CITY OF SALEM

Written Testimony #1

City Council

555 Liberty St SE
Salem, OR 97301

Monday, November 9, 2020 6:00 PM Virtual Meeting

5.a. 20-407 Motion from Councilor Vanessa Nordyke regarding establishing a mobile response unit.

Ward(s): All Wards
Councilor(s): All Councilors
Neighborhood(s): All Neighborhoods

Attachments: Public Comments received.pdf

Public Comments received by 2:00 p.m. 11-9-20

Add - Written Testimony.

Amy Johnson

From: Amber K Cooper <estrella50488@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 6, 2020 8:03 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Mobile Support Unit

To whom it concerns,

As an individual who is a home owner in Salem and invested in this community, I would like to express my support for the initiative to create mobile support units in Salem.

We've seen this play out well in Eugene with their CAHOOTS program and we can make it work here, too.

It makes a lot of sense, and it saves a lot of cents.

Thank you for this period of time that public opinion is being collected and I hope to hear more soon on this initiative moving forward.

Warmly,
Your neighbor, Amber C.

Amy Johnson

From: Autumn Knights <autumnfaith00@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 6:42 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Salem needs a mobile response unit

Hello, I am emailing you to say that I agree with councilor Nordyke's proposal of starting a mobile response unit in Salem. Thank you.
-Autumn Knights

Amy Johnson

From: Alex Korsunsky <alexkorsunsky@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 9:21 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: yesterday's protests and policing

I was disgusted in what I saw at yesterday's protests, both during my visits downtown and reported by other sources. Once again, the Salem PD aggressively policed and declared illegal a peaceful protest by the left while standing by as heavily armed militias drank publicly and intimidated and assaulted people. Once again, police arrived armored for battle against unarmed civilians while sending bike cops to watch the militias from a distance and apparently decline to check their concealed carry permits etc. This is entirely inappropriate. These tactics must change - and if this is what our tax dollars are being spent on, then those dollars must be spent elsewhere, on city departments that actually provide useful services on an equal basis. A good step in that direction would be adopting a version of Eugene's Cahoots model, so that in the event of a 911 call, the responders will be people with relevant skills and training to not make a bad situation worse.

Alex Korsunsky

865 Kingwood Dr NW
Salem, OR 97304

Amy Johnson

From: Angela Berry <sassgardian21@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 11:40 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Cahoots program

Hello,

I am writing to you in support of Councilor Nordyke's upcoming motion to implement a mobile response unit for Salem. I am very excited to show my support for this idea, as it is something I think would benefit all of our citizens.

If you are unfamiliar, a mobile response unit is used to address community needs that the police aren't equipped or trained to handle. Eugene has been using this model for over 30 years, and they have seen a savings of over $8,000,000 per year in public safety expenditures. The Eugene model is called CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets). CAHOOTS deals with a wide range of mental health related issues, including conflict resolution, welfare checks, substance abuse, threats to self harm, and more. They use de-escalation and harm reduction techniques to achieve these goals. In 2019, out of 24,000 calls, less than .06% required police assistance.

Councilor Nordyke's plan for a mobile response team in Salem is perfect for the current needs of our community. Most business owners prefer to call a mobile response unit to respond to these sorts of needs. As you can see, this program would save our city money while also serving the needs of our diverse community. Please vote in support.

Best regards,
The McHatton family

Amy Johnson

From: Avery Pheil <pheil.avery@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 7, 2020 8:22 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Implement CAHOOTS program in Salem

Hello,

As a lifetime resident of Salem, I want better for all people in our city. We need a mobile response unit to help people struggling with mental health and homelessness. They are our neighbors and we must care for each other.

I enthusiastically support the implementation of a CAHOOTS program in Salem.

Thank you, and I look forward to community-focused changed in our city.

Sincerely,
Avery Pheil
588 Rural Ave S, Salem, OR 97302

Amy Johnson

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of afscme2067president@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 8:42 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Attachments: Letter - cahoots support-2020-11-09.pdf

Your Name	Kathy Knock
Your Email	afscme2067president@gmail.com
Your Phone	971-304-6145
Street	1400 Tandem Avenue NE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97301
Message	The AFSCME 2067 Executive Board is writing to convey support for the City of Salem to explore establishment of a CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets) program in Salem.

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 11/8/2020.

Kathy Knock President (971) 304-6145
Steve Hall Vice President (503) 551-4282
Website www.afscme2067.org

Union Hall
1400 Tandem Avenue NE
Salem Oregon 97301

City of Salem **Local 2067** A.F.S.C.M.E.

November 9, 2020

To Salem City Council:

The AFSCME 2067 Executive Board is writing to convey support for the City of Salem to explore establishment of a CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets) program in Salem. Our local is committed to the City's goal to make Salem a safe and livable community. We believe providing first responders with specific training in crises involving mental illness, homelessness, and addiction will make significant strides in achieving those goals.

Many Salem employees work in and around the growing number of community members in need without the resources necessary to assist them. Salem employees from Public Works, Parks, Parking, Housing and other departments are having to deal with individuals and groups who live on Salem's streets and in Salem's parks just to get their daily work done for the City. They see a lot of people in need of exactly the services that a CAHOOTS program provides. In addition, when members of the public encounter these problems, they often look for someone wearing a City of Salem logo with the expectation that anyone working for the City can help.

The Eugene CAHOOTS program has over three decades of proven results, making it a reliable model that Salem should begin pursuing.

Sincerely,

Kathy Knock
AFSCME Local 2067 President

Amy Johnson

From: bo ho <bo.ho.kin@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 9:04 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: CAHOOTS

Good morning

I'm sending this email in support of Salem creating a program similar to Eugene's CAHOOTS. This system will help our community members with mental health and addiction issues without further traumatizing them by dispatching police officers. It will also allow for police officers to expend their time and resources elsewhere in the community.

As someone who has a history of mental illness in her family, I can count quite a few occasions that a CAHOOTS type of program in Salem could have helped my family members receive the care they need instead of being put into the system because a police officer was involved.

Thank you
Bonique Hollinrake

Amy Johnson

From: Becky Isom <becky.isom@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 4:52 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: CAHOOTS Support for Salem Oregon

Hello,

I am writing to you in support of Councilor Nordyke's upcoming motion to implement a mobile response unit for Salem. I am very excited to show my support for this idea, as it is something I think would benefit all of our citizens.

If you are unfamiliar, a mobile response unit is used to address community needs that the police aren't equipped or trained to handle. Eugene has been using this model for over 30 years, and they have seen a savings of over $8,000,000 per year in public safety expenditures. The Eugene model is called CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets). CAHOOTS deals with a wide range of mental health related issues, including conflict resolution, welfare checks, substance abuse, threats to self harm, and more. They use de-escalation and harm reduction techniques to achieve these goals. In 2019, out of 24,000 calls, less than .06% required police assistance.

Councilor Nordyke's plan for a mobile response team in Salem is perfect for the current needs of our community. Most business owners prefer to call a mobile response unit to respond to these sorts of needs. As you can see, this program would save our city money while also serving the needs of our diverse community. Please vote in support.

Best regards,
Rebecca Isom

I know nothing with any certainty, but the sight of the stars makes me dream - Vincent Van Gogh

Amy Johnson

From: Caroline Brown <carolinejobrown@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 9:49 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: CAHOOTS

My dearest City Council Members,

Please know that I am in incredible support of bringing Cahoots, or a cahoots like program to Salem. Similar to the model that Eugene has. Y'all can actually do something about our houseless and mental health crisis in Salem, as the two often go hand in hand. If you give a fuck (like you pretend to) I think you should also support it. Thanks boo.

Love,
Caroline Brown
Ward
15 year Salem Resident

Amy Johnson

From: Clair Clark <clairclark86@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 10:37 AM
To: citycouncil; CityRecorder
Cc: Tom Andersen; Vanessa Nordyke
Subject: Support for item 5.a.

Mayor Bennett and Salem City Councilors,

As a resident of Salem in Ward 2, I am writing in support of the motion from Councilor Nordyke to direct city staff to develop a blueprint for a Mobile Response Unit.

Too many recent events have shown the prevailing system of responding to mental health crises, houselessness, and hardship is ineffective, wasteful, and harmful to those the system is purported to help. We have seen in our own community sending armed police to tense, but not life-threatening situations, can escalate mental health and houselessness crises and traumatize those involved. It's time to try something else. The CAHOOTS model, developed in Eugene, has proven to be successful at deescalating and providing help to people in crisis in a cost-effective way.

Again, I urge you to lend your support to creating a mobile response unit to ensure all of Salem's residents have access to safe, compassionate, non-stigmatizing care.

