

SCV Comments on Proposed Police Safety Bond

Thank you for listening to the concerns of citizens in developing your latest options in the staff report.

Thank you for not including the 911 Center.

Thank you for adding seismic upgrades to the Library to Option 2.

Thank you for reducing the size of the police facility.

SCV feels you are heading in the right direction

However, the per sq ft cost is still not justified and we feel it is too high.

Salem citizens should not be asked to pay more than other cities in Oregon are paying for their new police stations. Beaverton for example just passed a bond last year and, all items considered, the Salem proposal is costing at least \$100.00 more per foot more.

SCV is trying to think about this issue in terms of the average citizens of Salem. 43% of Salem residents have a household income of less than \$40,000 a year. About one in five residents of Salem lives in a household with income of less than \$20,000 a year.

We know that there are many other needs in our community - school bond probably in the fall and fire department and street and bridges are coming soon too. The top priority identified in the Strategic Planning survey was housing and homelessness. So, all this is going to be added to higher housing costs, food prices, water increases, garbage fees, medical needs and other such expenses.

The staff report just became available on Friday. The public needs more information to make comments. This process is very quick and it is going to take a lot of effort to pass any bond. We need to make sure that we have a bond that the voters will support this time.

Everyone might agree that we need a new police facility. But we have to [be] sure when we ask the voters again to support a bond, that it is one they will support.

The main question that a voter is going to ask is — what do I get for my tax dollars? This bond proposal must be much less than the previous bond proposal and it must include something that is of value. Protecting the existing infrastructure by doing seismic upgrades to the Library and City Hall are important to voters. Both facilities are unsafe and should be included in the new bond measure. According to the engineer reports, the actual seismic upgrades may be in the area of \$20 million.

The voters will recognize that they are truly getting something for their money when it is realized that the City is ensuring the life expectancy for their valuable existing buildings.

The police facility must be cut even further. It should not to exceed 100,000 square feet.

Think about not including a parking structure. Police department staff can use the nearby parkade.

Reduce the **total development cost per square foot** to the rate paid by other communities. We think should not exceed \$65 million for the whole bond package. Then it will pass.

We thank you are heading in the right direction, but you must be fiscally responsible, protect our investments and be socially just.

Susann Kaltwasser
Salem Community Vision
Ward 8 resident