

# CITY OF SALEM

## Written Testimony

### City Council

555 Liberty St SE  
Salem, OR 97301

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**Tuesday, March 17, 2020**

**6:00 PM**

**Council Chambers**

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**Joint Emergency Meeting of the City Council, Salem Housing Authority, and Urban  
Renewal Agency**

**\*\*Watch the meeting live, in real time on Comcast Cable CCTV Channel 21, or  
watch on the CCTV YouTube channel.\*\***

- 2.a.**     [20-123](#)     Temporary suspension of City Council Rules, URA Rules and SHA  
Bylaws regarding public meeting procedures.

Ward(s): All Wards

Councilor(s): All Councilors, URA Board Members, and SHA  
Commission Members

Neighborhood(s): All Neighborhoods

Result Area(s): Good Governance and Safe Community.

**Recommendation:**

Suspend rules and adopt temporary procedures for public meetings to address public health issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including suspending oral public comment and limiting the number of people at a public meeting to 25 people.

**Attachments:**     [Written Testimony received 3-17-20](#)

*Add - Written Testimony.*

- 2.b.**     [20-124](#)     Declaration of state of emergency related to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Ward(s): All Wards

Councilor(s): All Councilors

Neighborhood(s): All Neighborhoods

Result Area(s): Good Governance; Safe Community;

**Recommendation:**

Adopt resolution no. 2020-18, declaring a state of emergency within the city of Salem related to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

**Attachments:**     [RESOLUTION NO 2020-18 031720](#)

[City of Salem Letter 2020-18](#)

[Written Testimony received by 5:00 p.m. 3-17-20](#)

*Add - Written Testimony.*

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** Les Ruark <leswruark@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2020 3:08 PM  
**To:** citycouncil; Chuck Bennett  
**Cc:** Steve Powers; Dan Atchison; CityRecorder; Kathy Ursprung; Vanessa Nordyke; Cara Kaser  
**Subject:** Public Comment.

For the record  
at this evening's meeting.

17 March 2020  
*Via email*

Mayor Chuck Bennett  
and Members of the Salem City Council  
City of Salem  
Salem, Oregon

Mayor; council members:

Action taken by council this evening should in no way preclude submission to it of, or its ability to meaningfully consider, *written* public comment (electronic or hard copy)—as I'm understanding and trusting it won't.

Council should also ensure its action this evening actually directs city staff to utilize wherever possible, and (if needed) enhance to the degree reasonably and fiscally possible, the city's use of telephonic, electronic and digital mediums, as well as video and other social media platforms, throughout the duration of the emergency declaration, to enable the public (as best it will be able to) to continue participating, as easily and directly as possible, in council's and all of the city's deliberative proceedings, advisory body meetings, and city-sponsored events.

Sincerely,

Les Ruark

LES RUARK  
[leswruark@gmail.com](mailto:leswruark@gmail.com)  
(503) 931-9145

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** REBECCA BEAMAN <bb4892@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2020 3:09 PM  
**To:** citycouncil  
**Subject:** Covid-19 Pandemic: Homeless Population

Dear Councilors,

Please do not forget to address the homeless when you consider measures Salem should take to curb the pandemic. You should be advised by competent medical authorities on whether your proposed measures properly remove the homeless from the transmission chains. Leaving them in the city center, unsheltered, without toilet facilities, while shutting down the few businesses that allow them to eat and drink would be inhumane.

Please consider allowing groups to feed the homeless -- wherever it is possible to do so -- without regard to whatever your plan or strategy was before the pandemic came to us.

Please consider allowing the homeless to erect tents -- wherever it is possible to do so -- without regard to whatever your plan or strategy was before the pandemic came to us. Shelters would be hotbeds of contagion and should be shut down.

You must consider measures to allow the homeless to be "quarantined" somehow -- you have to testing capability to test them wholesale, and leaving them to wander and continue to catch and transmit this virus would be foolish. Whatever measures you consider for the housed must have a parallel in the homeless community.

Becky Beaman  
Ward 7

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** Ellen Massey <ellenammassey@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2020 1:16 PM  
**To:** citycouncil  
**Subject:** Point of concern for emergency meeting

Hello,

I wanted to bring a comment of concern during this crucial time in our community. The fact that colleges, both community colleges and state schools, are still open and fully functional. By choosing to remain open, it is putting their staff, employees and communities at risk.

