 X 120	112.9	$5,598,871.20	$1,980,000.00	$757,887.12	$8,336,758.32	$1,447.35
2 X 40 / 3 X 80	103.5	$5,252,052.00	$1,932,000.00	$718,405.20	$7,902,457.20	$2,057.93
2 X 40 / 3 X 120	119.1	$5,750,073.60	$2,220,000.00	$797,007.36	$8,767,080.96	$3,044.13
2 X 40 / 2 X 80 / 1 X 120	108.7	$5,450,359.20	$2,568,000.00	$801,835.92	$8,820,195.12	$2,041.71
2 X 40 / 1 X 80 / 2 X 120	113.9	$5,648,666.40	$2,124,000.00	$777,266.64	$8,549,933.04	$1,781.24
1 X 40 / 4 X 80	104.5	$5,301,847.20	$2,076,000.00	$737,784.72	$8,115,631.92	$1,878.62
1 X 40 / 4 X 120	124.3	$5,932,968.00	$2,460,000.00	$839,296.80	$9,232,264.80	$1,479.53
1 X 40 / 3 X 80 / 1 X 120	109.7	$5,500,154.40	$2,172,000.00	$767,215.44	$8,439,369.84	$1,758.20
1 X 40 / 1 X 80 / 3 X 120	120.1	$5,799,868.80	$2,364,000.00	$816,386.88	$8,980,255.68	$1,559.07
1 X 40 / 2 X 80 / 2 X 120	114.9	$5,698,461.60	$2,268,000.00	$796,646.16	$8,763,107.76	$1,659.68
5 X 80	105.5	$5,351,642.40	$2,220,000.00	$757,164.24	$8,328,806.64	$1,735.17
4 X 80 / 1 X 120	110.7	$5,549,949.60	$2,316,000.00	$786,594.96	$8,652,544.56	$1,638.74
3 X 80 / 2 X 120	115.9	$5,748,256.80	$2,412,000.00	$816,025.68	$8,976,282.48	$1,558.38
2 X 80 / 3 X 120	121.1	$5,849,664.00	$2,508,000.00	$835,766.40	$9,193,430.40	$1,473.31
1 X 80 / 4 X 120	125.3	$5,982,763.20	$2,604,000.00	$858,676.32	$9,445,439.52	$1,405.57
5 X 120	131.5	$6,246,278.40	$2,700,000.00	$894,627.84	$9,840,906.24	$1,366.79

From: Garth Brandaw
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Opposition to Peace Plaza Micro-Shelter Site
Date: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 9:36:45 AM
Attachments: Peace plaza micro-shelter.pdf

To Mayor Bennett and City Council Members-
I would like to express my opposition to this proposal. See my attached letter and photos from the Portland Rd micro-shelter site.
Thank you for hearing my concerns.
Garth Brandaw
593-580-9026

Sent from my iPhone


PRIMEWELL
SPORT P5860


DITCH ENTERTAINMENT
STATEWIDE
RENT-A-FENCE
COMMUNITY ACTION

From: Laurie Dougherty
To: CityRecorder
Subject: 1/19/22 City Council Work Session #1 on homelessness
Date: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 4:47:27 PM

I urge the city to pursue compassionate solutions for homeless people. I often shop at the Safeway on Center Street and have always thought that the empty lot across the street from the store would be a good place for a managed camp.

I saw the January 12 article in the Statesman Journal that said that camps would not be cleared until the annual Count of homeless people was done. But a small camp that had been at Cottage and Union Streets NE since last summer was cleared out by the city on January 13-14.

