



# CITY OF SALEM

## Written Testimony #1

### City Council

555 Liberty St SE  
Salem, OR 97301

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**Monday, February 10, 2020**

**6:00 PM**

**Council Chambers**

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**5.a.**     [20-49](#)     Revising restrictions on camping.

Ward(s): All Wards

Councilor(s): All Councilors

Neighborhood(s): All Neighborhoods

Result Area(s): Safe Community; Welcoming and Livable Community.

**Recommendation:**     Information only.

**Attachments:**     [Camping Areas](#)  
                              [Downtown and surrounding area](#)  
                              [Existing Park System Map](#)  
                              [Public Comments received by 3:30 p.m. 2-10-20](#)

*Add - Written Testimony.*

Page  
Break

**Amy Johnson**

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**From:** Norm Baxter <nwbaxter11249@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 07, 2020 5:18 PM  
**To:** CityRecorder  
**Subject:** Camping Site for the Homeless

Council should consider using undeveloped city parks to provide camping sites for the homeless. Fairview Park in the Fairview Industrial area is a site that would serve this need well with the addition of porta potties, trash receptacles, and running water. The council should require all homeless to camp there.

--

Norman W. Baxter  
[nwbaxter11249@gmail.com](mailto:nwbaxter11249@gmail.com)

*"If your trade is with the Celestial Empire, then some small counting house on the coast, in some Salem harbor, will be fixture enough."*

**Amy Johnson**

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**From:** REBECCA BEAMAN <bb4892@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 09, 2020 8:47 PM  
**To:** CityRecorder  
**Subject:** Presentation (Power Point) for Resident Testimony, Agenda Item 5a, Feb 10, 2020  
**Attachments:** Camp in IG Zones.pptx

Dear City Recorder,

I plan to speak at the City Council meeting on Feb 10. My slides are attached. If you wish to make them available to Councilors prior to the meeting, I have no objection, but I will speak to them at the meeting.

Please let me know if you have any issues getting these up for me to speak to at the meeting.

Thank you.

