

CITY OF SALEM

Written Testimony #2

City Council

555 Liberty St SE
Salem, OR 97301

Monday, September 26, 2022 6:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

3.3a. [22-382](#) Acceptance of a Small Community Air Service Development Grant Award

Ward(s): 2

Councilor(s): Nishioka

Neighborhood(s): SEMCA

Result Area(s): Strong and Diverse Economy

Recommendation: Authorize the City Manager to accept the SCASD grant award (Attachment 1).

Attachments: [SCASD Grant Award](#)

[Public Comment received by 1:00 p.m., September 26, 2022](#)

[Public Comment received by 5:00 p.m., September 2](#)

Add - Written Testimony.

5. a. [22-448](#) Motion from Councilor Vanessa Nordyke concerning a Request for Proposals for a Mobile Crisis Unit.

Ward(s): All Wards

Councilor(s): All Councilors

Neighborhood(s): All Neighborhoods

Attachments: [Public Comments received by 1:00 p.m., September 2](#)

[Public Comments received by 5:00 p.m., September 2](#)

Add - Written Testimony.

6.d. [22-435](#) Why the Fire Department Responds to Medical Emergencies with Multiple Apparatus.

Ward(s): All Wards

Councilor(s): All Councilors

Neighborhood(s): All Neighborhoods

Result Area(s): Safe Community

Recommendation: Information only

Attachments: [Public Comment received by 1:00 p.m., September 2](#)

[Public Comment received by 5:00 p.m., September 2](#)

Add - Written Testimony.

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of dianedalychavez@gmail.com
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Submission
Date: Monday, September 26, 2022 3:42:49 PM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Diane Chavez
Your Email	dianedalychavez@gmail.com
Your Phone	9712184772
Street	370 19st NE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97301
Message	<p>As a resident of Salem, Oregon I do not want commercial air planes bringing air and noise pollution to our city. My children and grandchildren live in Salem and I can think of many other things I would like to see Salem supporting, including safer bike paths, better mass transit, better public transport options to Portland, Eugene and beyond. A worsening climate crisis demands that we all make an effort to find alternatives to air travel whenever possible. Salem should be seeking grant money to pursue such options instead of air travel. We should be looking at infrastructure investments that will lead to a sustainable, healthy future for all of our residents.</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 9/26/2022.

From: [Clifford Eiffler-Rodriguez](#)
To: [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: In support of Mobile Crisis Unit
Date: Monday, September 26, 2022 1:58:34 PM

It's been two years since Councilor Nordyke brought up establishing a mobile crisis unit.

I continue to support the proposal but am befuddled why this continues to be a non-starter for our city leadership.

This city council and three city managers who have filled the position in the interim are liable, in part, for the rampant violence visited upon people living in Salem by the police department because you sit on your hands.

You have sat there and listened as experts from CAHOOTS have shared the myriad of benefits Salem stood to gain by creating a similar program. And you did nothing.

Countless advocates and community members have testified in support of launching this as strong resource for our community. AND YOU DID NOTHING.

Since that initial proposal for a MCU both the police and fire departments have come to you, with their hands out, asking for more money. Each of them citing growing response times and the changing nature the calls they deal with.

Instead of utilizing a proven method like a MCU, this council digs in the couch cushions to find these departments the cash. Despite Chief Niblock going on record that he would not consider alternative ways to deploy his resources to emergency calls and the police's rampant violence.

I am including one video, filmed earlier this month of officers forcing a man experiencing a crisis to the ground and then subsequently tasing him when he was being restrained by FOUR officers.

Also attached are photos of Daniel Garcia, another victim of the way this very violent police department deals with people in the struggling with substance abuse.

Those cases and several of the people killed by the police department in the past 22 months have had a mental health crisis as their catalyst event.

Your inaction is not only callous but demonstrates a degree of cruelty that makes people scared to live in this city.

This is how our city deals with mental health crises.

Blood is on your hands.

Now we are here, on the verge of a third year of the same proposal.

The speed which this proposal has moved is absolutely negligent.

What will be your legacy?

Step up.