Thank you,

Clair Clark (she/her)
Salem Resident, Ward 2

Amy Johnson

From: Caitlin Adele <caitlinadele33@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 6, 2020 8:17 AM
To: citycouncil; CityRecorder
Subject: Mobile response unit motion

Dear City Council members and others this may concern,

Council Women Vanessa Nordyke will be proposing a Mobile Response Unit for the city of Salem. I am writing to urge you to support this motion!

A November 2016 study published in the American Journal of Preventative Medicine estimated that 20% to 50% of fatal encounters with law enforcement involved an individual with a mental illness. I personally think this is a very low estimate.
The CAHOOTS model demonstrates that these fatal encounters are not inevitable. Last year, out of a total of roughly 24,000 CAHOOTS calls, police backup was requested only 150 times.

Again please support this motion, Salem would really benefit from a program like this.

Sincerely,
Dr. Caitlin Fewx, Pharm.D

Amy Johnson

From: Cindy Francis <cindyfrancis50@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 2:47 PM
To: Chuck Bennett; cara.kaser@gmail.com; Brad Nanke; Tom Andersen; Jim Lewis; Vanessa Nordyke; citycouncil; Matthew Ausec; Chris Hoy; CityRecorder
Subject: Cahoots style service

As you all know our country faces a challenging situation in how police departments reinvent the way they respond and interact with citizens. The Homeless Coalition fully supports Vanessa Nordyke's proposal for Salem to develop a blueprint for implementing our own version of Eugene's CAHOOTS program (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets).

The CAHOOTS team model was implemented 31 years ago by the City of Eugene and has been a very successful national model of a community based public safety program. The CAHOOTS team responds to crisis situations involving people experiencing mental illness crises, substance abuse, suicide prevention, and conflict resolution. CAHOOTS serves sheltered and unsheltered individuals by dispatching trained mental health workers and experienced nurses or EMT's to respond to those calls, instead of uniformed police officers who carry a gun.

Data and our own experiences reflect that the social worker/medical worker team model results in more effective outcomes for the individuals in crisis, as it also leaves police free to respond to other calls that need a police officer. That saved time equates to huge cost savings as well.

We have personally witnessed situations and heard from multiple officers themselves that their authoritative role can escalate many crisis situations simply because the individual in crisis is more afraid and more traumatized by having an officer there with a gun. CAHOOTS' less authoritative approach is best overall, and especially so in serving people who are unsheltered and have almost always experienced significant trauma. Many of us have seen first-hand how well non-police approaches work as opposed to a typical response with a uniformed police officer. The need for an improved method for community policing is needed, especially in the light of the growing population of unsheltered individuals and those experiencing mental illness.

United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley already has a van for the city to use for a Crisis Response Unit (CRU) - a Salem version of CAHOOTS. A common objection to Salem implementing a CAHOOTS program is that Salem doesn't have a sobering center, so where will people in crisis go? Yet only 10% of Eugene's CAHOOTS calls involve transporting individuals, so for 90% of their calls, the work is about de-escalation and re-direction, so transportation is moot. That 90% saves 8,000 hours of officer time, and millions of dollars.

The CAHOOTS model saves lives and saves money. When Salem is struggling with a rising population of unsheltered individuals, including many people who struggle with mental illness, and when Salem is struggling to make ends meet financially, a CAHOOTS program enables the results, cost savings, and good fiscal stewardship that we desperately need. Please support Salem in creating and implementing a CRU team as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

More info about CAHOOTS, from their website:

"What is CAHOOTS?

31 years ago the City of Eugene, Oregon developed an innovative community-based public safety system to provide mental health first response for crises involving mental illness, homelessness, and addiction. White Bird Clinic launched CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets) as a community policing initiative in 1989.

The CAHOOTS model has been in the spotlight recently as our nation struggles to reimagine public safety. The program mobilizes two-person teams consisting of a medic (a nurse, paramedic, or EMT) and a crisis worker who has substantial training and experience in the mental health field. The CAHOOTS teams deal with a wide range of mental health-related crises, including conflict resolution, welfare checks, substance abuse, suicide threats, and more, relying on trauma-informed de-escalation and harm reduction techniques. CAHOOTS staff are not law enforcement officers and do not carry weapons; their training and experience are the tools they use to ensure a non-violent resolution of

crisis situations. They also handle non-emergent medical issues, avoiding costly ambulance transport and emergency room treatment.

A November 2016 study published in the American Journal of Preventative Medicine estimated that 20% to 50% of fatal encounters with law enforcement involved an individual with a mental illness. The CAHOOTS model demonstrates that these fatal encounters are not inevitable. Last year, out of a total of roughly 24,000 CAHOOTS calls, police backup was requested only 150 times.

The cost savings are considerable. The CAHOOTS program budget is about $2.1 million annually, while the combined annual budgets for the Eugene and Springfield police departments are $90 million. In 2017, the CAHOOTS teams answered 17% of the Eugene Police Department's overall call volume. The program saves the city of Eugene an estimated $8.5 million in public safety spending annually."

--

Peace, Cindy

Amy Johnson

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of mygardenshoes@yahoo.com
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 7:56 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Attachments: ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Caroline O'Brien
Your Email	mygardenshoes@yahoo.com
Your Phone	3606076108
Street	1692 Carilor Court NE
City	Keizer
State	OR
Zip	97303
Message	Although I am a resident of Keizer, many issues affect both Salem and Keizer residents. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to an issue that is close to me as well as so many others. As a master's prepared nurse I have had the fortune over the years to develop a capacity for understanding that helps me daily in how I deliver care to patients. I am a Home Health nurse, wound care clinician and know a lot about my chosen areas because I have received special training and have experience. I have my limits and know what they are. I could never step into a surgical suite and be able to effectively assist a surgeon in any way. When I hear of a person being killed by a police officer because a family that is in crisis has called 911 for help it breaks my heart. I feel deep sadness for the officer, I feel such sorrow for the person who is harmed and especially for the one who dialed 911 with the hope of getting their loved one the help they need. I understand that Police officers do not have the training to help a person to navigate through a mental health crisis and this is an expectation that is so wrong. Several years ago I was listening to an NPR program on my morning commute to work. It described a program in San Antonio, Texas that is comprised of mental health clinicians and specially trained officers who were sent out to answer these kinds of calls. I don't remember all the details but the team knew the young man who was in crisis and were able to find him and get him to calmly agree to be transported an Emergency Room that was staffed with clinicians who could actually help him. Recently I have been reading about the Cahoots program in Eugene and was thrilled when I heard that Councilor Nordyke was talking about how this type of team could be developed here as well. This team can benefit this community in so many ways such as: decreased financial burden, allow police officers to deal with higher priority issues they are trained for, provide a wonderful service to those in a mental health crisis and I wonder how a community can actually recover from the loss of life in a situation such as this. As I have said I do not live in Salem but I am throwing my support behind this move as I see so much benefit. I feel as though I am a shared citizen in Salem/Keizer.

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 11/5/2020.

Amy Johnson

From: Chelsea Peterson <chelseapeterson74@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 11:44 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: CAHOOTS Program

Good morning,

I am writing in support of Councilor Nordyke's proposal to implement the CAHOOTS program, or a similar program to help address the needs of our community that may not necessarily require a police response or presence. In doing so, this will free our valued police officers to investigate and pursue criminals while helping to ensure safety in our community.

In contrast, a CAHOOTS program will provide valuable resources for mental health services, crisis intervention, housing and family support which is so widely needed in the community as well. In partnership with local law enforcement, these agencies can address the root of the issues and hopefully serve to prevent crimes.

Additionally, this approach could save the city of Salem millions of dollars that could be reinvested into schools and other integral programs in our community.

Kind regards,

Chelsea Peterson

Sent from my iPhone

Amy Johnson

From: Cynthia Scott <cjscott.ore@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 7:45 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Solution to Homeless

First, I know no one has a solution for he current national homeless crisis, the homelessness is by choice or circumstances. However, it behooves a society to be open to ideas from its own people as well as from others.

For example, the Live Free Recovery program in New Hampshire has proven to be very successful and is expanding. This is New Hampshire! Surely Oregon could implement such a program here?

I support trying the idea of Eugene's CAHOOTS, Mobile Response Unit. We haven't developed any successful plan ourselves. We, like many American cities, use punitive measures. We have done so for over 50 years. I remember when mental facilities shut down and their residents were turned out on the streets, most without treatment or support.

To be very blunt. You either need to decide to fully support an attempt to change the trajectory of the problem. Or jail them. Or kill them. The latter is what you are doing by having no concrete plans to reverse the situation.