Becky Beaman

## CONSIDERING CAMPING IN IG ZONED AREAS

Becky Beaman

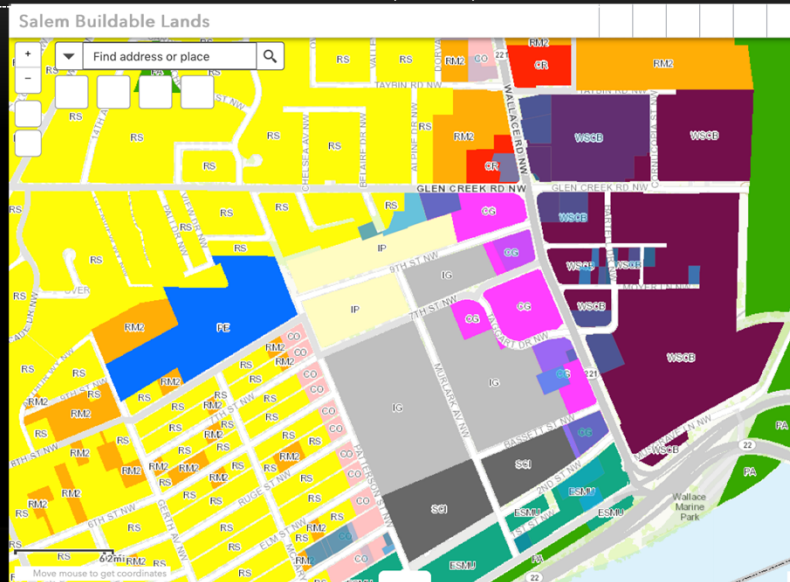
Ward 7

### BACKGROUND

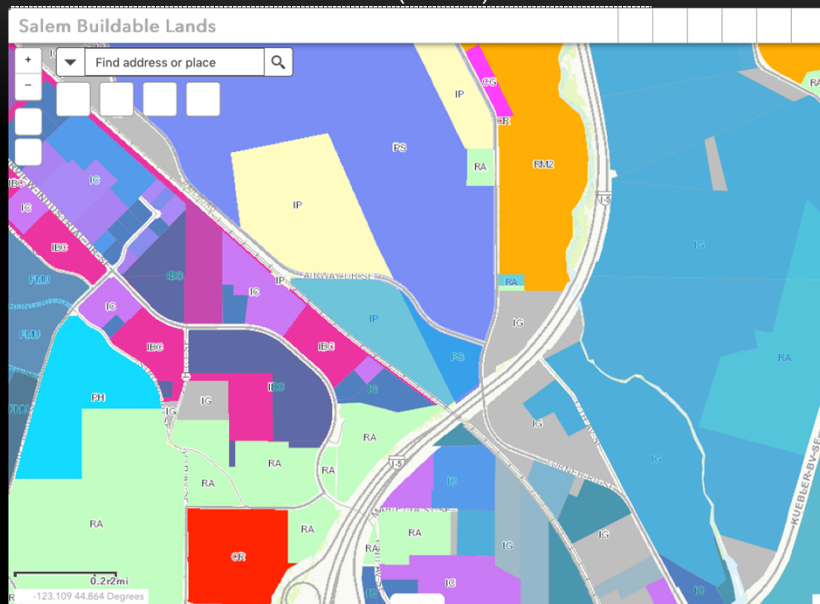
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- At Jan 21 meeting, councilors asked for info to support decision re: lifting camping ban in industrial zones
- At Jan 27 meeting, councilors asked for info to support decision re: lifting camping ban in industrial zones (and maybe other zones)

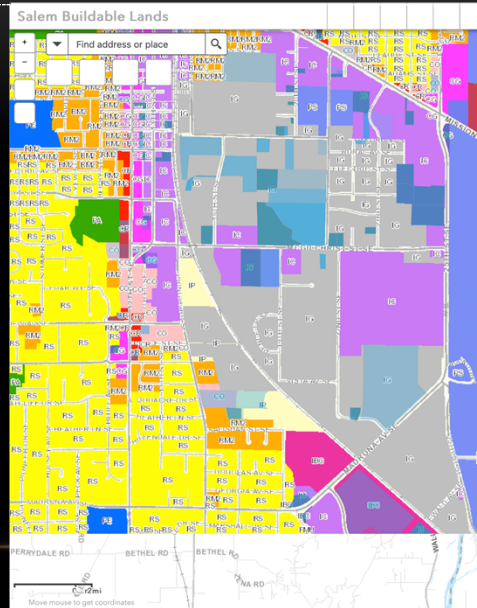
## WEST SALEM IG ZONED (SMALL)



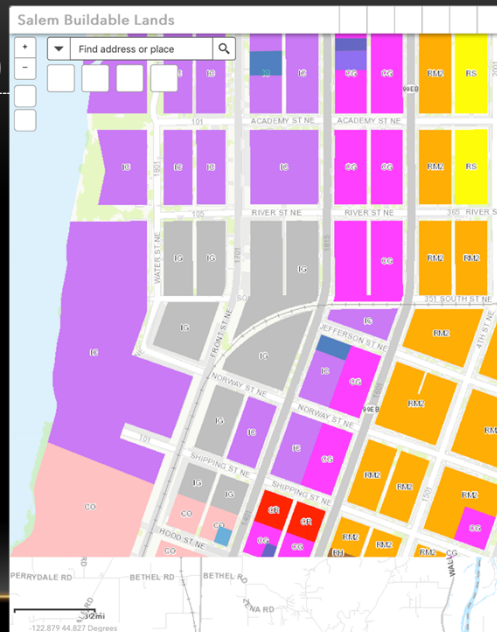
## TURNER RD IG ZONED (LARGE)



## MCGILCHRIST IG ZONED (LARGE)

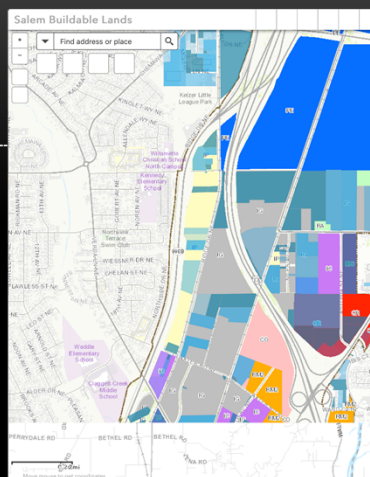
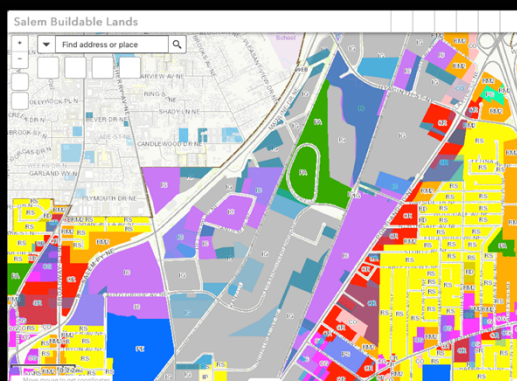


