



CITY OF SALEM

Written Testimony #2

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](#)
[Additional Public Comments received by 5:00 p.m. 11-9-20.pdf](#)

Add - Written Testimony.

Amy Johnson

From: Annie Taylor <anniereneetaylor@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 3:33 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,

Ann Taylor

Amy Johnson

From: Aiyla Thomas <aiylat@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 3:52 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Mobil response unit

To whom this may concern,

I am in full support of a mobil response unit similar to CAHOOTS in Eugene.

Salem PD has not proven themselves to have the community's best interest in mind. The safety of the community is not their main priority as we've seen in how they've protected Proud Boys and Right Wing extremists with guns in our streets over protecting those peacefully fighting for social injustices. Salem PD cannot be trusted to handle situations dealing with mental health being that they are not extensively trained in this field. We have seen time and time again that police tend to shoot first and ask questions later with no consequences. It is a mishandling of our hard earned tax dollars to be paying for their negligence and zero training in serving a specific and very large demographic of calls they receive. We need to be using our tax dollars to be making a difference in our community while sparing lives and that's why a mobil response team made up of mental health professionals and emt's is needed in Salem.

Sincerely,

Aiyla T.

Amy Johnson

From: Benjamin Haley <bghaley92@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 3:44 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Mobile Response Unit

Good afternoon,

My name is Ben Haley and I am a downtown resident. I'm writing in support of Councilor Nordyke's measure to establish a mobile response unit.

Thank you,

Ben Haley

Sent from my iPhone

Amy Johnson

From: carlypickens <carlypickens@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 3:04 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: MOTION 5.A

Dear Salem City Council,

My name is Carly and I live in SE Salem. I am writing to you in support of the motion by Councilor Nordyke 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. Just today I saw a sweep of the camp under Market St. Things were just being thrown away with no care in the world if it was trash or someones belongings. Just because their belongings arent inside of 4 walls does not mean they dont belong to that individual.

This type of behavior from the city only creates more distrust and more distress. Creating more of a need for a mental health response team. When your safety, place to sleep, all of your belongings are taken away, it can create even more mental health struggles than our houseless community may already be facing. Can you imagine the mental state you would be in if you were already hungry, it is the coldest week yet, and then your safety , place to sleep and TRY to stay warm is just thrown away as if its trash?? Chances are you can feel sympathy for this situation. But can you truly imagine how this may feel? What mental state they could be in? Chances are the answer is no.

So it's now more than ever 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.

Additionally In August of this year, the Salem Police Department declined to implement a bodycam mandate on their officers for financial reasons. According to an article from 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 the 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,
Carly Pickens

Amy Johnson

From: Clifford Eiffler-Rodriguez <cpeiffler@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 2:31 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Supporting Agenda item 5A

It's simple.

Cops aren't mental health professionals. They aren't qualified and pose a threat to community members who are enduring a mental health crisis.

Get Salem PD out of mental health.

I support Councilor Nordyke's motion to establish a mobile response unit comprised of mental health professionals that can assist members of the community in receiving the actual help the need.

Amy Johnson

From: Ivy Clark-Henry <ivy.clark.henry@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 3:47 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [Possible Scam Fraud]CAHOOTS Mobile Response Testimony

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.

Good afternoon,

My name is Ivy Clark-Henry, I currently live in South Salem, and wanted to submit my support of Councilor Nordyke's motion to establish a mobile response unit in Salem. I've worked in retail and food service, I have friends who work in retail and food service, and almost every single one of them have told me how much they don't like to - or refuse to - call the police when someone is having a mental health crisis. It only escalates the situation, and the risk of the person being traumatized or physically harmed skyrockets.

Neither SPD or your morning barista are trained to handle a mental health crisis in a way that guarantees safety and a trauma-free interaction that benefits the person who needs help, and the person helping. Again, I wholeheartedly support Councilor Nordyke's motion to establish a mobile response unit in Salem.

Thank you,

Ivy Clark-Henry
PH: 503-881-6635
ivy.clark.henry@gmail.com

Amy Johnson

From: Kevin Cunningham <kevinhcunningham@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 4:11 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Support for mobile response unit (# 20-407, 2020.11.09)

Councilors,

I am writing in full support of Councilor Nordyke's motion 20-407 regarding establishing a mobile response unit. The \$4.7 million that SPD spends policing unhoused community members (as reported 2019.11.27 in Salem Reporter) is a good starting place for the budget.

Thank you,
Kevin Cunningham
Salem Ward 4 resident

Amy Johnson

From: Laura Adams <ladams562@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 4:37 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: I support CAHOOTS

I am hugely in support of Salem developing a program similar to CAHOOTS. I am in favor as someone who has experienced mental health crises and as someone who is a licensed mental health counselor. This program is effective and compassionate. I've seen first hand, multiple times that police officers, even the ones with the MRT, are not equipped to deal with mental health crises in a trauma informed way. Especially mental health crises with kids and teens. I've had to correct Salem police officers who were standing on scene making nasty snide comments about a mom who was doing her best to manage a child in crisis. They aren't equipped to deal with these situations and they actively do harm because of that. Please instead invest in a program like CAHOOTS. Thank you.

Amy Johnson

From: Laurie Dougherty <lauriedougherty@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 4:49 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Nov 9 City Council Agenda item 5.a 20-407 In Support

I support Councilor Nordydke's motion to develop a proposal for a mobile response unit. This is a humane and cost effective way to respond to people in crisis who are in need of mental health or social services. This is an urgent need.

Laurie Dougherty

Ward 1

Amy Johnson

From: Madeleine Hooker <madeleine0309@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 3:21 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: In support of measure 20-407 to establish mobile response unit

Hi all,

I am emailing for the official record in order to support measure 20-407 introduced by Councilor Nordyke to establish a mobile response unit in Salem. This measure is imperative in insuring that Salem cops, who are not equipped to handle those calls in the first place, are not the responders to mental health crisis calls and to improve the safety and wellbeing of the Salem community as a whole.

Thank you,

Madeleine Hooker
(360)739-6768
madeleine0309@yahoo.com

Amy Johnson

From: Rachel Johnston <rjohnston0814@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 3:08 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: In Support Of CAHOOTS Program

Good afternoon city council members,

I am a long time citizen of Salem and I could not be more enthused to express my full support for a CAHOOTS program to be established in Salem. This would be a meaningful change for our neighbors who experience mental illness. It would also be a progressive step for public safety and Salem desperately needs that now more than ever. Please thoughtfully consider implementing this program in our city. These are the types of steps Salem needs to take towards meaningful progression as the world changes, and we must do the necessary work to change along with it to support ALL of our citizens. Salem means peace after all.

Sincerely and with great hope,

Rachel Johnston

Amy Johnson

From: Sharlee Blackwell <s.black4477@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 4:19 PM
To: citycouncil; cityrecordet@cityofsalem.net
Subject: [Possible Scam Fraud]Nordyke proposal re: mobile response unit

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Dear Salem City Council

My name is Sharlee Blackwell and I live in Ward 3.

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 have uedes reports of how our

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.

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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,
Sharlee Blackwell
Ward 3

Amy Johnson

From: Stan Keightley Jr. <stan@vegetativestate.net>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 4:21 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Supporting 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,

Stan M. Keightley Jr.