Please consider carefully the funding request for a Mobile Response Unit. Ultimately, it would provide both a cost-effective way to reach those in need. We would avoid distasteful media exposure of our current punitive measures. Additionally, it would provide a possible positive future for more people if we are able to be supportive of people in crisis.

Make no mistake, this is often driven by mental health issues. It is not solely funding issue. We cannot continue to expect our law enforcement and retail workers to provide ad hoc interventions.

I will never forget seeing people camping on the sidewalks in front of the Rite Aid and defunct Nordstrom's buildings. In all my years, I never expected to see such a sight in America. We should be ashamed of ourselves.

Thank you,
Cynthia Scott

Amy Johnson

From: carolyne.r.thrasher@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 6:15 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Mobile response unit

I am in favor of Salem establishing a mental health mobile response unit, similar to Eugene's CAHOOTS.

I believe it will:
1) save the city money
2) free up law enforcement hours to do what law enforcement is actually hired to do (solve crimes, prevent crime)
3) it is a more humane way to respond to humans suffering acute mental crises.

Thank you!

Carolyne Thrasher
Manager of a 3-Gen Household

Sent from my iPhone

Amy Johnson

From: Danielle Hoffman <dalazzaro@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 7:11 PM
To: citycouncil; CityRecorder; Chuck Bennett; Vanessa Nordyke
Subject: Moble Response Unit Support

Hello,

I am writing in support of the proposal to implement a mobile response unit for the city. It's the right thing to do to build community trust, to support individuals with accessing appropriate mental health services and to avoid unnecessary police presence where they aren't needed, etc. It's appropriately resourcing or community.

We need to make this shift and have seen success in similar efforts such as the nationally recognized mobile response unit in the City of Eugene, CAHOOTS.

CAHOOTS saves about $8 million a year in public safety spending because they are a cheaper alternative to dispatching police and transporting folks to the emergency room. The CAHOOTS model has been in the spotlight recently as our nation struggles to reimagine public safety.

It's time we make this shift in Salem.

Thank you,

Danielle Hoffman
3585 Crestview Dr S

Amy Johnson

From: Dave Maceira <bigtoys70@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 1:37 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Mobile Response Unit Proposal

Mr. Mayor, esteemed Salem City Council members. As you all know our country faces a challenging situation in how police departments reinvent they way they respond and interact with citizens suffering through various states of mental illness and performing conflict resolution. With that in mind, I would like to voice my full support of the a recommendation to be put forward by Vanessa Nordyke in the formation of a Mobile Response Unit for the City of Salem.

As you may know a CAHOOTS team model was implemented 31 years ago by the City of Eugene and has been very successful community based public safety program. The CAHOOTS team responds to crisis involving person's suffering with mental illness, substance abuse, suicide prevention, conflict resolution and the unsheltered population. Therefore, rather than approaching volatile situations with uniformed police officers that can potentially escalate people involved they use well trained mental health workers and experienced nurses, or EMT's. I personally believe that a non-violent less authoritative approach to handling the population we serve is best.

As a volunteer for our unsheltered neighbors and those with metal illness and drug additions for the past 4 years, I have witnessed first hand how non-confrontational methods of approach work as opposed to a typical response with a unformed police officer. For example, a severely drug induced guest at a warming shelter last fall was visibly hallucinating. The effects of the substance he had taken were preventing him from standing, walking, communicating or even comprehending his environment.

As we worked to gain his trust and calm him down he relaxed and sat quietly with other guests. We were unaware that police had been called. A female officer was the first to arrive on scene. At this point the person became curious about the officer but remained relaxed and manageable. However, when a second male patrolman arrived, the look on the guests face changed. He became more combative and agitated for no reason. Within few seconds he looked up angrily at the officer and began shouting obscenities at him. Suddenly he jumped out of his chair and lunged towards another guest. At this point he was subdued by the officers and removed.

Unfortunately, this is not the only instance where a unformed response changed how a guest behaved. I'm sure there are others who may share similar experiences.

It is for this reason an improved method for community policing is needed. Especially in the light of the growing population of unsheltered individuals and those suffering with mental illness.

Thank you for your time.

Best regards,

David Maceira

Site Manager

Church @ the Park

email: bigtoys70@hotmail.com

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Amy Johnson

From: Donald Phillips <donald.phillips@westcare.com>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 12:24 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Testimony Regarding Mobile Response Unit

To Whom It May Concern,
My name is Donald Phillips and I am a former army medic, combat veteran, and current mental health counselor working with the homeless veteran population. I wanted to submit my testimony in regards to the benefits that may be had by implementing a mobile response team that includes a qualified mental health provider. Research has indicated that individuals that fall within the homeless population suffer from Substance Use Disorders and Significant Mental Health Disorders at a disproportionately higher rate than the average American citizen. Currently if someone were to have a mental health breakdown or symptoms of a significant mental health disorder, such as schizophrenia, the only option available to someone who saw it would be to call the police. While I am unaware of all of the current training the Salem Police department has, I do know that many officers across our nation do not have a background in mental health crisis first aid. A police officer responding to a call regarding a homeless individual has very few options at their disposal as to what to do in the situation, at times needing to restrain the individual and taking them into custody. From officers that I have talked to many are unaware of the resources available to some of these individuals that they come into contact with out on the street. While serving the homeless veteran population I have had officers who happened to know that our program exists bring us two veterans that otherwise could have ended up in a "cite and release" situation. One of those individuals is someone we were able to bring into transitional housing with positive prospects into transitioning them into permanent housing and ending their homelessness. Having individuals who can respond to situations involving bizarre presentations with the homeless populations and are trained in deescalating and referring to resources could increase the frequency of these individuals actually getting help and breaking the cycle of incarceration and homelessness that many of these citizens (some of which developed factors contributing to homelessness while in military service) have found themselves trapped in. Intervening in a crisis situation and giving someone hope instead of punishment would allow for more opportunity to seek treatment for mental health and substance use disorders experienced by homeless individuals in our area, and hopefully reduce the local homeless population over time.
Regards,

Donald Phillips, *Mental Health Services Director*
WestCare Foundation **DBA** VETcare Transitional Program
2933 Center Street, Unit 2
Salem, OR 97301
Email: donald.phillips@westcare.com
Cell: 503-586-6734
Office- (503)364-1728

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Amy Johnson

From: David Winkler <dwinkler18@mail.wou.edu>
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 2:22 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Salem Mobile Response Unit

Hello,

I am writing to you in support of Councilor Nordyke's upcoming motion to implement a mobile response unit for Salem. I am very excited to show my support for this idea, as it is something I think would benefit all of our citizens.

If you are unfamiliar, a mobile response unit is used to address community needs that the police aren't equipped or trained to handle. Eugene has been using this model for over 30 years, and they have seen a savings of over $8,000,000 per year in public safety expenditures. The Eugene model is called CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets). CAHOOTS deals with a wide range of mental health related issues, including conflict resolution, welfare checks, substance abuse, threats to self harm, and more. They use de-escalation and harm reduction techniques to achieve these goals. In 2019, out of 24,000 calls, less than .06% required police assistance.

Councilor Nordyke's plan for a mobile response team in Salem is perfect for the current needs of our community. Most business owners prefer to call a mobile response unit to respond to these sorts of needs. As you can see, this program would save our city money while also serving the needs of our diverse community. Please vote in support.

Best regards, David Winkler

Amy Johnson

From: Emma Jonas <emma.pace.jonas@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 11:28 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: In support of CAHOOTS

Hello,

I am writing to you in support of Councilor Nordyke's upcoming motion to implement a mobile response unit for Salem. I am very excited to show my support for this idea, as it is something I think would benefit all of our citizens.

If you are unfamiliar, a mobile response unit is used to address community needs that the police aren't equipped or trained to handle. Eugene has been using this model for over 30 years, and they have seen a savings of over $8,000,000 per year in public safety expenditures. The Eugene model is called CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets). CAHOOTS deals with a wide range of mental health related issues, including conflict resolution, welfare checks, substance abuse, threats to self harm, and more. They use de-escalation and harm reduction techniques to achieve these goals. In 2019, out of 24,000 calls, less than .06% required police assistance.

Councilor Nordyke's plan for a mobile response team in Salem is perfect for the current needs of our community. Most business owners prefer to call a mobile response unit to respond to these sorts of needs. As you can see, this program would save our city money while also serving the needs of our diverse community. Please vote in support.