Thank you for your consideration,
Laurie Dougherty
Ward 1

From: Lynelle Wilcox
To: citycouncil; CityRecorder; Gretchen Bennett
Subject: January 18 2022 City Council work session - please approve each proposed pallet site
Date: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 4:28:33 PM
Attachments: Screen Shot 2022-01-18 at 3.17.44 PM.png

To: City Councilors and Mayor Bennett,

Thank you for the decisions and funding you have shared so far that enable more options for shelter and safety for individuals experiencing homelessness. I know that tonight's work session is not open to public comment, yet **I am writing to convey strong support of the development of each proposed shelter site, knowing that they save lives, and they enable more homeless individuals to have some basic human needs met. The security and wrap around supports that managed camps offer also enable more homeless individuals to heal, grow hope, skills, and resources to have better chances of moving forward in their lives.**

Balancing managing homelessness with solving homelessness: It is hard to juggle funds, land, and other resources to manage homelessness when doing so often reduces funds and other resources for solving homelessness. I wish there were more resources for each, so it wouldn't be such an ongoing hard balancing act. With so many people having nowhere to go, both are so crucial now. Managing homelessness enables some shelter, safety, respite, supplies, and breathing room, and those things literally save lives. Yet ultimately, people need permanent affordable housing or permanent supported housing so they have a place to be for the long term.

I'm happy to know that more permanent supported housing and affordable housing is on its way; it can't happen soon enough. I hope that City Council and the State and County will consider more land-sharing and funding for temporary shelters that manage homelessness, **and** funds and land for permanent options that solve homelessness. We need both - temporary shelters save lives, and enable people to become stable so they can grow hope, resources, and skills to move forward; yet we need places for people to move TO. Either without the other defeats the purpose of both.

I'm happy to see multiple sites proposed for temporary shelter. I hope that each one will be approved, with more coming to reflect geographical balance as much as possible, within the reality that some wards may have more space that meets shelter land criteria than other wards. Balance is ideal, yet might not always be feasible, yet people's lives are in jeopardy if we don't get them off the streets as soon as, and as much as possible.

Perspective: The numbers seem daunting and overwhelming, yet looking at a broader scope reflects numbers that are resolvable:

	From: https://worldpopulationreview.com/	Numbers from PIT count, representing number of homeless individuals on any given day. From: https://www.usich.gov/homelessness-statistics/						Some percents to consider for perspective. This is solvable!		
State	Population	Total Homeless	Homeless Households	Veterans	Chronically homeless	Unaccompanied youth (age 18-24)	Total other homeless (not vets, youth, or chronic)	Total homeless percent of population	Chronic percent of population	Chronic percent of homeless
Oregon	4,289,439	14,655	825	1,329	4,339	1,314	7,673	0.34%	0.10%	29.61%
USA TOTALS	**24,602,350**	**579,259**	**53,655**	**37,243**	**120,263**	**34,210**	**387,543**	**2.35%**	**0.49%**	**20.76%**

(A spreadsheet that includes all states is available upon request. Yet for this email, my focus is on Oregon.)

Misperceptions and NIMBY: There are so many people unsheltered that more people are living outside than can fit into unobtrusive nooks and crannies. So many people are unsheltered that we no longer have the questionable luxury of not noticing the pervasiveness of homelessness. As homelessness has grown to a level of being a humanitarian crisis, every population will be impacted by homelessness in some way. Whether we're a business owner or an employee, or a neighborhood homeowner or renter, we each WILL see homeless individuals and camps around our city, in our neighborhoods, and by our workplaces.

As fellow human beings, sheltered or not, some individuals will experience physical and/or mental disabilities, and some will be a danger to themselves or others. Statistics show that unsheltered individuals are at higher risk of being the victim of harm, than being perpetrators of harm. This is a national reality, as reflected in this report: vel: https://nationalhomeless.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/hate-crimes-2016-17-final_for-web2.pdf

The difference is that homeless individuals lack a habitable place to live; they are not inherently a higher danger to sheltered individuals, even though our media can often make exceptions appear to be the norm. I hope we don't allow those exceptions to form broad paintbrushes in our mind, since doing so compromises accuracy. The national report is hard for me to read, yet it validates the reality that people who are homeless are often the victims of cruelty based solely on their (lack of) housing status.

