



CITY OF SALEM

Written Testimony

City Council

555 Liberty St SE
Salem, OR 97301

Monday, February 8, 2021

6:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

5.a. [21-42](#) 2021 City Councilor Committee Assignments

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

Recommendation: Information Only.

Attachments: [2021 City Council Committee Assignments FINAL.pdf](#)
 [Final Revised 2021 City Council Committee Assignments.pdf](#)
 [Public Comments received by 5:00 p.m. 2-8-21.pdf](#)

Add - Written Testimony.

From: [Angelina](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Testimony for agenda 5a
Date: Monday, February 8, 2021 3:20:04 PM

Councilor Jackie Leung has asked to be on numerous committees, each one she is desperately needed on. The Salem POC community only has one representative on the council and that is councilor Leung. Way too many racist policies are being made because there isn't anyone there advocating on our behalf. We have too many fake allies and outright enemies on these committees and deserve to be heard. Stop trying to shut councilor Leung out and put her on the committees she's requested to be on!

Adrien Lockhart

From: [Bonnie Davidson](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Committee Assignments
Date: Monday, February 8, 2021 8:37:30 AM

In reviewing the new committee assignments made by the Mayor, there is what most certainly must be an oversight: Councilwoman Jackie Leung has not been given any committees on which to serve. As the only woman of color on the City Council, it is imperative that her voice be heard, that our communities of color be represented. Jackie has previously indicated her preference to serve on these committees: Board and Commission Appointments, Council Rules and as an alternate for Climate Action. I strongly urge the Mayor to immediately right this wrong and assign Councilwoman Leung to these three committees. Both the optics and reality of this “oversight” do not bode well for Salem’s new determination to be viewed as a welcoming city for all people, a place where hate and racism will not be tolerated.

Bonnie Davidson
Marc Nisenfeld
(5010 Coloma Ct SE, Salem)

Sent from my iPad

From: [Melissa Fey](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Don't Put Jackie In the Corner!
Date: Monday, February 8, 2021 3:25:50 PM

The racist sexist bs that flows from our mayor is just stupid. What century are we in, even??
Appoint Councilor Jackie Leung to the following committees: 1) Board & Commission
Appointments and 2) Council Rules and would like to serve as an alternate on Climate Action
And apologize for your outlandish racism!

Melissa Fey
1525 Church Street SE
Salem Oregon

From: [Jim Scheppke](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Testimony on Agenda Item 5a
Date: Monday, February 8, 2021 9:16:12 AM

Mr. Mayor and Council:

I was dismayed to see that Councilor Jackie Leung was not appointed to any Council committees by the Mayor for 2021. I request that this oversight be addressed. I understand that Councilor Leung would like to be appointed to two committees: Board and Commission Appointments and Council Rules, and as an alternate to the Climate Action Committee. I don't think this is too much to ask for (all other Councilors received more than two appointments, I believe).

Respectfully,

Jim Scheppke, Ward 2
jscheppke@comcast.net
503-269-1559

From: [Kathie Best](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Committee Assignments
Date: Monday, February 8, 2021 9:33:00 AM

I hope that the omission of Councilwoman Leung from a committee assignment is an oversight, as in this political and social climate her voice is particularly important. I hope the Mayor will take this under consideration and give Salem the best possible chance to have the inclusive government that Councilwoman Leung was elected to fulfill. Please don't let this mandate and tremendous opportunity given to us by Salem voters go untapped.

Kathie Best
508 Sussex Ave SE, Salem, OR 97306

From: [Collien Kaseberg](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Committee Assignments
Date: Monday, February 8, 2021 1:40:00 PM

I reviewed the new committee assignments made by the Mayor and noticed what I suspect is unintentionally overlooking assigning Jackie Leung her committee assignments.

Jackie Leung is the only woman of color on the City Council and her voice is especially important to be heard for a diverse community such as Salem.

Jackie has previously noted that her preference of committees are: Board and Commission Appointments, Council Rules, and as an alternate for Climate Action.

I strongly urge the Mayor to assign Jackie Leung to committees without delay as having her without assignments looks bad for the welcoming diversity community that Salem wishes to become. We do indeed wish to be a city that welcomes all people to help to ammend our past of racism and hate.