Regards,

Clifford Eiffler-Rodriguez

Ward 7

Salem Police assault houseless man in crisis: <https://youtu.be/vumxnmPedOE>





From: [Carol Goldfarb](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#); [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Support for Agenda Item 5.a (Motion from Councilor Vanessa Nordyke concerning a Request for Proposals for a Mobile Crisis Unit)
Date: Monday, September 26, 2022 3:40:21 PM

Please vote YES on the motion from Councilor Vanessa Nordyke concerning a Request for Proposals for a Mobile Crisis Unit.

My youngest daughter goes to college in Eugene and one day we unknowingly were parked next to a CAHOOTS van in a grocery parking lot. The CAHOOTS service providers were talking to someone who was experiencing some distress but who was willing talking to the service providers. The situation was handled and no police officers were involved. Civilian-based mobile crisis units will free up police and other first responders to handle emergencies that require their specialized services while allowing those in need of the civilian-based mobile crisis units to have their needs met by people trained to help those are struggling. I have another young adult who has autism and though normally extremely articulate, when in stressful situations, their communication skills don't function as well and they get overwhelmed. It would be a relief to know that trained mental health professionals or social workers would be called in to de-escalate a crisis situation. Eugene's CAHOOTS diverts between 3-8% of calls from police. Mobile crisis units complete the public safety spectrum and allow those with specialized training to handle the emergencies for which they are best trained. Please support a mobile crisis unit for Salem.

Thank you.

Carol Goldfarb

From: [Hollie Oakes-Miller](#)
To: [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [Vanessa Nordyke](#)
Subject: Support for Agenda Item 5.a
Date: Monday, September 26, 2022 3:21:41 PM

City Leaders,

We support agenda item 5.a. Salem desperately needs a mobile crisis unit that can respond to local situations that are better served by a trained non-law enforcement response team staffed by social workers, medics, and mental healthcare professionals. There is ample evidence from other cities that this type of crisis support works, it keeps community members safer, and it is more cost effective than sending police and other first responders to situations they aren't adequately trained for or have the capacity to handle.

Please vote YES on the motion from Councilor Vanessa Nordyke concerning a Request for Proposals for a Mobile Crisis Unit.

Gary Miller & Hollie Oakes-Miller
Ward 5

From: [Jennifer Sprague](#)
To: [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#); [Micki Varney](#)
Subject: Support for Agenda Item 5.a (Motion from Councilor Vanessa Nordyke concerning a Request for Proposals for a Mobile Crisis Unit)
Date: Monday, September 26, 2022 4:04:17 PM

Councilor Varney and all of the Salem City Councilors:

Please vote YES on the motion from Councilor Vanessa Nordyke concerning a Request for Proposals for a Mobile Crisis Unit.

Our community needs a Mobile Crisis Unit. Our city's law enforcement shouldn't have to respond to health care crises, and people experiencing a mental health emergency should be able to receive quick access to mental health care and not be arrested and put in jail just because they are having a mental health emergency. It's more effective, more efficient and less expensive to have social workers, mental health and medical professionals, rather than law enforcement, respond to people who are struggling. And mobile crisis units free up our other first responders (police, fire, ambulance), for other calls.

Please support Agenda Item 5.a and vote YES on Councilor Nordyke's motion for RFPs for a MCU.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Sprague
Ward 8
548 W. Hills Way NW
Salem, OR 97304

From: [Benjamin Turner](#)
To: [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Support for Agenda Item 5.a (Motion from Councilor Vanessa Nordyke concerning a Request for Proposals for a Mobile Crisis Unit)
Date: Monday, September 26, 2022 3:48:19 PM

Please vote YES on the motion from Councilor Vanessa Nordyke concerning a Request for Proposals for a Mobile Crisis Unit. Civilian-based mobile crisis units are being created in cities across the country to serve people in crisis. We need social workers, mental health and medical professionals to respond to people who are struggling. Mobile crisis units also free up other first responders, like police, fire, and ambulance, for higher acuity calls. Mobile crisis units complete the public safety spectrum.

From: [Lois Stark](#)
To: [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [Vanessa Nordyke](#)
Subject: Support for Agenda Item 5.a
Date: Monday, September 26, 2022 1:51:32 PM

Hello Mayor and members of the City Council,

I'm writing today in support of the request for proposals for a Mobile Crisis Unit for the City of Salem.

This is NOT about defunding the police. This is about getting trained mental health professionals on the streets to intervene when there is a mental health crisis.