It's hard to see people struggling to live without the means to have basic human needs met. Sheltered or not, desperate people may sometimes behave out of desperation. Pallet shelters and managed camps help to resolve that. It does mean we'll see people who are homeless. Some may not look tidy; some may seem scary; yet those fears often reflect a broad negative paintbrush that is not an accurate perception of homelessness.

Many women feel unsafe walking in the dark alone, whether homeless individuals are closeby or not. While some fears are understandable, the reality is that sheltered or not, some people are not safe to be around. The presence of homeless individuals does not inherently increase danger, yet it's such a common misperception that individuals who are homeless create a bigger danger to sheltered individuals and their property.

The reality is that we are all living close to people who are homeless because fires, the Covid pandemic, the lack of affordable housing, and the lack of more permanent and more supportive housing all combine in ways that result in not enough places for people to go. We don't have the luxury to not have homelessness in our backyards. Managed or not, homelessness is **already** in our backyards, yet managed camps provide more safety, tools, resources, and supports to reduce desperation, and increase options for more people. **Managed camps ADD security and oversight to our neighborhoods**.

Current pallet sites: I drive by the DMV Portland Road pallet shelter site twice a day, since it's between my home and my job, and I have visited the site multiple times. I have been consistently impressed with the clean conditions of the site, the welcoming day center, the homey-ness of the pallet shelters, the focus on safety and wrap around services and supports that have resulted in people moving forward.

I also had the opportunity to visit the pallet shelter site at the Catholic Community Services building. Kids were coming home from school when we drove up. By the time we entered the fenced living space, most of the kids had already dropped their school bags and jumped onto their bikes. They were safely biking, laughing, and screeching happily, with the space and safety to enjoy after school time, just like sheltered kids. It was heart-warming to see kids who would otherwise have nowhere to go, enjoying a place to be a kid, even as their family struggles to find a more permanent place to live.

It goes with the territory that any camp - managed or not, will have homeless individuals present in the area. It is a feature on all ends to shelter individuals with supports and security to enable higher safety levels for the camp residents, and for neighbors in the community.

Circling back: **I strongly support the development of each proposed shelter site, knowing that they save lives, and they enable more homeless individuals to have some basic human needs met. The security and wrap around supports that managed camps offer enable homeless individuals to heal, grow hope, skills, and resources to have better chances of moving forward in their lives.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Unmanaged camps? I also support trials of some unmanaged camps, ideally with security to at least do several walk throughs each day and night, and with a policy to evict individuals who are not safe or who consistently create unbagged trash. That would create more places for more people to be, as long as behavior and tidiness is acceptable. That possible approach shifts from an all or nothing style, to a style that enables a camping option for individuals who can behave appropriately. Besides the flexibility of that possible policy, it might result in positive peer pressure, with more people learning to meet that criteria. Marion Square Park seems like a perfect trial for something like this, since campers are already there, with many campsites being tidy. Maybe we can grow that…?

Thank you again.
Lynelle Wilcox
1785 Norway Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

From:	beebalmbees@gmail.com
To:	citycouncil; Steve Powers
Cc:	Irma Dowd; Gretchen Bennett; billberry97301@gmail.com; Becca Strieper; Don Jensen; Flora Morales; Jess Cruz; Joanne Barnhart; Mike; "Pedro Mayoral"; Pennie Morley; Ross Black; Timothy Beck
Subject:	FW: The unmanaged homeless people
Date:	Monday, January 17, 2022 6:08:23 PM
Attachments:	Letter re 555 Liberty and unmanaged homeless.docx

Dear Sirs and Ladies,

Please find enclosed a rather lengthy but sincere letter in an effort to help the Salem community with solutions regarding the unmanaged homeless.

Thank you.