Respectfully,

Collien Kaseberg
5020 Coloma Court SE
Salem, OR 97306

From: [Paul Krissel](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: City Council meeting testimony
Date: Monday, February 8, 2021 1:54:35 PM

Following is my testimony for tonight's meeting:

I urge city council to rectify this situation and make the committee appointments Councilor Leung has requested.

Councilor Leung has expressed interest in appointment to the following committees: 1) Board & Commission Appointments and 2) Council Rules and would like to serve as an alternate on Climate Action. The appointments are made by Mayor Bennett. Councilor Leung has been a strong and consistent advocate for the people of Salem. She is also the only woman of color on the City Council. I am disappointed (but not surprised) by this apparent effort to shut her out and minimize her advocacy voice on important committees.

Paul Krissel
Paul Krissel Consulting
Organization Development and Change
1675 High St SE
Salem, OR 97302
Please use: pkrissel@alumni.upenn.edu
home/office 503-763-9419
cell 503-559-0068

From: [Lorie Fontaine](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: 2/8 City Council Meeting Re: Councilor Leung
Date: Monday, February 8, 2021 8:15:12 AM

Dear Mayor Bennett,

Councilor Leung is an important advocate in our community. She listens, supports and connects with a diverse constituency. She is willing to speak up and lead on difficult issues. We need her voice to be heard. I ask that you honor the request for Councilor to be appointed to the following Salem City Council Committees: 1) Board and Commission Appointments and 2) Council Rules and 3) alternate for Climate Action.

Thank you,
Lorie Fontaine

From: [lorrie walker](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [lorrie walker](#)
Subject: Councilor Jackie Leung
Date: Monday, February 8, 2021 2:08:18 PM

Mayor & City Council,

I wonder why councilor Leung was only given one committee assignment? Was this by her choice?

If it wasn't by her choice I respectfully request that the committee assignment process be reviewed and changed as soon as possible. This process may need immediate remedy. It makes no sense as to how some people have several and another only one.

Respectfully,
Lorrie Walker
Ward 2

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Lisa Walters](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Jackie Leung Committee Appointments
Date: Monday, February 8, 2021 3:31:17 PM

I thoroughly support giving Jackie Leung a seat on the Boards & Commissions committee. Ms. Leung has worked tirelessly to represent her constituents and to bring a much needed voice to the City Council for POC.

To shut her out, or to attempt to minimize her role, will greatly impact the citizens of Salem negatively, not to mention the negative light that will shine upon the council, if this is allowed to happen.

Give her the committee appointments she desires and deserves.

Respectfully,

Lisa Walters

From: [Melinda Hautala](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Jackie Leung Committee Assignments
Date: Monday, February 8, 2021 10:29:10 AM

It is astonishing that Councilwoman Jackie Leung, the only woman of color on the City Council, has not been given ANY committee assignments, less than a month after the Council claimed to be "committed to the elimination of all forms of racism everywhere it exists, including institutional racism." What could possibly be the justification for this oversight? Councilwoman Leung has previously indicated her preference to serve on these committees: Board and Commission Appointments, Council Rules and as an alternate for Climate Action. I strongly urge the Mayor to immediately assign Councilwoman Leung to these three committees. How can Salem rise above its reputation for being behind the times, and how can we trust that the City gives any consideration at all to making Salem a better place to live, when we see this type of backward behavior over and over again?

Melinda Hautala

859-552-6400

From: [Hollie Oakes-Miller](#)
To: [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [Chuck Bennett](#); [Steve Powers](#); [Virginia Stapleton](#); [Trevor Phillips](#); [Tom Andersen](#); [Jackie Leung](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Chris Hoy](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Jim Lewis](#)
Subject: 2/8/21 City Council Meeting Public Comments
Date: Monday, February 8, 2021 1:11:13 PM

City Leaders,

With respect to agenda item 5.a. 2021 City Councilor Committee Assignments, we wonder why Councilor Leung, the only woman of color on the Salem City Council, has not been appointed to any committees except as an alternate to the Water/Wastewater Task Force.

Councilor Leung should immediately be assigned to committees, specifically the ones in which she expressed interest, 1) Board and Commission Appointments; 2) Council Rules; and 3) alternate for Climate Action.