Best regards,
Emma Jonas

Amy Johnson

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of Cervantesemily7@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 11:13 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Attachments: ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Emily Terry
Your Email	Cervantesemily7@gmail.com
Your Phone	5039103457
Street	PO Box 7551
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97301
Message	Hello, I am a Salem resident - born and raised here. I'm also a resident who is part of a marginalized community and often overlooked and underrepresented on several levels. I'm writing in support of the city of Salem adopting the CAHOOTS program that mirrors the CAHOOTS program in Eugene OR. As a resident who has roots in the city of Salem, I have seen first hand the damage that the lack of quality and immediate mental health care has done. We have seen community members murdered by police (Chase Hammer), we have seen our homeless community over policed due to no other supports being available. This program would lower the usage of police as a weapon against the community who needs access to support rather than violence and harassment. We would save money in the long run. We would make Salem a city that prioritizes it's citizens over the paychecks of police officers. We would reduce the amount of ER visits. We would be able to actually support those who truly need it. The overall cost is 8.5 million dollars - and I'm asking our city counselors to do their due diligence and research the pros and cons of this program. And do what is in the best interest of the residents of Salem. We deserve better. We deserve access to quality and immediate mental health supports. Our police force deserves to not be the only response option.

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 11/9/2020.

Amy Johnson

From: Geoff Parks Jr. <thepaperwritesyou@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 12:08 PM
To: citycouncil

Hello,

I am writing to you in support of Councilor Nordyke's upcoming motion to implement a mobile response unit for Salem. I am very excited to show my support for this idea, as it is something I think would benefit all of our citizens.

If you are unfamiliar, a mobile response unit is used to address community needs that the police aren't equipped or trained to handle. Eugene has been using this model for over 30 years, and they have seen a savings of over $8,000,000 per year in public safety expenditures. The Eugene model is called CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets). CAHOOTS deals with a wide range of mental health related issues, including conflict resolution, welfare checks, substance abuse, threats to self harm, and more. They use de-escalation and harm reduction techniques to achieve these goals. In 2019, out of 24,000 calls, less than .06% required police assistance.

Councilor Nordyke's plan for a mobile response team in Salem is perfect for the current needs of our community. Most business owners prefer to call a mobile response unit to respond to these sorts of needs. As you can see, this program would save our city money while also serving the needs of our diverse community. Please vote in support.

Best regards,

Geoff Parks Jr

Amy Johnson

From: honey coleman <queenbee_honeyc@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 7, 2020 10:49 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Mobile Response Unit for the City of Salem

Please implement Council Women Vanessa Nordyke proposal of a Mobile Response Unit for the city of Salem.

Homelessness in our city is OFF THE CHAIN! Please act to do something about this growing challenge. At this point I would say it is very close to being out of control.

And regarding sanitation at these sites...

The city or county or state, etc. should provide these camping sites large dumpsters and porta-potties and weekly service to empty them. That would be a simple way to help and improve the perception of these camps for those that see too much garbage as well as helping to keep these areas disease free.

It's time for all of us to do what we can. I am sending LOVING and HEALING energy to all the members of the City Council in the hopes that you will trust in your hearts to come up with some solutions. Bless you as you grapple with this challenge.

PLEASE HELP THESE PEOPLE!!
Honey R. Coleman

Amy Johnson

From: Hannah Martinak <lizardbreath76@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, November 6, 2020 12:07 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Cahoots.

Hello,

This email is to urge you to please look into Cahoots for Salem. It is a very good alternative for calling the police. Cahoots can aid in situations of mental health distress. Police tend to harm people who are calling for mental health situations. Cahoots are trained individuals who can help!! I think this would be an amazing program for Salem, it would also save millions in our police budget.

Thank you!

Sincerely, a resident of Salem and concerned community member.

-Hannah McSmith

Amy Johnson

From: Hollie Oakes-Miller <hollie@holsgem.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 5:05 PM
To: citycouncil; CityRecorder
Subject: Public Comments for 11/9/20 City Council Meeting

City Leaders,

We are writing today in support of Councilor Nordyke's motion that City Council direct staff to present Council with a proposal to implement a mobile response unit for the city including funding options. We suggest that funding could come in whole or in part, from the $4.7 million that the city spends policing our houseless community members.

Gary Miller & Hollie Oakes-Miller
Ward 5

https://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/news/2019/11/29/salem-homelessness-issue-budget-project-draft-report/4324061002/

Amy Johnson

From: Jill Cote <jilliancotee@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 8:35 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [Possible Scam Fraud]Mobile Response Unit

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Dear Salem City Council,

My name is Jill and I live in ward 4. I am writing to you in support of the proposal to implement a mobile response unit in Salem.
Individuals experiencing a mental health crisis and/or homelessness require the grace and compassion provided by mental health professionals and EMTs, not armed law enforcement. Police officers are already overwhelmed with responsibilities. **We need people who are actually trained to work with a mental health crisis**.
It's important that Salem establish a tone of leadership as the state capitol, and a good leader adopts good ideas when they work. The City of Eugene saved an average of $8,000,000 per year through their CAHOOTS program. This is money our city desperately needs to meet the requirements of our community. Not only will a program like CAHOOTS address the needs of our most vulnerable neighbors, it could give the City of Salem more resources to further address those needs and improve the living conditions of all of us.
I want to live in a city where our disabled, neurodiverse, and marginalized neighbors can feel safe seeking help from public services. Please support this motion to implement a mobile response unit in Salem.
Sincerely,
Jill

Amy Johnson

From: Karen Freeman <karenfreeman2906@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 9:51 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Mobile response unit

Hello City Council Members,

We are writing in support of Councilor Nordyke's upcoming motion for a mobile response unit in Salem. We believe this is a humane and compassionate way to work with people in crisis and with those who are mentally ill. It will also be a cost-effective measure for public safety. This is a good idea for our community and we urge you to support the motion. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Karen and Ken Freeman
2625 Sunrise Ave S
Salem

Amy Johnson

From: jean hendron <jenolinka@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 6, 2020 12:25 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: CAHOOTS program in Salem

Please, please, please bring a CAHOOTS program into Salem. I am so-o-o tired of running around putting out brush fires, here. Right now, I'm at the hospital with a woman who camps at Wallace Marine Park. I was simply visiting with a reporter & called out to Mell, who said she needed to go to the hospital. I said I'd be back, in a little while to take her, but when I got back, I realized she needed to get there much sooner & she couldn't walk down to the parking lot, so 2 medics & 2 firemen took a gurney all the way up the trail, to the campsite & got her to the hospital. I'm hoping she doesn't die. If we had CAHOOTS, she may have called for help sooner.

Amy Johnson

From: faharimusicllc@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 12:22 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [Possible Scam Fraud]Cahoots & Racial Justice

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---------- Suspicious threat disclaimer ends here ----------

Hello Salem City Council,

My name is Julianne Jackson and I would like to lend my support to the Cahoots agenda item. I believe that Salem would benefit greatly from the cahoots program and have been educating the public on it and the intersection between mental health and police reform. Further, I would appreciate the opportunity to work with the Salem City Council on a denouement of white supremacy. As a bipoc person in this community I felt increasingly unsafe and Saturday's events at the capitol and then later with Salem Police Departments SWAT/Riot team it is clear to me that Salem's supposed commitment to diversity and inclusion is missing the mark. We must denounce white supremacy. In our city. On our school board. In the way that we police. I look forward to speaking with you further about what this might look like and the reality of making that happen. White supremacy has set up shop here and as a Black person. I for one will not tolerate it.

Julianne Jackson

Amy Johnson

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of carver236@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 12:48 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Attachments: ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Whitney Jagielski
Your Email	carver236@gmail.com
Your Phone	4843581177
Street	7205 Southeast 72nd Avenue
City	Portland
State	OR
Zip	97206
Message	Hello, I am writing to you in support of Councilor Nordyke's upcoming motion to implement a mobile response unit for Salem. I am very excited to show my support for this idea, as it is something I think would benefit all of our citizens. If you are unfamiliar, a mobile response unit is used to address community needs that the police aren't equipped or trained to handle. Eugene has been using this model for over 30 years, and they have seen a savings of over $8,000,000 per year in public safety expenditures. The Eugene model is called CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets). CAHOOTS deals with a wide range of mental health related issues, including conflict resolution, welfare checks, substance abuse, threats to self harm, and more. They use de-escalation and harm reduction techniques to achieve these goals. In 2019, out of 24,000 calls, less than .06% required police assistance. Councilor Nordyke's plan for a mobile response team in Salem is perfect for the current needs of our community. Most business owners prefer to call a mobile response unit to respond to these sorts of needs. As you can see, this program would save our city money while also serving the needs of our diverse community. Please vote in support. Best regards, Whitney Jagielski

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 11/8/2020.