Northgate Neighborhood Association

January 17th,2022

Chuck Bennett, Mayor; Steve Powers, City Manager;
City Councilors Stapleton, Anderson, Phillips, Leung, Gonzalez, Hoy, Nordyke and Lewis,

Kindly be informed that we have people complaining about the lack of interest shown by the City in cleaning up the unmanaged homeless in downtown sidewalks, in front of businesses, city parks and others and that there is filth everywhere caused by the unmanaged. They feel the City needs to do much more than what is being done. This was the sentiment made even before the Point-In-Time Count. It has been going on for way too long and long overdue for the City to take a more affirmative action. How did the City come down to this level? People are complaining and you must hear them. It is now, before the time the sweep happens again, that we would like you to consider making the following action.

The only solution we can think of is for the City to collaborate at the earliest opportunity with Marion County Commissioners, and to consider very carefully the following points:

- while infrastructure funding is still available and even if tentative decisions were already made on how to channel the funding, please put this into top priority and to make it so that it has precedence over any, due to its importance to the community who are psychologically suffering, and to yourselves too,
- if this is not done yet, (we talked to a person from ARCHES about this and she thought it was a great idea) to find a large flat land together that meets certain standards and codes, near Salem travelable by bus with a free pass,
- concrete it, roof it, add restrooms/shower stalls with hot water and trash containers and give these unmanageable houseless people, tiny pods to live in,
- the non-profits can bring them food or whatever they need. Another alternative is a “general store van or vans” coming regularly run by a nonprofit agency. This may be better than the unmanaged traveling by bus to Salem but that would be up to them.

The above could solve the problems of the Salem community complaining about the unmanaged houseless with ugly camping sites and litter everywhere as well as for the community who are having to feel unsafe, and it would be a win-win since they won’t have to be like gypsies anymore AND BE ABLE TO STAY IN ONE PLACE.

Gretchen Bennett’s efforts in collaborating with Church@ The Park to get the tiny pods for the managed homeless is very well received and we appreciate her actions very much. However, we wish to leave 555 Liberty out of this for the reasons below:

We would be much obliged if you would consider not using 555 Liberty for homeless shelter pods. You probably are aware Northgate has become well known for dealing with these people, so we talk from our personal experiences.

Therefore please consider us to be knowledgeable regarding the unsheltered. As we all know, the unmanaged homeless get outreached by the non-profits. We understand they are invited to be serviced for food and offered other necessities by the nearby shelters. This tells us the shelters naturally attract the unmanaged folks which is within reason. We have seen that happen here in Northgate. However, some of the unmanaged can cause havoc to surrounding residents or businesses. Some are addicted by drugs and/or alcohol and some others could be mentally ill.

By bringing a shelter with pods into the 555 Liberty area which has the Library and City Hall, these things can predictably happen:

- With the library, you know children go in and out of it or possibly stay there after school, and in some cases, until parents can pick them up. What happened in Portland is some of the unmanaged homeless people soiled up the library restrooms, were using restrooms to shoot up drugs and the public no longer felt safe, so most stopped coming. The unmanaged homeless were seen looking at porno on the computers. One of our board members personally spoke in person with the director of Midland Library in Portland when he and family were invited to a Neighborhood Watch event that this board member initiated with the help of a City person. He complained about such things as mentioned here.

Now, the very same could happen in Salem. Some people may say it's human nature and we cannot deny it. If something like that happens at one place, a similar situation could happen at another. We can still prevent it by not bringing the pods to 555 Liberty.

- Another argument is this. As you know, unless things have changed, the elevator at City Hall takes one from the underground or ground up to several stories. The door opens and it is easily accessible to the staff. If for instance, a mentally ill homeless person walks into any office and confronts any staff, it may not be safe if that person is aggressive or "coming down" from some drug. It concerns us that scenario may occur so before it does, we wanted to reach out to you to please keep the staff safe and not choose 555 Liberty.