## FRONT ST IG ZONED (SMALL)





## PARKWAY IG ZONED (LARGE)





## RECOMMENDATIONS

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- Lift camping ban in selected zones
  - Instruct law enforcement to suspend enforcement immediately
- Establish rules regarding camp density, spacing, behavior
  - Camps no larger than (10-30) tents
  - Maintain free space between camps
  - Residents keep camp tidy
- Establish city-funded sanitation and garbage service to camping zones
  - Bucket exchange for human waste
  - Garbage service adequate to the need for trash

Any Questions?

## CAMPING BEST PRACTICES

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- 20-30 campers MAXIMUM
- Let camps form structure/community
  - Eg, security, sanitation committees
- City pick up trash from central locations
- Buckets work for camper sanitation, but city must establish process for removal
- Require buffers between camps to enable each camp to establish community

## PROS & CONS WEST SALEM

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Pros	Cons
Walking distance from food vendors	Small area
Walking distance from water sources if arrangements are made	Close to residential areas
Bus service	Close to busy, slow-moving arterial

## PROS & CONS TURNER RD

Pros	Cons
Large parcel away from dense residential areas	No bus service
Extended walking distance to food vendors	
Walking distance to water sources if arrangements are made	

## PROS & CONS MCGILCHRIST

Pros	Cons
Large parcel	Borders residential area
Can be separated in space from residential areas west of parcel	
Walking distance from fire station 6 for water if needed	
Walking distance from food vendors	
Bus service on McGilchrist	

## PROS & CONS FRONT ST

Pros	Cons
Close to downtown	Very small area
Near food vendors	Near some residential areas
Walking distance to water sources if arrangements are made	
Adjacent to Salvation Army	

## PROS & CONS FAIRGROUNDS

Pros	Cons
Walking distance to ROCC	Small parcel
Walking distance to DHS services	Close to dense residential area

## PROS & CONS PARKWAY

Pros	Cons
Large parcel	Residential areas nearby
Can separate from residential/schools by use of space	Schools nearby
Bus service on Portland Rd	

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of sashazur@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 09, 2020 2:43 PM  
**To:** citycouncil  
**Subject:** Contact City Council  
**Attachments:** FDB37BA1-E3C4-462F-A111-7BDE1B4BA630.jpeg

Your Name	Alexander Benenson
Your Email	sashazur@gmail.com
Your Phone	5036801352
Street	1620 Fir St S
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97302
Message	Regarding proposed camping areas shown as pink in this map: <a href="https://salem.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&amp;ID=8056391&amp;GUID=7265CA4A-1EDF-449C-AD86-237F576F478D&amp;utm_source=share&amp;utm_medium=ios_app&amp;utm_name=iossmf">https://salem.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&amp;ID=8056391&amp;GUID=7265CA4A-1EDF-449C-AD86-237F576F478D&amp;utm_source=share&amp;utm_medium=ios_app&amp;utm_name=iossmf</a> There seem to be multiple pink areas which clearly make no sense for camping, such as the airport, the Audubon riparian reserve, and part of the cemetery in south Salem. If you remove these and other unusable areas you'll make a better case for the proposed changes.

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 2/9/2020.

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of edchapin4722@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Friday, February 07, 2020 7:52 AM  
**To:** citycouncil  
**Subject:** Contact City Council  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Merrie Chapin
Your Email	edchapin4722@gmail.com
Your Phone	5033029108
Street	1913 rockland
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97304
Message	<p>I believe you all are failing to do your jobs to make Salem a good place to live. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FIR DECISIONS THAT YOU ARE CLEARLY UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO MAKE. A statement was released that you will have to do more studies to determine how to handle the homeless in Salem. WHY DONT YOU ASK KEIZER? There are no filthy horrid people crapping on their sidewalks. They have stores that I can visit where I am not required to be yelled at or threatened when I come and go. Downtown is dying in Salem and ITS YOUR FAULT. it appears you are over your heads on ALOT of decisions that need to be made for Salem.... and our city, which I have lived in most of my life, is falling to pieces around us. And all you can answer is that you are going to spend more money on a study. Come on.</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 2/7/2020.