This kind of service is much less expensive than an ER visit or a police stop. Plus, it is better for the people experiencing a crisis. Sometimes a police vehicle can seem intimidating and scary.

In addition, the unit could help with people who are experiencing homelessness, grief issues, or people contemplating suicide.

My son lives in Eugene and has very very good things to say about the Cahoots program there. It is widely accepted as an innovative service that many cities are copying.

This type of service could be one more great things about living in Salem.

Please support this agenda item.

Lois Stark
Ward 2
440 21st SE
Salem, OR 97301

From: [lorrie walker](#)
To: [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [lorrie walker](#)
Subject: Mobile Crisis Unit
Date: Monday, September 26, 2022 2:17:49 PM

Mayor Bennett and Salem City Council,

I am in full support of moving forward with a mobile crisis unit for the city of Salem. This is long overdue. Salem has been in need of this for many years.

Salem has a large number of correctional institutions as well as the main Oregon State Hospital located here. Many people when released do not have adequate support services in place. Many are too mentally ill to know they need help. Many are unsheltered in Salem. Many are in crisis, be it, suicidal, hungry, delusional, mental health needs, water, a person to listen, etc. Many do not need a police response. Many delusional people are scared of people, especially the police.

A crisis response unit would save money and time of a Salem Police response when a EMT / qualified mental health person could talk with the person and determine needs.

As a person who worked in the mental health system over 30 years, 28 at the Oregon State Hospital, it is way past time. As a advocate & volunteer with unsheltered, I know many of the people on our streets.

A mobile crisis unit could benefit everyone.

Salem needs Police available to respond to criminal issues. Please move forward with this.

Respectfully,

Lorrie Walker, Guardian & Unsheltered Advocate

Ward 2 Resident

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Murray McNeil](#)
To: [Barbara Nabb](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Re: Support for Agenda Item 5.a (Motion from Councilor Vanessa Nordyke concerning a Request for Proposals for a Mobile Crisis Unit)
Date: Monday, September 26, 2022 1:28:43 PM

Please read below.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 26, 2022, at 10:25 AM, Barbara Nabb <bnabbster@gmail.com> wrote:

Please vote YES on the motion from Councilor Vanessa Nordyke concerning a Request for Proposals for a Mobile Crisis Unit. Civilian-based mobile crisis units are being created in cities across the country to serve people in crisis. We need social workers, mental health and medical professionals to respond to people who are struggling. Mobile crisis units also free up other first responders, like police, fire, and ambulance, for higher acuity calls. Mobile crisis units complete the public safety spectrum.

Thank you,
Barbara Nabb

From: [Osvaldo Avila](#)
To: [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Support for Agenda Item 5.a (Motion from Councilor Vanessa Nordyke concerning a Request for Proposals for a Mobile Crisis Unit).
Date: Monday, September 26, 2022 4:03:39 PM

Please vote YES on the motion from Councilor Vanessa Nordyke concerning a Request for Proposals for a Mobile Crisis Unit. Civilian-based mobile crisis units are being created in cities across the country to serve people in crisis. We need social workers, mental health and medical professionals to respond to people who are struggling. Mobile crisis units also free up other first responders, like police, fire, and ambulance, for higher acuity calls. Mobile crisis units complete the public safety spectrum.

Osvaldo F Avila
Salem resident (West Salem)

From: [Talía Ruehr](#)
To: [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Support for Agenda Item 5.a (Motion from Councilor Vanessa Nordyke concerning a Request for Proposals for a Mobile Crisis Unit)Please vote YES on the motion from Councilor Vanessa Nordyke concerning a Request for Proposals for a Mobile Crisis Unit. Civ...
Date: Monday, September 26, 2022 3:04:09 PM

Dear City Council,

Please vote YES on the motion from Councilor Vanessa Nordyke concerning a Request for Proposals for a Mobile Crisis Unit. Civilian-based mobile crisis units are being created in cities across the country to serve people in crisis. We need social workers, mental health, and medical professionals to respond to people who are struggling with issues they are better suited to handle in a more productive manner. It is crucial to consider that mobile crisis units free up other first responders, like police, fire, and ambulance, for higher acuity calls. Mobile crisis units have a significantly decreased chance of any harm coming to anyone involved rather than police or firefighters who are not often specifically and thoroughly trained in mental health and crisis situations. It's important to this city to decrease any chance of injury to any citizens or officials and support people who are in crisis. My family and I worry about my sister who is Autistic. Mobile crisis units would ease our fears of a public meltdown of hers entirely unintentionally become a matter involving the police. It is vital to protect vulnerable people in our community. To bring it upon ourselves to help and care for people.