No matter, we seriously doubt it is a good place to bring the homeless pods. Please take into consideration the above thoughts and keep them in mind when you decide and vote on whether to use 555 Liberty or not. One of our board members came up with another site at West of Commercial and Kuebler. It is up to Gretchen Bennett, but we have already mentioned the green space at the south of Hawthorne. There are others and our board members are still searching to help Gretchen.

. Also, a reminder that a 24/7 treatment center is still missing in Salem. Eugene and Portland have it but the capital itself does not. Much appreciation and hurrah go to Councilor Vanessa Nordyke working diligently on getting something like CAHOOTS put together in Salem. But currently, we realize there is no facility open 24/7 in Salem thereby this problem could be considered one of the stumbling blocks, making it difficult to establish a CAHOOTS-like program. We would also be gracious if the City Council, possibly led by Ms. Nordyke, to have the county commissioners agree to finally establish a 24/7 open treatment center here in Salem. We understand the money for such infrastructure is now available and we hereby request your serious effort for this to happen.

To conclude, we would highly appreciate it if you would take a strong stance to finally act about the unmanaged homeless people. Would it be possible to enact a law in Salem that if the unmanaged homeless continues to refuse the use of shelters provided by the City, that they have the option to do the following: a) get treatment b) go to a designated site c) get special council treatments to help them. As many are still young but fumbled through life in the wrong direction, we are hopeful that some can still become productive and useful human beings for society in the future. Plus, there is a huge increase in death from drug overdose as Fentanyl is brought in through the southern border. We need to help these individuals, and the sooner the better.

Sincerely,

Northgate Neighborhood Association

January 17, 2022
TO: Mayor Bennett and City Councilors
FROM: Garth Brandaw
RE: OPPOSITION TO PEACE PLAZA LOCATION FOR MICRO-SHELTER VILLAGE

BACKGROUND

My name is Garth Brandaw. My wife (Joan) and I own the WaterPlace office and retail commercial building at 500 Liberty St SE across from City Hall. We are both South Salem high school graduates and raised a family in the Salem community. I have been a Salem-based architect for over 30 years and am proud to have contributed to many of Salem's downtown area improvements that have elevated the image and livability of our community. Joan and I have also generously supported many of the fine non-profit organizations that make a positive difference in so many lives, particularly those less fortunate.

We had the ability to develop WaterPlace in 2009 as the recession was just taking hold. Rather than hitting the pause button, we felt it was important to move forward and help establish a significant LEED Platinum project at the southern gateway to downtown-across from the institutional anchor of the Civic Center. Even though no public dollars or public concessions were asked for, we have had some success in spite of many ongoing challenges. This has led to other private investment in the area. However, these investments and future investments are all at risk with inappropriate uses on the Civic Center campus.

OBJECTIONS

A. INAPPROPRIATE USE OF A PUBLIC RESOURCE

The City Hall, Library, Peace Plaza, and Mirror Pond are all important institutions which need to be fully accessible to ALL Salem citizens. Their use should be encouraged, but placing a fenced micro-shelter village in the center of the campus will discourage their use. The litter, safety and sanitary issues that accompany this 24 hour/day operation will create safety issues for users of the library, city hall staff, and surrounding neighbors and business owners. The village residents will merely camp in the Library and City Hall during daytime hours further discouraging their use by other Salem residents.

A. NEGATIVE IMPACTS TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND BUSINESSES

The micro-shelter village activities spread well beyond the fenceline. Look at the other micro-shelters in operation on Portland Rd. You will see many cars, RV's, and associated debris. The Peace Plaza site is inadequate for the parking of vehicles. Windows-to-the-west property would be remote and require crossing busy Commercial St. Street parking on both Commercial and Liberty, both major arterials, would be utilized without supervision. This would negatively impact available parking for the surrounding neighborhood and businesses.

The residential and commercial property owners near the Civic Center have already had to deal with continuing trespass issues of the homeless population. This has resulted in many incidents involving break-ins and threatening safety situations. The Peace Plaza location would significantly amplify these problems. The recent Covid-related problems have been very difficult for local business and commercial property owners to navigate. Why would you slap them in the face with this ill thought proposal?