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** Chris & Stacey Cochran <wercsje@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 09, 2020 6:34 PM  
**To:** CityRecorder  
**Subject:** Comment submission - camping ban revision

I would like to comment on the proposed revision to the camping ban.

Moving the problem from downtown to the rest of the city is not a solution. It is unacceptable to merely send the problem elsewhere. The city did not want the filth/crime/unsafe behaviors and conditions downtown - why would it be okay to just send it farther out into other areas of the city. The map shows the areas around schools, in school walking zones, in front of countless businesses in commercial and industrial areas, around the airport - sending the problems you didn't want downtown to these areas is even worse than seeing it downtown, where at least it can be more easily patrolled and controlled than if it is all over the city. These areas may not be IN residential zones, but they are right up against them. This is not an acceptable solution. Please do not agree to this non-solution. You are merely passing the problem on to others, and perhaps even risking the well-being of children and workers, and those doing business all over Salem. Please stand up and make Salem a better place, not just another mini-Portland - do not pass this revision.

Stacey Cochran



## Amy Johnson

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**From:** noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of trevor\_farnes@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 05, 2020 6:20 PM  
**To:** citycouncil  
**Subject:** Contact City Council  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Trevor Farnes
Your Email	trevor_farnes@yahoo.com
Your Phone	2084107262
Street	3204 Indian Wells Lp S
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97302
Message	<p>Hello my name is Trevor Farnes, I run the Buckle down town. I wanted to reach out again because I've received no response from Cara Kaser ward one or Steve Powers city manager in separate emails. I want to express that business has continued to get worse with the homeless population. My business has gotten to the point where we are losing about \$1000+ IN A SINGLE DAY. I have seen little to no action downtown. I have attended the city council meetings and not one councilor has shared any relevant thoughts on how we are going to change it. Only Asking how do we plan on funding the shelters and or upkeep for the city. A good place to start would be move the homeless and stop paying \$13,500 to clean a sidewalk. I pay insane amounts of income tax so you guys can take action and change things if the city calls for it. Some councilors didn't say a single word in fact I saw one literally drawing circles on his note pad. Some slouching in their chairs without a care in the world. Seems to me like there needs to be a meeting on professionalism. Also how dare you ask the one person representing the Salem Center if any of us have lost business, signed shorter leases or pulled leases etc. I would hope you're smart enough to know he can't disclose those numbers to the public. I even remember one councilor said "we have access to the leases" therfor making that question absolutely irrelevant. If nothing is done all of us retailers might as well sell our houses and join the homeless outside. Take action and get it done please!</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 2/5/2020.

February 1, 2020

Dear Mayor Bennett, and City council,

As a follow-up to my statement at the January 13 city council meeting (I was last woman that spoke)-- I want to first thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak, though my name was not on the list. I feel very strongly about the whole situation and am firmly set on my statements--yet with concern I stood to share ( in what was evident ) the minority opinion in the room. Nevertheless, my conscience and lifelong experience of Salem, demanded I speak.

Several other points I want to share--

1. That while the homeless people are suffering and unsafe, and are to be afforded life saving help ASAP-their dissipation, drug addiction, lawless behaviors are not to be perpetuated, or dismissed as only victimhood. All along the way, they as individuals, and us as a community have made choices , and still do--that have led to this crisis.

2. The RED LINE has been crossed when they took up residence on our main entry street to the the capital of Oregon! It is a blight on our very core, and I for one, will not rest until they are helped, relocated, and housed!

(BTW-- Is it not seen? UGM is currently open 24/7, and offers One-- 3 meals a day--so no need for starving or food residue on street.

Two- restroom facilities--again no need for soiling streets, gutters.

Three- they offer showers--again no need for uncleanness.

Four- they offer job training- so chance to leave homelessness.

It is so distressing to see the downtown I grew up in, and walk safely and shop with friends -even as a young teen--turned into a place of poverty, mental illness, uncleanness, drug use, and decay. I feel so badly for all core businesses- many of whom I frequented weekly. I now am reluctant to shop, park, and even drive thru this area-- I am advising others to be aware. I have talked to many store managers, and they have tirelessly tried to get help from you, the council, and the police to no avail. Whatever we do, we cannot make Salem a magnet in the state --that we are an easy freebee without efforts made!