Amy Johnson

From: Janet Lorenzen <jlorenze@willamette.edu>
Sent: Saturday, November 7, 2020 1:49 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Cahoots support

Mayor and CIty Council Members,
Students and faculty that I know at Willamette University are big supporters of the Cahoots model. Cities around the country are using it as a model. It's been cited over and over again in articles and podcasts as a best practice. Sending out a medic and a crisis expert on mental health will help defuse situations and save money.

Not only could the Cahoots model be used for non-emergency calls and some emergency calls, it could also be used for routine questioning of the public that calls for sensitivity. For example, when a student at Willamette University committed suicid last month (Abi Agustin-Paz). It was handled badly by the Salem police department.

First, the police did not tell the media that there was no danger to the public until days after Abi's death was reported. I had neighbors, professors, and students contacting me and asking if there was a murderer on the loose. When I told the Salem police about this (the PR rep) they said that the public should assume that there's no danger to the public unless they are explicitly told that there is a danger to the public. Obviously that perspective was inadequate. And a mental health professional would have known that.

Second, police came to the university to question Abi's friends because even a suicide requires a full investigation. Abi's friends, who are students of color, told me that the police "scared the shit out of them." The police did not explain that the questioning was routine and their visit restarted the rumors that Abi's death was a murder - which just added fear to grief. Having a social worker come to campus would have been preferable and would have avoided retraumatizing students who fear the police.

If the Salem police department wants to rebuild any kind of relationship with Willamette University students changes must happen.

-Professor Janet Lorenzen

--
Janet A. Lorenzen, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Sociology
Willamette University
900 State Street
Salem, OR 97301
jlorenze@willamette.edu
Office: Smullin 218
Office Phone: 503-370-6313
Affiliations: Women's & Gender Studies, American Ethnic Studies, Sustainability Institute

Amy Johnson

From: Justin W <justin.wanner@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 2:38 PM
To: Chuck Bennett; citycouncil; CityRecorder
Subject: [Possible Scam Fraud]In Favor of CAHOOTS

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My name is Justin Wanner and I am a citizen of Salem in Ward 1. I would like to write in favor of CAHOOTS coming to Salem. As a bartender downtown, I see a lot of people suffering from episodes. Right now my only resource is the police. And I have seen first hand that police presence only creates trauma for the person and does not give them resources and care that they need. If anything, they arrest them and cause further harm to them because of their lack of training in the subject of mental illness. Having to decide between calling the cops and harming the person or handling it myself (who is also not properly trained) is a terrible situation to be in.
Having a number for us to call where the people who arrive are trained at deescalation and handling mental illnesses would be an improvement in helping those who are suffering the most and helping heal our community and destigmatize those who are suffering from crises. They are not criminals, they are in need of aid.
Bringing CAHOOTS into Salem would be a great step forward into building our community.

Thank you for your time.

And with great sincerity,
Justin Wanner

Amy Johnson

From: Jane Malone <flickingjane@outlook.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 1:24 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: CAHOOTS in Salem

[redacted]

The cahoots program is amazing, and works well in Eugene. I totally support the idea of bringing it to Salem, and defunding the police department appropriately in order to fund this program. As a citizen of West Salem for the past three years, I'd love to see more progressive actions in regard to police duties. For example, this CAHOOTS program could take off some of the pressure and you could apply it to keeping people from open carrying downtown, as it is reckless, and the very definition of intimidation.

In short: Yes to CAHOOTS

Sunshine,
Jane

flickingjane@outlook.com
971.239.6614

flickingjane.com
maloneybologna.com

references on request

Amy Johnson

From: Kris Bifulco <kris.bifulco@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 8:55 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Support for Mobile Response Unit; item 5.a

Dear City Council,

I'm writing in strong support of Councilor Nordyke's resolution to establish a mobile support team for the City of Salem.

As a mental health educator who specializes in suicide, I make it very clear to my audiences that calling 911/police should be an absolute last resort for mental health crises because safety cannot be assured by engaging emergency services. I make sure to stop and talk with my audience about why certain communities are at higher risk of worse outcomes if emergency services are involved. We talk about other harm reduction methods if 911 needs to be called anyway. I support this resolution because adopting a CAHOOTS-like mobile response unit would mean that I could say with confidence that an emergency response can be helpful instead of harmful.

There are many reasons why crisis mental health responses need to be divorced from law enforcement interaction. There is robust data that shows nearly a quarter of all people killed by police had suffered from an acute mental illness at the time of their death. While these killings are rare, they are incredibly tragic and extremely avoidable and we should be doing everything we can to do better. CAHOOTS has been shown to be effective at getting people the right help with minimal trauma and even works as a cost-saving program because of its efficiency. Further, people generally recover from mental illness more effectively in community-based settings vs in the judicial system or through hospitalizations. The fact that our judicial system is the largest provider of mental healthcare in the nation is unconscionable and ineffective. We have the opportunity to change that now and we should not waste any time.

Best,
Kris Bifulco

Amy Johnson

From: Karen Freeman <karenfreeman2906@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 6, 2020 10:57 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Fwd: RE: Mobile response unit

Good morning,

Please see below my message to the City Council as pertains to the November 9 City Council meeting.

Thank you,
Karen Freeman

Begin forwarded message:

From: Tami Carpenter <Tcarpenter@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: **AUTOMATED RESPONSE RE: Mobile response unit**
Date: November 6, 2020 at 8:36:26 AM PST
To: Karen Freeman <karenfreeman2906@gmail.com>

Thank you for your email to the City of Salem, we appreciate you reaching out to us. This email confirms your email has been delivered to the City Council.

If you are commenting on a City Council / Urban Renewal / Salem Housing Authority current agenda item would you please send your comments to CityRecorder@cityofsalem.net.

If your email requires a response please know it has been forwarded to the appropriate department and staff will be contacting you.

Thank you.
Tami Carpenter
Executive Assistant
City of Salem|Mayor/City Manager's Office

-----Original Message-----
From: Karen Freeman <karenfreeman2906@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 9:51 PM
To: citycouncil <citycouncil@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Mobile response unit

Hello City Council Members,

We are writing in support of Councilor Nordyke's upcoming motion for a mobile response unit in Salem. We believe this is a humane and compassionate way to work with people in crisis and with those who are mentally ill. It will also be a cost-effective measure for public safety. This is a good idea for our community and we urge you to support the motion. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Karen and Ken Freeman
2625 Sunrise Ave S
Salem

Amy Johnson

From: Kensi-destiny Handler <kensidestinyhandler@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 6, 2020 3:47 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: CAHOOTS

I am senting this email in support of council person Venessa Nordyke's proposal for a CAHOOTS style program to be deceloped in the salem area.

Amy Johnson

From: Kaellen Hessel <kaellenhessel@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 10:23 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Mobile response unit

Hello,

I'm writing in support of Councilor Nordyke's proposal to direct staff to create a blueprint for a new mobile response unit. Having a unit like CAHOOTS would be a game changer for the whole community. It would help people experiencing a mr tea health crisis get the help they need, relieve some of the work the police do without being fully equipped, potentially cut back on police violence or at least heightened tensions. It would save money while better supporting us all.

Please vote yes on the proposal.

Thanks!

Kaellen Hessel
South Salem

Amy Johnson

From: Kira Nguyen-Manahan <knguyen9098@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 5:57 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [Possible Scam Fraud]CAHOOTS Mobile Unit

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Hello

My name is Kira from Keizer. I wanted to email you to urge that you support Vanessa Nordyke's proposal to implement a response mobile unit in Salem. I have friends in Eugene where CAHOOTS has been implemented, and it seems absolutely amazing. The program saves a lot of money while protecting and helping out the local community in a positive way that reduces trauma. I think we all are capable of seeing how police presence might not feel safe for everyone (anyone ever been pulled over and feel your heart race?), having a mental health crisis could easily be worsened for someone once they see law enforcement.

Please support councilor Nordyke's proposal.

Thank you,
Kira Nguyen-Manahan

Amy Johnson

From: Kate Normand <kate.normand@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 6, 2020 4:27 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Salem Needs a Mobile Crisis Unit

Councilors and Mayor Bennett,

I'm a North Salem resident (I live near the border of Wards 1 and 5) writing you to ask for a mobile crisis response unit in Salem.

Salem PD is not adequately trained to handle mental health crises. Often, police presence leads to escalation due to mistrust of the police, and these incidents end in unnecessary incarceration, injury to community members or officers, or death. In cases of mental health crises, we need experienced licensed mental health professionals to help those most vulnerable in our community and provide access to resources.