Councilor Leung has been a strong and consistent advocate for the people of Salem. We are outraged by this effort to shut her out and minimize her voice on important committees. We urge the mayor and City Council to correct this matter and appoint her to the committees stated above at tonight's City Council Meeting.

Gary Miller & Hollie Oakes-Miller
Ward 5

From: [Patricia Donenfeld](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#); [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Appointment of city councilors to committees
Date: Monday, February 8, 2021 8:35:34 AM

I am shocked to see that Councilor Leung has not been assigned to any committees except one as an alternate. Other city councilors are listed as having a variety of committee assignments. Since she has indicated that she DOES want to be on committees, these assignments by the Mayor do not look okay to the public. I request that Councilor Leung be treated like other city councilors.

Pat Donenfeld
Ward 7

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Amber Padilla](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Councilwoman Leung's committee assignments
Date: Monday, February 8, 2021 11:28:52 AM
Attachments: [Defund the Salem Police.eml.msg](#)
[111 council meeting.eml.msg](#)

I was not at all surprised to hear that once again, the Mayor has made yet another racist decision. Some may call his decisions around racial relations in our city ignorant, yet time and time, he has been educated by the BIPOC community in our city and still continues to make these decisions. That makes him racist, not ignorant.

His latest decision to not assign Councilwoman Jackie Leung to any of the committees in which to serve is unacceptable. Councilwoman Leung has stated her preference is to serve on the Board and Commission Appointments, Council Rules and alternatively, Climate Action but has been assigned to no committees. Chuck clearly does not value the voice of the only woman of color on the city council. But yet, I understand Jim Lewis has been assigned to his top choices. FYI, as a constituent of Jim Lewis's district, I have sent two emails to him, at his city council address, asking him to address issues in our city and did not even receive a generic "I've received your email response (I'm attaching them here)". Yet somehow, this white man who finds it acceptable to ignore his constituents has been assigned to committees while Leung has not.

Mayor, you bring shame to our city. You have mishandled the Salem PD, you have never taken a stand against the racist hate groups who have flocked to our city (of course they have, you have allowed it by your silence), you have silenced BIPOC voices. You work for us, make the changes and take a stand. If you cannot do that, resign.

Amber Padilla
670 Burley Hill Loop NW

From: [Amber Padilla](#)
To: [Bonnie Davidson](#)
Subject: Fwd: Defund the Salem Police

Maybe you could share this with Vanessa since my council person could not be bothered to respond to me

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Amber Padilla** <padilla.amber@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Jun 23, 2020, 2:03 PM
Subject: Defund the Salem Police
To: <jlewis@cityofsalem.net>, <citycouncil@cityofsalem.net>

Dear Jim,

I was very disappointed to see that the city council failed to defund the Salem Police. I have spent my entire career in social services, both locally and statewide and have experienced first hand the lack of services around mental health in our community. I have experienced having to respond to someone in the midst of a mental health crisis myself because there are no crisis workers available. I have, on occasion, been in a position where, for safety reasons, I have had to call local LEA for assistance and while my interactions with the officers and deputies were pleasant as a professional white woman, it was clear that their knowledge of mental illness and how to work with folks suffering from mental illness was limited. If we were not using LEA to attend to social service crises, that would be more acceptable but we are, And by approving the city budget last night, you stamped your approval on continuing to use inexperienced, untrained officers to handle social services crises instead of trained social service professionals. As your constituent and a member of this community, this is completely unacceptable.

Watching the video of the Salem officer advise the white supremists on how to avoid ramifications for breaking curfew was disgusting and disheartening. To see a truck flying a nazi flag, circling the block of the business owned by a POC who is actively fighting for the Black Lives Matter movement made me sick. I have lived in this city since I was four years old: this is my hometown, the one that I love, the one that I advocate for. I want to be proud of my city, I want to know we, as a community are doing everything possible to fight racism, to end homelessness, to support those who need social service. Sadly, I can't say we are doing any of those things.

Do better Jim, Do better for me, do better for West Salem, do better for Salem. Do better for our POC. Do better for our homeless. Do better for our community members who are in need of social services. Do better: defund the Salem Police and use that money to support the social services our community so desperately needs..