B. EXPANSION OF DOWNTOWN HOMELESS PROBLEM

The new UGM shelter (with high barriers to entry) is under capacity yet the adjacent Arches facility (low barriers to entry) is over capacity. The homeless with chronic drug and mental health issues are choosing to live in locations that don't restrict activities such as drug use. Locating a low barrier micro-shelter village at Peace Plaza will merely expand the homeless problem to the southern area of downtown.

C. ZONING CODE UPDATES and OTHER SALEM SITES

The City of Salem has proposed allowing Nonprofit Shelters in all Commercial, Industrial, and Multifamily zoning districts. The City Council can approve these updates at the late-January council meeting. This change would free up many potential sites throughout Salem by eliminating any potential zoning hurdle. There is no need to be short sighted by considering the valuable Peace Plaza site only because it is in a Public Service District which allows Nonprofit Shelters. A hospital site, which is also zoned Public Service, is clearly more of the intended use for this type of shelter.

There are countless flat, underutilized parking lots with good drainage throughout Salem. Using that criteria to justify the Peace Plaza site, while discounting its critical civic purpose, is laughable.

Thank you for hearing my concerns.
Thank you for your service to the Salem community.
Finally, thank you Mayor Bennett for the many years of leadership and dedication to moving the City forward.

From: Gretchen Bennett
Subject: FW: Public Comment to City Council
Date: Friday, January 14, 2022 1:51:00 PM
Attachments: public comment to City Council.docx

Forwarding per Mr. Steiner's request.

-----Original Message-----
From: ronsteiner <ronsteiner@mail.swcp.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2022 9:15 AM
To: Gretchen Bennett <GBennett@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Public Comment to City Council

Gretchen,
Questions: is there a comment session today at Broadway Commens?
Can you distribut this to the Mayor and Couincil members?

Attached is our comment.

peace,
Ron Steiner
503 881 8800

To: Mayor Chuck Bennett, Salem City Council members, Gretchen Bennett.

From: Citizens organized to fund Micro Shelters for area unsheltered.

CC: D.J. Vincent, Church at the Park, South Area Lightening Rod and Pastor

Doing something has been replaced with **doing something that works**, and we can now see how the vision can become reality.

The citizens of Salem area have taken a major step, raising enough money in donations to support the acquisition of 130 micro shelters… $650,000.00, and quickly approaching $700,000.00.

As donors, we ask only that the pace of land acquisition for micro shelter communities match the pace of purchasing micro shelters themselves.

Since the City Council has stated a desire to have at least one micro shelter community in each of the eight wards of the city, we urge each member of the Council to redouble efforts to make that happen.

A good start towards that goal would be get rid of the restrictions to City codes that prevent such an expansion.

Salem is becoming recognized as an innovative leader in addressing this issue. With Council direction, and with increased support of area businesses, City staff and local nonprofits can connect the dots, find an appropriate number of sites to for micro shelter communities, and begin to reduce the overwhelming public health and safety impacts.

City staff and local non-profits can connect the dots and find an appropriate number of sites for the micro shelter communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Hazel Patton, Emil Graziani, Ron Steiner and more than 500 donors.

Amy Johnson

From: Laurie Dougherty <lauriedougherty@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 4:59 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: 1/18/22 City Council Work Session #2 Policy

The Policy agenda and Budget must provide for implementation of the Climate Action Plan. We know that the climate is in crisis and we all have to do our part to prevent the worst consequences. Begin by hiring a staff person to coordinate climate action in Salem.
It is very important to reduce automobile traffic by improving safety and access for walking and biking to work, school, errands and recreation. Work with Cherriots to improve access to public transit. Reducing the energy needed for buildings through greater efficiency and conversion to all renewable sources is another important step.
It's time for Salem to act on climate.
Thank you,
Laurie Dougheety Ward 1