I am married to a Black person who also experiences mental health challenges. My spouse already fears spending time out in our community because of racism in Salem, including Salem PD. This feeling is compounded by a fear that if they were in crisis, the situation would be mishandled and misunderstood by officers that do not have the training needed to understand and help them. I fear that they will be considered to be dangerous because of their race and the crisis they might be in and that they will be harmed or killed instead of given support and access to the help they need. These fears are not unfounded; we have seen this happen in communities across the country.

Police have no place in solving mental health crises unless there is real danger or a crime has been committed. This is rarely the case; in Eugene, only .006% of CAHOOTS calls resulted in police backup being needed.

Salem needs a mobile response unit like CAHOOT, and the next city budget should include funds to develop this service and city staff should be directed to create this unit.

Thank you.

--
Kate Normand

Amy Johnson

From: katherinewallace93@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 7:18 AM
To: citycouncil
Cc: Cara Kaser; Tom Andersen; Brad Nanke; Jackie Leung; Matthew Ausec; Chris Hoy; Vanessa Nordyke; Jim Lewis
Subject: Mobile Response Unit in Salem

Dear Salem City Council,

My name is Katherine Wallace and I live in Salem, OR. I am writing to you in support of the proposal to implement a mobile response unit in Salem.

Individuals experiencing a mental health crisis and/or homelessness require the grace and compassion provided by mental health professionals and EMTs, not armed law enforcement. I worry about the health and safety of my friends who experience mental health crises. I did not feel comfortable calling the police for help when I went through a mental break myself. We need trained mental health professionals, not the fear of untrained officers perceiving us as threats.

It's important that Salem establish a tone of leadership as the state capitol, and a good leader adopts good ideas when they work. The City of Eugene saved an average of $8,000,000 per year through their CAHOOTS program.
In August of this year, the SPD declined to implement a bodycam mandate on their officers for financial reasons. According to the Statesman Journal, the projected cost of data storage that was unable to be accommodated was $225,700, plus the cost of staff to manage and review footage. This is money our city desperately needs to meet the requirements of our community. Not only will a program like CAHOOTS address the needs of our most vulnerable neighbors, it could give the City of Salem more resources to further address those needs and improve the living conditions of all of us.

I want to live in a city where our disabled, neurodiverse, and marginalized neighbors can feel safe seeking help from public services. Please support this motion to implement a mobile response unit in Salem.

Sincerely,
Katherine Wallace

Amy Johnson

From: Laurel Brown <l4urelbrown@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 9:35 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: CAHOOTS

To the Salem City Council,

As a member of the community, I am urging you all to implement a CAHOOTS program in our city.

Sincerely,
Laurel Brown

Amy Johnson

From: Lorie Fontaine <loriefontaine@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 9:21 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Mobile Response Unit

Dear Councilors,
I support the proposal for a Mobile Response Unit in Salem. We need police reforms. I trust mental health workers and medical personnel to follow their codes of ethics to meet the needs of our community members in crisis, regardless of their color or political persuasion. Unfortunately, we do not see the same from police. Let's take care of our community and use the criminal justice system for criminals, not our brothers and sisters in need.
Thank you,
Lorie Fontaine

Sent from my iPhone

Amy Johnson

From: Lee Ogle <elleeogle@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 3:30 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [Possible Scam Fraud]Public Comment Re: Motion to Impliment A Mobile Response Unit For Salem

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Hi, my name is Lee Ogle, and as a resident of Salem, I am fully in support of this motion for a non-police mobile response unit for the benefit of the community. Removing police from the equation when people need mental health support eliminates the possibility of them being murdered by those same police while having a mental health crisis. It would also ensure that people in crisis get the support they need, without having to fear for the trauma, or worse, that a police encounter often entails. BIPoC and disabled community members of Salem deserve to be able to reach out to people whose job it is to support them, as opposed to people with the power and institutional protection to murder and traumatize them and get away with it. I strongly believe that our community members would benefit from a non-armed mobile response unit. Please support this absolutely essential motion for a mobile response unit in Salem put forward by City Councilor Nordyke. Thank you.

Amy Johnson

From: L Smith <lacey.eliz.smith@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 1:03 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: CAHOOTS

Hello,

I am writing to you in support of Councilor Nordyke's upcoming motion to implement a mobile response unit for Salem. I am very excited to show my support for this idea, as it is something I think would benefit all of our citizens.

If you are unfamiliar, a mobile response unit is used to address community needs that the police aren't equipped or trained to handle. Eugene has been using this model for over 30 years, and they have seen a savings of over $8,000,000 per year in public safety expenditures. The Eugene model is called CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets). CAHOOTS deals with a wide range of mental health related issues, including conflict resolution, welfare checks, substance abuse, threats to self harm, and more. They use de-escalation and harm reduction techniques to achieve these goals. In 2019, out of 24,000 calls, less than .06% required police assistance.

Councilor Nordyke's plan for a mobile response team in Salem is perfect for the current needs of our community. Most business owners prefer to call a mobile response unit to respond to these sorts of needs. As you can see, this program would save our city money while also serving the needs of our diverse community. Please vote in support.

Best regards,
Lacey Smith

Amy Johnson

From: Reginald & Linda Tenney <tenney212@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 10:28 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Mobile Response Unit

We wholeheartedly support the creation of a mobile response unit in Salem based on the CAHOOTS model in Eugene. Compassionate care is a critical key to help solve the issues of mental health, homelessness and addiction.

Thank you for your proposal.

Linda and Reg Tenney

Amy Johnson

From: Leila Tenney <leilatenney@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 6, 2020 10:49 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [Possible Scam Fraud]Proposal Support

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Good day,

My name is Leila Tenney, and I am emailing to urge Salem City Council to approve the proposal set forth by Counselor Nordyke to implement a mobile response unit for the City of Salem. I would like to give some current context to this request.
About a year ago, my sister fell into the cracks that most people with unchecked mental health do: she began using drugs. It has been heartbreaking to see her take such a volatile and abrupt turn for the worst. On our worst days, my mother and I are caught in a grey area for options to help her. We don't want to call the police, because she is not a criminal, but she lacks the mental capacity to voluntarily check herself into the Marion County Psychiatric Crisis Center (PCC). She has a history of checking herself into PCC when she is feeling unsafe, but with the added volatility that drug use brings, she is unable to determine for herself that she is indeed in danger.
In the recent past, we have had to result in calling the police for a wellness check, but that only goes so far as she is generally holed up in her apartment and will not open the door out of fear of the police. She is not a criminal--she needs help.
I believe that my sister, along with countless others, would benefit from a mobile response unit. A mobile response unit could potentially save her life in the event she was to fall into a psychiatric episode while on drugs again.
As a concerned sister, I urge you to please consider funding a mobile response unit.

All the best,
Leila Tenney

Amy Johnson

From: lorrie walker <dakotalor@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 1:28 PM
To: CityRecorder; citycouncil; lorrie walker
Subject: Testimony for 20-407

All,

I am in total support of resolution # 20-407. A Eugene, Or. based Cahoots, type program. It is strange to know Salem is over 30 years behind Eugene in this regard. This service is beneficial to our unsheltered and sheltered population. Salem is also 20 years behind in regard to organized camping, tiny house, etc. Salem cannot afford to wait any longer. People served need it. Salem Police need it. Citizens of Salem need it.

1) The program saves lives. It provides de-escalation of people in crisis by well trained workers in mental health issues. It saves unnecessary trips to the hospital & jail to name a few.
2) Social workers / mental health workers & EMT are comforting to the people they respond to. People are not fearful of them.
3) Cost savings for this type of program are huge.
4) Salem Police are readily available to respond. Police then have more tome to deal with other emergencies.

As the state of Oregon's mental health services for people in need continue to decline, this service is needed more than ever in Salem. Please move forward on this issue.
Respectfully,
Lorrie Walker
Advocate, Legal guardian, Volunteer

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Amy Johnson

From: Rogers, Michael D (Portland) <michael.rogers2@va.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 6, 2020 1:55 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: CAHOOTS

My name is Michael Rogers, I am a lifelong resident of Salem. In my civilian career I have worked at the Oregon State Hospital, and the Emergency room at Salem Health. I know first hand the complexities of treating/assessing working with mentally ill or compromised people. The CAHOOTS/White Bird clinic out of Eugene works and is a benefit to citizens, law enforcement and the city. I have great respect for first responders of any kind be it law enforcement or Emergency services. CAHOOTS works and could easily be modeled in the Mid-Willamette valley. Please make this program happen as the benefits to it are obvious.

Thank you.

Michael D Rogers
Salem Oregon

Amy Johnson

From: Meaghan Nicole Thurston <meaghan.nicole95@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 3:12 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: CAHOOTS Program for Salem

Hello,

I am writing to you in support of Councilor Nordyke's upcoming motion to implement a mobile response unit for Salem. I am very excited to show my support for this idea, as it is something I think would benefit all of our citizens.