Sincerely,

Amber Padilla

From: [Vanessa Nordyke](#)
To: [Amber Padilla](#)
Subject: Re: 1/11 council meeting
Date: Monday, January 11, 2021 9:24:05 PM

Thank you, Ms Padilla!

Vanessa Nordyke
Salem City Councilor, Ward 7

On Jan 11, 2021, at 8:46 PM, Amber Padilla <padilla.amber@gmail.com> wrote:

Jim,

Let's see if a second email gets any kind of response from you, my first email certainly did not.

I am completely ashamed and appalled to call you my councilperson after your behavior at the city council meeting tonight. To say that all hate matters and try to call out the BLM and antifa movement in the middle of a conversation about taking a stand against white supremacy in Salem is abhorrent. You should be ashamed, you do not represent me, you do not represent the people I know. How do you intend to fix this?

Thank God your fellow council people are brave, strong and have a desire to do the right thing and called you out on this behavior. Our city needs more of them and less of you.

Amber Padilla
West Salem resident

On Tue, Jun 23, 2020, 2:03 PM Amber Padilla <padilla.amber@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Jim,

I was very disappointed to see that the city council failed to defund the Salem Police. I have spent my entire career in social services, both locally and statewide and have experienced first hand the lack of services around mental health in our community. I have experienced having to respond to someone in the midst of a mental health crisis myself because there are no crisis workers available. I have, on occasion, been in a position where, for safety reasons, I have had to call local LEA for assistance and while my interactions with the officers and deputies were pleasant as a professional white woman, it was clear that their knowledge of mental illness and how to work with folks suffering from mental illness was limited. If we were not using LEA to attend to social service crises, that would be more acceptable but we are, And by approving the

city budget last night, you stamped your approval on continuing to use inexperienced, untrained officers to handle social services crises instead of trained social service professionals. As your constituent and a member of this community, this is completely unacceptable.

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Do better Jim, Do better for me, do better for West Salem, do better for Salem. Do better for our POC. Do better for our homeless. Do better for our community members who are in need of social services. Do better: defund the Salem Police and use that money to support the social services our community so desperately needs..

Sincerely,

Amber Padilla

From: [Carol Papinchak](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Testimony at City Council Meeting
Date: Monday, February 8, 2021 2:15:00 PM

I urge City Council to assure that Jackie Leung be appointed to the committees she wishes to serve.

Carol Papinchak

1675 High St SE
Salem, Or 97302

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Carol Papinchak
cpapinchak@q.com
503-763-9419 (home)

From: mpollard608@aol.com
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Agenda 5a - Appointment of Councilor Leung to Committees
Date: Monday, February 8, 2021 2:17:31 PM

Dear Mayor Bennett,

We strongly support Councilor Jackie Leung's appointment for the following Salem City Council Committees:

1. Board and Commission Appointments
2. Council Rules
3. Alternate for Climate Action

Councilor Jackie Leung is a strong advocate for all Salem residents. She is the only woman of color on the city council and her voice needs to be heard, especially now, in this moment in history and in this city!

We voted for her. We respect and support her. She represents our ward and we demand she gets the respect she deserves.

Sincerely,

Patrice and Michael Pollard
5176 Cultus Ct. SE
Salem, Oregon, 97306

From: [Susann Kaltwasser](#)
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Committee Appointments
Date: Monday, February 8, 2021 4:19:39 AM

I noticed that the various committee assignments are on the Council agenda tonight. It seems inappropriate that some Councilors get numerous assignments while only one Councilor is getting just a single alternate position.

Looks like equity is not being exercised in making these assignments. I hope this can be corrected prior to confirmation.

Susann Kaltwasser
Ward 8

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sarah Rohrs](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: City Council Subcommittee assignments
Date: Monday, February 8, 2021 8:32:57 AM

Salem City Council members,

I am writing regarding Councilor Jackie Leung appointments to the Salem City Council Committees. It is my understanding she has not been appointed to any committees other than an alternate for Water/Wastewater.

Councilor Leung has expressed interest in being appointed to these committees - 1) Board and Commission Appointments, 2) Council Rules; 3) alternate for Climate Action.

Councilor Leung is a strong and consistent advocate for Salem. Her lack of appointments to important committees is a major oversight. I urge her to be appointed to the above three committees.

Thank you,

Sarah Rohrs