I request that you please vote yes on Agenda Item 5.a.

Thank you for your time!

-Talía Ruehr

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of lauriedougherty@gmail.com
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Submission
Date: Monday, September 26, 2022 1:44:53 PM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Laurie Dougherty
Your Email	lauriedougherty@gmail.com
Your Phone	617-504-0016
Street	728 Church St. NE #7
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97301
	<p>For September 26, 2022 City Council Meeting Re: Agenda Item 6.d. Fire Department Information Report To. Mayor Bennett, City Councilors, and Staff, My name is Laurie Dougherty. I live in Ward 1. I am a Co-Coordinator of 350 Salem OR, local affiliate of climate justice organization 350.org. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on agenda item 6.d. the Information Report from Fire Chief Niblock. This expands on a comment delivered orally. We are grateful for the courage, hard work and collaborative effort by the Salem Fire Department to contain the recent Vitae Springs fire. At the last City Council meeting Chief Niblock reported on that effort and on the challenges of also responding to two structure fires, one that destroyed two houses, as well as 100 other calls. There is a better way to meet such challenges. Almost all emergencies involving the Fire Department are medical. Rather than continuing the expensive, wasteful practice of sending both fire trucks and ambulances on medical calls, Salem needs more ambulances and rapid response vehicles, deployed where they can achieve desired response times. Compared to fire trucks, ambulances are smaller, more fuel efficient, and equipped to transport patients as well as stabilize them. This will reduce wear and tear on fire trucks and ensure that firefighters and trucks are ready and available for fighting fires. The Bond measure, which we support for its opportunities to improve safety and convenience for pedestrians, bicyclists, and people with disabilities, also offers a once in a generation chance to move the Salem Fire Department into the 21st century. Trucks and equipment purchased now will last for decades. It's critical to make sure that this money is used for vehicles that align with Salem's climate goals, make smart use of new technologies, and make careful use of city funds. References to some of these opportunities are included below. Climate change is here and will bring more fires like Vitae Springs. The Santiam Canyon fires two years ago came dangerously close to Salem. At the same time as Salem needs to prepare for climate impacts, we also must do our part to reduce climate-changing emissions. This means applying a climate lens to city policies, practices, and purchases. Business as usual is no longer an option. Resources: • Electric emergency vehicles are coming into use in Portland, Los Angeles and other cities in the US, Canada and Europe. Electric fire and medical emergency vehicles will cut back on greenhouse gas and toxic</p>