If you are unfamiliar, a mobile response unit is used to address community needs that the police aren't equipped or trained to handle. Eugene has been using this model for over 30 years, and they have seen a savings of over $8,000,000 per year in public safety expenditures. The Eugene model is called CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets). CAHOOTS deals with a wide range of mental health related issues, including conflict resolution, welfare checks, substance abuse, threats to self harm, and more. They use de-escalation and harm reduction techniques to achieve these goals. In 2019, out of 24,000 calls, less than .06% required police assistance.

Councilor Nordyke's plan for a mobile response team in Salem is perfect for the current needs of our community. Most business owners prefer to call a mobile response unit to respond to these sorts of needs. As you can see, this program would save our city money while also serving the needs of our diverse community. Please vote in support.

Best regards,
Meaghan Thurston

Amy Johnson

From: Melinda Valdivia <mel@melvaldivia.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 3:10 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: In Support of A Mobile Response Unit for Salem

Hello,

I am writing to you in support of Councilor Nordyke's upcoming motion to implement a mobile response unit for Salem. I am very excited to show my support for this idea, as it is something I think would benefit all of our citizens.

If you are unfamiliar, a mobile response unit is used to address community needs that the police aren't equipped or trained to handle. Eugene has been using this model for over 30 years, and they have seen a savings of over $8,000,000 per year in public safety expenditures. The Eugene model is called CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets). CAHOOTS deals with a wide range of mental health related issues, including conflict resolution, welfare checks, substance abuse, threats to self harm, and more. They use de-escalation and harm reduction techniques to achieve these goals. In 2019, out of 24,000 calls, less than .06% required police assistance.

Councilor Nordyke's plan for a mobile response team in Salem is perfect for the current needs of our community. Most business owners prefer to call a mobile response unit to respond to these sorts of needs. As you can see, this program would save our city money while also serving the needs of our diverse community. Please vote in support.

Thank you for your time,

Melinda Valdivia

Amy Johnson

From: Megan Vidan <symphonyoftimeandspace@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 12:28 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: CAHOOTS Program

Hello,

I am writing to you in support of Councilor Nordyke's upcoming motion to implement a mobile response unit for Salem. I am very excited to show my support for this idea, as it is something I think would benefit all of our citizens.

If you are unfamiliar, a mobile response unit is used to address community needs that the police aren't equipped or trained to handle. Eugene has been using this model for over 30 years, and they have seen a savings of over $8,000,000 per year in public safety expenditures. The Eugene model is called CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets). CAHOOTS deals with a wide range of mental health related issues, including conflict resolution, welfare checks, substance abuse, threats to self harm, and more. They use de-escalation and harm reduction techniques to achieve these goals. In 2019, out of 24,000 calls, less than .06% required police assistance.

Councilor Nordyke's plan for a mobile response team in Salem is perfect for the current needs of our community. Most business owners prefer to call a mobile response unit to respond to these sorts of needs. As you can see, this program would save our city money while also serving the needs of our diverse community. Please vote in support.

Best regards,
Megan Vidan

Amy Johnson

From: Nancy Baker-Krofft <nbakerkrofft@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 6, 2020 12:36 PM
Cc: citycouncil
Subject: Cahoots program

I am begging my counsellor and the whole council to separate mental health concerns from police matters by bring a Cahoots type program to Salem. My son is currently in Marion Co.custody and daily getting worse after 6 weeks, when over 2 weeks ago he was sent to Mental Health Court by Judge Burton. Adding legal concerns to a person in a mental health crisis is costly, foolish, and inhumane. I implore you to redo how the police budget is used in Salem for our mentally ill to have greater opportunity to get well.
Nan Baker-Krofft
Cara's Ward

Amy Johnson

From: Nick Eustrom <nickeustrom@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 12:55 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [Possible Scam Fraud]Public Comment for Tonight's City Council Meeting re: selective and not equal enforcement of the law by Salem PD and OSP

WARNING: Your email security system has determined the message below may be a potential threat.

The sender may trick victims into passing bad checks on their behalf.

If you do not know the sender or cannot verify the integrity of the message, please do not respond or click on links in the message. Depending on the security settings, clickable URLs may have been modified to provide additional security.

Dear Councilors and Mayor Bennett,

My name is Nick Eustrom and I am a resident of Ward 7. I am writing with my concerns about the selective and unequal enforcement of the laws here in Salem when comparing Salem PD's and OSP's responses to "Proud Boys" and their coalition versus "Pro-Democracy/Anti-Fascist" demonstrators at rallies here in Salem and at the Capitol.

Just this weekend, for example, when a Pro-Democracy rally moved from their planned location of the Capitol to Pringle Hall due to safety concerns after "Pro Trump" demonstrators hijacked the location, Salem PD responded to the Pringle Hall peaceful demonstrators
with numerous officers in tactical gear and threats of tear gas and munitions.

Just earlier in the day, we witnessed the likes of the "Proud Boys" coming in to our town, with their license plates removed, to go to a "Stop the Steal" rally at the Capitol. There, they harassed the press, stole observers phones, started fights with counter protestors, used bear mace on people they thought were liberals, and attacked vehicles who drove by their rally without remorse, or legal ramifications.

We need the City of Salem, Salem PD, Oregon State Police, and Governor Brown to come together and fix this pattern of selective and unequal enforcement of the law here in Salem and at the Capitol. And we need to do a better job of protecting the 1st Amendment Rights of ALL of our citizens.

It is my belief that we need more peacekeeping and less policing. With that being said, I am also in favor of adopting a "CAHOOTS" like program here in Salem and removing SROs in our schools.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Nick

Amy Johnson

From: The Book Bin <salem@bookbin.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 5:03 PM
To: citycouncil
Cc: SALEM Manager; Chuck Bennett
Subject: Creating a mobile response unit

Hello,

I am writing to to voice my support for the creation of a mobile response unit in Salem. My family owns The Book Bin and owns the building which houses our business in downtown Salem.

Incidents with people experiencing mental health crises and issues surrounding homelessness have been at the forefront of our concerns for some time now. Just a few months ago I had a man dealing with mental health issues try to kick in the front door of our business. This event was terrifying but when I called the police the 911 operator told me that since there was, miraculously, no damage to our front door charges could not be pressed. This left a situation where the police would only talk to him and I had to worry about further encounters. I continued to see him downtown and it was clear to me that nothing had been done to get him any help. It appears to me from this and other interactions that the legal framework which police operate under leaves them few options for helping the marginalized residents of our streets. I do believe that they do the best they can, but helping the mentally ill and homeless should not fall to them along with all their duties dealing with issues of crime. I strongly feel that a mobile response unit which can intervene and help with these incidents would make downtown safer and create better options for all our residents.

Sincerely,
Obadiah Baird
Co-Owner, The Book Bin

Amy Johnson

From: Pat Donenfeld <patdonenfeld@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 9:52 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Mobile Response Unit

I am writing in support of Salem establishing a mobile response unit that could be dispatched thru 911 for calls related to mental health, substance abuse and homelessness. The unit should be staffed by professionals in these fields.

This would be a more appropriate response to these issues than law enforcement and I see benefits for both our residents experiencing these issues and our police officers.

Eugene's CAHOOTS program has been highly successful and has been in operation for many years. It is time for Salem to develop a similar program.

Pat Donenfeld
Ward 7

Sent from my iPhone

Amy Johnson

From: rebop13@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 9:15 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [Possible Scam Fraud]CAHOOTS program

WARNING: Your email security system has determined the message below may be a potential threat.

The sender may trick victims into passing bad checks on their behalf.

If you do not know the sender or cannot verify the integrity of the message, please do not respond or click on links in the message. Depending on the security settings, clickable URLs may have been modified to provide additional security.

Dear City of Salem Council,

My name is Robin Bielefeld and I live in Ward 7. I am writing you to support the implementation of a mobile response team in the city of Salem.

I have lived and worked in Salem for over 20 years, and I have seen first hand the problems facing people experiencing a mental health crisis, drug addiction or homelessness. It is my belief that these citizens will be better served by mental health professionals and EMTs, not armed law enforcement.

I have read quite a bit about the success of the CAHOOTS program in Eugene, Not only have they saved and average of $80,00,000 a year, but far, far more importantly, they help people in a severe crisis situation with compassion and proper training. This program can save the literally lives of our most vulnerable neighbors and get them much needed assistance. A program like CAHOOTS can give our city more resources to further improve the lives of all our citizens.

Please seriously consider this. I want our city to be a place of safety to everyone, especially the most vulnerable. Please support this motion to implement a mobile response team in Salem.