There cannot be an attitude of not expecting, and requiring these homeless individuals( who should be known by their name, their history) to be helped toward, civil, dignified, and productive lives.

The day they CHOOSE to stay in all the "mess", and perpetuate destruction on our land and businesses--is the day they have to be moved beyond the crisis. Also, TerryMcDonald -- who has bought the former Nordstorm building-- wants to lease to several big stores??? -- who will frequent with this presence on the street?

So the ordinances-- Src 95.730 and Rc chapter 95 letter L--that speak of welfare.. meaning "prosperity not to be hampered"-- this should be enforced. Ors 163.75--I saw an 8 year old child and wonder if they are there after curfew? What about this 1000 feet of a school?? Sonshine School?? This should be enforced. Also, I saw a "side wall" device to climb under- which connotes "camping" by definition-- this should be enforced. Enable our police chief and officers to do their job. Rights change when the law is broken, as do ours.

Of course the real tragedy, is that the Fairview facility was closed and allowed to decay- which housed many mentally and physically handicapped, that will never be able to live in society. There must be a place paid by the state for these individuals.

My last point- I read Gene Pfeipher's proposal for "Hopecrest", and I like it very much, and hear council or state bureaucrats are holding back, waiting for more money or code issues. When a good building already exists to use, until better tools arrive--you all need to let the mercenary-government mentality go and see reason! He and others will see that all parts are dealt with, and even if there are obstacles -so what if donors can make it happen and get all churches to contribute?--vs. constant cost of Hasmet crews, medical crises one after another--all paid by taxpayer dollars, and a total defeat of Salem downtown businesses-dollar by dollar til they leave--far more costly in the end.

Not to mention the moral conscience of each of you/us, and each of these poor on the street. It is a quagmire! It will be to the God of heaven who we all answer for how we did right when we had the chance. I beseech you and council to wake up and put "feet to fire" on this issue. I expect to see these folks somewhere else out of harms way--ASAP! Failure to act will see Nov 2020 as a referendum on the council and staff for dereliction of duty! I hope this doesn't happen, and we all find the better angels of our nature!!!

Sincerely,

*Jeonette Gardner*  
503-371-1957  
Lifelong Salem Resident

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of Tngraneto@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 09, 2020 9:30 AM  
**To:** citycouncil  
**Subject:** Contact City Council  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Nicole Graneto
Your Email	Tngraneto@comcast.net
Your Phone	5033048920
Street	7185 Meadowwod St Ne
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97303
Message	Dear City Council, please consider passing the sit/lie ordinance in Salem. I work downtown and drive past the area where the homeless are congregated and it is inhumane and disgusting to see what had happened to our City. This problem needs to be fixed. We need to find enough shelter beds for these people and to prohibit them from lying around on the street with a mountain of trash. Please do something to clean up our City!!!!

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 2/9/2020.

January 9, 2020

Mayor and City Council  
555 Liberty Street SE, Room 220  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Campsites in Salem's Parks

Dear Mayor and Councilors:

Last month, Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (SPRAB) became aware that City Council was considering using Salem's parks, or at least some of them, as temporary (at best) or permanent (at worst) campsites for our homeless population. SPRAB considered this proposal at its December 12, 2019 meeting. Subsequently, Council decided this idea would not solve the problem, and would cause serious damage to the parks, a public asset.

Although this idea appears to be off the table for the moment, Council should be aware that SPRAB voted unanimously to recommend that Salem parks not be used to establish permanent or temporary campsites. The Parks Operations Section is already seriously constrained due to lack of personnel and funding in its efforts to maintain our parks in a safe and sanitary fashion at a level that ensures the greatest public access and enjoyable use.

Please make sure to include SPRAB in any further discussion on this issue.

Yours,



Kasia Quillinan  
SPRAB Chair (through December 31, 2019)

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** J Stembridge <stembrij@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 09, 2020 9:48 AM  
**To:** citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Steve Powers  
**Subject:** City Council Meeting Testimony for February 10th, 2020

Dear Mayor Bennett, Salem City Council, and City Manager Powers,

Although I am not able to be physically present on Monday, February 10th, I wanted to encourage you all to consider the following in your deliberations regarding the homelessness issue in downtown Salem. ( I am volunteering at a warming center on Monday night, 2/10/20.)