Message

emissions, lower fuel and maintenance costs, and reduce dependence on volatile war-implicated oil markets. • Smaller more nimble, less expensive, less polluting vehicles can be tailored for particular situations. • Eliminate the wasteful practice of sending both fire trucks and ambulances to medical emergencies. This duplication produces unnecessary greenhouse gas and toxic emissions and unnecessary wear and tear on fire trucks. I know from experience, it is intrusive for people and families in the midst of a medical crisis. As is the case around the country, a very small percentage of emergency calls in Salem are for actual fires. In addition to effective deployment of ambulances, specialized small rapid response vehicles, even motorcycles and bicycles can maneuver quickly to get medical assistance to an emergency situation. In cases of minor illness or injury, a rapid response team may be all that's needed. For serious cases, first responders can quickly provide critical assistance and call an ambulance. Salem needs to stop doing things the same old way and get smart about public safety. There are alternatives and innovations that can save money, improve emergency response, and align with climate goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Several resources addressing these issues are provided below. I would like to highlight a few: Phil Keisling, Senior Fellow and retired Director of Portland State University Center for Public Service, and former Oregon Secretary of State, in an article for Governing titled "Why we Need to Take the 'Fire' out of 'Fire' Department," discusses the decades long decline in fires and rise in medical situations calling for emergency response. Yet all too often both fire trucks and ambulances are sent out. Keisling says, "While firefighters' working realities have changed profoundly in recent decades, their government structures and operating protocols remain largely frozen in bureaucratic amber." His research team identified both alternative vehicles and alternative response protocols to improve efficiency and save costs. He goes on to say, "Unnecessarily high operating costs are the most visible result of clinging to an expensive, 'just-in-case' delivery model for this core public service. Another is the unnecessary wear and tear on expensive fire trucks, which can easily cost \$1 million or more." Quoted in a piece on NPR, Keisling suggested moving resources from large firefighting staffs. "'And it's not anti-firefighter, it's not anti-union, and it's not anti-government,' he says. 'It's just, why aren't we taking limited resources and deploying them in a smarter way?'" -- Pierce, a Wisconsin-based manufacturer of fire trucks, announced in an October 2021 press release "a joint development agreement with the City of Portland, Oregon Fire and Rescue to place a Pierce® Volterra™ zero-emissions pumper into service with the city's busiest station, Madison, WI, Los Angeles, CA and Mesa, AZ also have or will soon have electric fire trucks. "An Ode to Miniature Fire Trucks" in Streets Blog USA in May 2021 shows that smaller fire trucks and appropriately sized response vehicles are compatible with safer, narrower streets. The Eugene Springfield Fire Department has an electric Rapid Responder from Eugene-based EV manufacturer Arcimoto. Falck, the company that operates ambulance service in Salem, has developed an electric ambulance. Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue has a variety of vehicles to provide the most appropriate response to an emergency REFERENCES: Emergency Medical Response Reviving EMS | CBCNY The Citizens Budget Commission (CBC) <https://cbcny.org/research/reviving-ems> Why We Need to Take the 'Fire' Out of 'Fire Department' (PSU Senior Fellow Phil Keisling) <https://www.governing.com/archive/col-fire-departments-rethink-delivery-emergency-medical-services.html> Sending Firetrucks For Medical Calls : Shots - Health News : NPR

shots/2017/04/11/523025987/why-send-a-firetruck-to-do-an-ambulances-job
Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue - Response Cars & Medic Units
<https://www.tvfr.com/163/Response-Cars-Medic-Units> Driving the Future - Falck
Launches Unique Electric Ambulance
<https://www.falckambulance.co.uk/news/Driving-the-Future---Falck-Launches-Unique-Electric-Ambulance/38> "Rapid Responder" made by Eugene EV company
Arcimoto. <https://www.arcimoto.com/rapid-responder> Smaller Fire Trucks The Big
Red Guide - Your Guide to the Fire Industry: 25 Small Fire Trucks
<https://www.thebigredguide.com/vehicles/size-capacity--small.html> An Ode to the
Miniature Fire Truck – Streetsblog USA <https://usa.streetsblog.org/2021/05/04/an-ode-to-the-miniature-fire-truck/> Electric Fire Trucks Pierce & Portland Fire and
Rescue Joint Development Agreement for Volterra Electric Pumper
<https://www.piercemfg.com/pierce/press-release/pierce-and-portland-fire-and-rescue-secure-joint-development-agreement-for-volterra-electric-pumper> Los
Angeles Electric fire truck <https://www.hotcars.com/lafd-is-getting-its-first-ever-electric-fire-truck/> <https://www.livekindly.co/la-electric-fire-truck-clean-energy-future/> Mesa AZ E-One first electric fire truck in North America
<https://interestingengineering.com/e-one-is-delivering-the-first-fully-electric-fire-truck-in-north-america> <https://electrek.co/2021/11/01/rev-group-receives-order-to-build-first-fully-electric-fire-truck-in-north-america/> Electric fire trucks - Fire
Fighting in Canada <https://www.firefightingincanada.com/electric-fire-trucks/>
Wave of the future: Electric fire pumpers are more than simply green technology
<https://www.firerescue1.com/fire-products/fire-apparatus/articles/wave-of-the-future-electric-fire-pumpers-are-more-than-simply-green-technology-EMnQvN3wonDMVRfh/> Rochester (MN) Fire Department Displays Fuel-Efficient
Apparatus <https://www.fireapparatusmagazine.com/fire-apparatus/rochester-mn-fire-department-displays-fuel-efficient-apparatus/#gref>

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