Sincerely,

Robin Bielefeld, Ward 7

Amy Johnson

From: Rachel Ryan <rmryan0530@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 11:10 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Mobile Response Unit

Dear City Councilors,

I am writing in support of a proposed mobile response unit for Salem. This would be an essential service for Salem, and be a huge step towards making this city safer for our most vulnerable populations. There are economic benefits of course, but more importantly are the humanitarian benefits. The people responding to citizens in need of mental health support should not be armed and should be trained in mental health crises. This is an incredible opportunity for Salem as a community and it would be shameful not to move forward with this proposal.

Sincerely,
Rachel Ryan
Salem, OR 97306

Sent from my iPhone

Amy Johnson

From: Stacey Vieyra-Braendle <Stacey.VieyraBraendle@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 4:02 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Mobile response unit

Hello,

I am writing to you in support of Councilor Nordyke's upcoming motion to implement a mobile response unit for Salem. I believe this is something that would benefit all of our citizens.

If you are unfamiliar, a mobile response unit is used to address community needs that the police aren't equipped or trained to handle. Eugene has been using this model for over 30 years, and they have seen a savings of over $8,000,000 per year in public safety expenditures. The Eugene model is called CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets). CAHOOTS deals with a wide range of mental health related issues, including conflict resolution, welfare checks, substance abuse, threats to self harm, and more. They use de-escalation and harm reduction techniques to achieve these goals. In 2019, out of 24,000 calls, less than .06% required police assistance.

Councilor Nordyke's plan for a mobile response team in Salem is perfect for the current needs of our community. Most business owners prefer to call a mobile response unit to respond to these sorts of needs. As you can see, this program would save our city money while also serving the needs of our diverse community. Please vote in support.

Best regards,

Amy Johnson

From: Shaula Coulson <shaula.coulson@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 6, 2020 9:17 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: CAHOOTS

I am a nurse, mother, grandmother, person who struggles with depression, and Salem citizen of 42 years. I would VERY much like to see a CAHOOTS program in Salem !!!
Sincerely, Shaula Coulson LPN

Amy Johnson

From: Sarah Dixon <watjubs@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 3:08 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Public Comment for 11/9/20/Mobile Response Unit

Hello,

I am writing in support of Councilor Nordyke's upcoming motion to establish a mobile response unit for Salem. A mobile response unit would go a long way towards meeting the needs of Salem residents who are experiencing mental health crises and would reduce the need to call the police in non-emergency situations.

Sincerely,
Sarah Dixon
Ward 1

Amy Johnson

From: Samantha Eakes <eakes.samantha@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 7, 2020 6:41 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Mobile response unit

To whom it concerns;
I am emailing in support of the mobile response unit. I believe this would be a good alternative to calling the police, and would deescalate misunderstandings and weapon issues. As someone who witnesses many mental health crisis, and could see issues arise in behaviors stemming from mental health issues, I believe having a trained expert and medic team would relieve stress in the crisis party and have better results. Especially in people with PTSD, seeing people rush up with vests and radios and guns would only escalate the situation.

Thank you,
Samantha Eakes

Amy Johnson

From: Summer Keightley <gladcow@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 12:45 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Mobile Response Unit Support

Hello,

I am writing to you in support of Councilor Nordyke's upcoming motion to implement a mobile response unit for Salem. I am very excited to show my support for this idea, as it is something I think would benefit all of our citizens. Recent events have underscored that the police in our community aren't equipped to handle these situations.

If you are unfamiliar, a mobile response unit is used to address community needs that the police aren't equipped or trained to handle. Eugene has been using this model for over 30 years, and they have seen a savings of over $8,000,000 per year in public safety expenditures. The Eugene model is called CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets). CAHOOTS deals with a wide range of mental health related issues, including conflict resolution, welfare checks, substance abuse, threats to self harm, and more. They use de-escalation and harm reduction techniques to achieve these goals. In 2019, out of 24,000 calls, less than .06% required police assistance.

Councilor Nordyke's plan for a mobile response team in Salem is perfect for the current needs of our community. Most business owners, like myself, prefer to call a mobile response unit to respond to these sorts of needs. This is for a myriad of reasons, the first of which is a lack of trust that the police will serve those who need it most. I have watched as the police in my city have harassed and threatened innocent folks while protecting people who are blatantly breaking the law. This shows me our police have a serious lack in judgement. When responding to a mental health crisis, we need to make sure the responders are able to assess and act in ways that de-escalate as well as protect ALL our citizens. As you can see, this program would save our city money while also serving the needs of our diverse community. Please vote in support.

Best regards,
Summer Keightley
Ward 8

Amy Johnson

From: Snarfy Knutson <snarfywarning@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 1:53 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Mobile Response Unit Support

Dear City,

I am writing to ask the city to put together a mobile Response team, similar to CAHOOTS in Eugene! A program such as this would help our community so much and save us money on emergency response costs. I am sure you are getting other emails with the breakdowns of those cost savings, but if not, please let me know and I will find you studies on this. I didn't want to be another copy/paste email because I wanted to take time out of my day to let you know this is so so important for our most at risk citizens, especially downtown.

I own a business downtown, and I also have personal trauma related to law enforcement - if a person were to be having a crisis downtown, as has sadly happened often in the past, I would not feel safe to call upon law enforcement . Having this opportunity to call a crisis response team would be better for both the person having a crisis, and myself.

Thank you for listening,

Snarfy Knutson
Court Appearance Styling Studio
Salem, OR

Amy Johnson

From: Sean O'Donnell <seanodonnell55@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 10:15 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: mobile response unit.

I am familiar with Cahoots, and Whitebird, both are honestly trying to help! please support this in Salem also!

Amy Johnson

From: Steve Van Pelt <tidesofthesky@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 8:26 PM
To: citycouncil; CityRecorder
Subject: Comment for 11/8 city council meeting in support of Mobile Response Unit

Dear City Council,
I am a resident of Ward 8 in Salem. I've lived in Salem for 10 years.
I think a Mobile Response Unit similar to Eugene's Cahoots would be a huge win-win for the community. We have many people suffering from psychological and drug addiction issues in our community. I've seen police officers engaged in conversations with folks who are clearly struggling with some mental issues. I don't think the officers want to be engaged in those conversations, and neither do the individuals.

A Mobile Response Unit program has the potential to save lives and save the city millions of dollars. But most importantly, a mobile response unit is a better way of meeting the needs of the residents of Salem in a safe and effective manner.

Thank you for your time.
Steve Van Pelt

Amy Johnson

From: Sadie Verville <srverville@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 5:39 PM
To: Chuck Bennett; citycouncil; CityRecorder
Subject: Support for CAHOOTS

Hello,

I would like to send in my support for having a CAHOOTS program in Salem, similar to the very successful one in Eugene. I think this would be a great benefit to the houseless community in our town, and would ultimately be a great benefit to our city.

Thank you,
Sadie Verville

Amy Johnson

From: Shelby Viens <stviens@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 11:33 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: CAHOOT Program

Hello,

I am writing to you in support of Councilor Nordyke's upcoming motion to implement a mobile response unit for Salem. I am very excited to show my support for this idea, as it is something I think would benefit all of our citizens.

If you are unfamiliar, a mobile response unit is used to address community needs that the police aren't equipped or trained to handle. Eugene has been using this model for over 30 years, and they have seen a savings of over $8,000,000 per year in public safety expenditures. The Eugene model is called CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets). CAHOOTS deals with a wide range of mental health related issues, including conflict resolution, welfare checks, substance abuse, threats to self harm, and more. They use de-escalation and harm reduction techniques to achieve these goals. In 2019, out of 24,000 calls, less than .06% required police assistance.

Councilor Nordyke's plan for a mobile response team in Salem is perfect for the current needs of our community. Most business owners prefer to call a mobile response unit to respond to these sorts of needs. As you can see, this program would save our city money while also serving the needs of our diverse community. Please vote in support.

Best regards,
Shelby Caraher
South Salem resident

Amy Johnson

From: Valerie Brooks <vbrooks428@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 6, 2020 12:15 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: CAHOOTS

As a former resident of Eugene, and as someone who worked in social services there, I can attest to the positive impact this program had on Eugene's citizens AND police department. Being able to call CAHOOTS to help us with a resident, or if we saw someone on the street having a mental health crisis, was vital to maintaining the health and well-being of our un-housed population. Being able to call CAHOOTS meant we didn't have to put a demand on law enforcement for mental health issues, thereby allowing the officers to remain available for law enforcement issues. City of Salem residents need- and deserve - such a program.

Sincerely,

Valerie Brooks
Salem, OR.