Other states are being much more proactive in combating this pandemic. And it doesn't seem the governor nor the colleges in Oregon are taking this situation seriously. Additionally, they have only moved the start of Spring term 1 week later than originally planned while staying open and fully operational. I have not heard the governor make a single comment about the expectations of the colleges in the state. And I hope the council uses this emergency meeting to address this lack of responsibility from Chemeketa Community College and other colleges in the state.

This seems to be a disregard for truly making an effort to stop the spread of this sickness and protect the communities we pledge to serve.

I look forward to hearing your remarks tonight during the council meeting.

Best wishes  
Ellen

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** lorrie walker <dakotalor@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2020 2:17 PM  
**To:** citycouncil; CityRecorder; Jerry Moore; Steve Powers; commissioners@co.marion.or.us; sen.petercourtney@oregonlegislature.gov; Rep.TinaKotek@oregonlegislature.gov  
**Cc:** Jimmy Jones; Lynelle Wilcox; Delana Beaton; Pamela Watson; Kenneth Houghton; Linda Strike; Jonathan Bach  
**Subject:** Salem / state/ nation/ Covid 19 crisis

All,

Salem City Council emergency meeting.

1) Please address the needs of unsheltered citizens. Places they can go to. A place to pitch a tent. Food. Water. Restrooms. Hand washing.

Fliers. Educating. Testing for them. Who is advocating for their well being? People who are too mentally ill to advocate for themselves? Too sick to understand.

2) This past Sunday I saw another person i had known from Oregon State Hospital, discharged and living downtown. I talked with him. He said he got out in February. Living by Rite Aid now, too.

3) No response from County Commissioners so far to this crisis to citizens or in regard to unsheltered. I can only hope they are working with the city.

3) What advice is the governor or Oregon Health authority giving for unsheltered ?

4) Thanks to those who have been to the shelters and are involved. Councilors; Hoy, Nordyke, Anderson, Leung, City Manager Powers. Hope I didn't miss anyone.

Awaiting response. It takes a village.

Advocates can assist too.

Respectfully,

Lorrie Walker  
Guardian, Advocate,  
Salem, Or.

Sent from my iPhone

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of self\_marye@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2020 9:55 PM  
**To:** citycouncil  
**Subject:** Contact City Council  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Mary E Self
Your Email	self_marye@yahoo.com
Your Phone	5033649279
Street	4765 Buffalo Dr. SE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97317
Message	In light of the COIVD-19 I am imploring the Council to address our homeless community. They are gathered together throughout Salem. Since all gatherings are being canceled, can't they camp out at cascade gateway park (or another large area that can't be used right now) so they can actually practice some social distancing. Thank you

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 3/16/2020.

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** Pamela Watson <ppw30@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2020 4:34 PM  
**To:** Chuck Bennett; citycouncil; CityRecorder  
**Subject:** Covid 19 meeting

Good late afternoon,

I am writing to encourage you all to be bold tonight in your decisions on how to handle our unsheltered population and Covid 19.

I feel it is imperative that at least temporarily the unsheltered be given a tent and sleeping bag to disperse from the downtown area and spread out.

We have only begun to see this virus spread, in the days ahead it will only increase.

We must do what is humane and right. We are taking drastic measures for our sheltered community. We need to do the same for our vulnerable unsheltered.

In hopes that higher angels prevail tonight.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Pamella Watson

Sent from my iPad

**Amy Johnson**

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**From:** Leanne Spivey <leannespivey@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2020 4:55 PM  
**To:** citycouncil  
**Subject:** Public Testimony

How is the distancing helping when my husband still has to go to work and is exposed to all his coworkers? He brings home anything he is exposed to and I have COPD and heart valve issues and am on supplemental oxygen, so anything he is exposed to I am exposed to unless he lives in the garage. It seems like platitudes to close restaurants and bars and schools when people are still going to work and exposed to potential virus due to asymptomatic carriers. And why are they saying anyone who wants a test can get one when my own dr told me they do not have tests available to the public?

Sent from my iPad