At the most recent City Council meeting I attended and testified at, I was asked an appropriate, reasonable, difficult question by Councilor Kaser.

I was requesting the city fund 24/7 public toilets, trash receptacles, hand washing stations, daytime storage facilities, and enhanced downtown street cleaning services. Exactly what the Downtown Homelessness Solutions Task Force had recommended in 2018.

Councilor Kaser asked me to recommend to the council how to fund the basic services I was advocating.

I have thought more about that question and I would like to offer this idea to you all. Could the City Council, Mayor Bennett, Steve Powers, Kristen Rutherford along with the city's financial wizards and the City Attorney all gather and ask themselves this question: " What are our priorities?"

I believe if that question is asked of such a distinguished group, a path will be found to re-prioritize some of the monies currently allocated in the city budget so that there will be adequate funds available to provide for basic public health services. Such basic services would be a win-win-win. A win for the people on the streets. A win for the downtown businesses that are stressed and frustrated with the ongoing dilemma. A win for the City of Salem in how it values human life.

By funding such minimal basic services, the City of Salem would be saying: While we are hard at work creating more permanent solutions to the homelessness problem, we are going to demonstrate we care about people and we will do what is needed for public health improvement.

Thank you for your public service.

Thank you for considering my suggestions,

Sincerely,

Joan Stembridge

1695 Winter St. S.E. Salem  
Ward 2  
503 569-7968

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of mickivwvl@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 08, 2020 1:44 PM  
**To:** citycouncil  
**Subject:** Contact City Council  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Micki Vander Linden
Your Email	mickivwvl@gmail.com
Your Phone	9712183721
Street	1511 St Helens St NW
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97304
Message	<p>Have you ever heard the saying, " you teach people how to treat you?" The homeless downtown have been held accountable for nothing. Now the sidewalks are cleaned weekly and the very next day garbage everywhere. I also see a big pigeon problem arising in front of Rite aid. Is everyone down there unable to pick up their own garbage? I have served severely disabled people and mentally ill people over the years, and they were all able to help in taking care of things. It sickens me to see the disrespect shown downtown. Years in the making I am told, well it should not take years to fix. My money wasted, police time wasted and your time wasted dealing with this mess. Life is a series of choices. You may not choose who raises you but at some point you start making choices. I could have been a pregnant teen, alcoholic, dooper, or dead in a ditch while hitchhiking. I made better choices as everyone i was surrounded by showed me who I did not want to be. You tell me your sad story, I will tell you mine. Hold people accountable. Tell you what, I will rent power washer , you have them clean their own mess up What B.S. Peace</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 2/8/2020.

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of Karen@votaws.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 06, 2020 11:24 AM  
**To:** citycouncil  
**Subject:** Contact City Council  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Karen Votaw
Your Email	Karen@votaws.com
Your Phone	503-559-6224
Street	1810 Cottage st ne
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97301
Message	I know you have been talking about Salem's homeless people. I wondered if you had read about what Finland is doing. Please read and consider this as a solution. The homeless need our help. <a href="https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2019/jun/03/its-a-miracle-helsinki-radical-solution-to-homelessness">https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2019/jun/03/its-a-miracle-helsinki-radical-solution-to-homelessness</a>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 2/6/2020.



## Amy Johnson

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**From:** lorrie walker <dakotalor@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 10, 2020 2:43 PM  
**To:** citycouncil; Steve Powers; Chuck Bennett; Jerry Moore  
**Cc:** Walker, Lorrie  
**Subject:** Submit for Council Testimony

All,  
I am respectfully requesting a review of the city of Salem ban on tent shelters. Everyone needs shelter from the elements, wind, rain.

A more relaxed or lenient proposal is long overdue.

Restrooms. In the middle of the night when all public restrooms are locked by 8 pm people are left with no where to relieve themselves. I believe more people are being cited and given warnings to stay out of downtown perimeter. Many do not understand. Many need mental health help. Marion County Mental Health Department nor the state of Oregon are offering assistance where these people are.

They still have no where to go to go to the bathroom except outside somewhere. We all need facilities to relieve ourselves. They do too.

Salem desperately needs public restrooms for people.

Respectfully,

Lorrie Walker

Salem / SCAN resident

Sent from my iPhone