From:	Anita Owen
То:	citycouncil; CityRecorder
Subject:	Mobile Crisis Unit Pilot Project
Date:	Saturday, January 8, 2022 9:14:28 PM

I support the motion for a staff report on a mobile crisis unit pilot project as I believe this is needed to to deal with mental health, emotional crisis and extreme stress when it occurs. This unit would be a smart and compassionate choice and would reduce violence and incarceration.

Anita Owen, Salem, Oregon, 503 463 6733.

From:	noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of apsummar@gmail.com	
То:	CityRecorder	
Subject:	City meeting public comment	
Date:	Sunday, January 9, 2022 2:49:37 PM	
Attachments:	ATT00001.bin	

Your Name	Ann Summar
Your Email	apsummar@gmail.com
Your Phone	3204064780
Street	1904 Westport St NW
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97304
Message	I support devoting funds towards a mobile crisis unit in the city

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 1/9/2022.

City Council and Staff,

I am writing in support of an announced motion that will be introduced at tonight's city council meeting, regarding a mobile crisis unit pilot project similar to Eugene's CAHOOTS program.

Salem homelessness issues seem to be worsening, rather than improving. I am supportive of this pilot project because it tries to do more than just rotate the homeless around the city. I also support that it may reduce unnecessary/unilateral police involvement, which I generally think is detrimental to homeless individuals and the broader community.

Please support this motion and act with urgency to move beyond the status quo. It is not working. Thank you,

Brian Amstutz

21st St NE

January 9, 2022

Salem City Council Members,

I am writing in support of Councilwoman Vanessa Nordyke's motion requesting a staff report regarding a mobile crisis unit pilot project. I have long followed the successful work being accomplished in Eugene by CAHOOTS. CAHOOTS is now being considered as a model throughout the country; as our neighbor 50 miles to the south, our community can no doubt benefit from Eugene's experience with this long running project.

I believe Salem has great need of a mobile crisis unit. As a long time resident, I have witnessed the astounding growth of our unhoused population—many of whom deal with mental health issues (as does the housed community). Just yesterday, as I was visiting a friend on the hospital grounds I witnessed a very distressed individual walking up and down the street, in and out of the Pringle Park area. This gentleman expressed his distress loudly and often, with his cries and screams reverberating throughout the area. And while I did mention this to hospital staff, I sadly noted that perhaps a mobile crisis unit in Salem could have come to this gentleman's aid...or at least there would have been someone to call. Several years ago, as I was meeting family members downtown, an equally distressed gentleman stumbled in and out of traffic, crying out and carrying what looked to be all his worldly goods. I did call for police support that time for this man, fearful he would be hit by a car. Although my report was accepted, I never saw a response. After a half hour, the distressed gentleman disappeared.

I strongly support the funding and existence of a mobile crisis unit in Salem. Receiving a comprehensive staff report as outlined and requested by Councilwoman Nordyke is an important—vital—first step.

Thank you, Bonnie Davidson 5010 Coloma Ct. SE

Sent from my iPad

From:	Barbara Fuller
To:	CityRecorder; citycouncil
Subject:	City Council Agenda Item 5.b ("Motion from Councilor Vanessa Nordyke requesting information regarding a mobile crisis unit pilot project")
Date:	Sunday, January 9, 2022 7:10:41 PM
Importance:	High

I support the motion for a staff report on a mobile crisis unit pilot project. For over 20 years I was staff with the Oregon Office Of Alcohol and Drug Programs and the Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services, both of which provided services for persons with mental health issues and substance abuse challenges. I saw first- hand in Oregon and nearly every other state the need for resources and trained staff who could help persons turn their lives around and become productive citizens who could serve in their communities and care for their families.

I have volunteered in warming shelters, as well as Portland and Salem centers like Central City Concerns that have an array of services for homeless, mentally ill and substance abuse affected persons. One night about 6 years ago as I left a friend's house, I was getting ready to access Kuebler Road at Stroh. There was a youngish woman lying on the pavement pounding her fists and sobbing. I stopped my car and asked her if she needed help and she said No- to leave her alone! I got back in my car and waited to see what she was going to do as she clearly was in anguish and needed help. She took a few steps down the road and repeated the same behavior. I called 911 and as soon as an officer arrived he went over to talk with her and reported to me that she was one of the regular homeless/mentally ill Salemites. Obviously she needed help.

A mobile unit would be a resource available to those who may not be able to access outpatient or residential services. Unfortunately, Salem, being the home of prisons, Hillcrest, and many group homes , has a great need for these services – for persons with these challenges as well as for their families.

City Council and Salem citizens need to step up and help.

Sincerely, Barbara Fuller 503-589-1077 4745 Nina Ave SE Salem, Oregon 97302

From:	Cindy Kimball
То:	<u>CityRecorder</u> ; <u>citycouncil</u>
Subject:	mobile crisis unit pilot project
Date:	Monday, January 10, 2022 8:34:36 AM

I support the motion for a staff report on a mobile crisis unit pilot project. Salem needs a civilian-led mobile crisis unit (with an EMT and crisis worker) to respond to calls for persons in a mental health crisis and persons struggling with homelessness. We need our police and fire department to respond to emergencies such as burglaries and violent crime, not to mental health crises. A mobile crisis unit would save our county valuable resources. Since Salem is home to numerous prisons and group homes we need a program that can handle these challenges.

Thank you for your time,

Cindy Kimball

Ward 1

1260 21st Street NE

Salem, Oregon 97301

From:	<u>Cristina Koreski</u>
То:	citycouncil; CityRecorder
Subject:	Mobile Crisis Unit
Date:	Sunday, January 9, 2022 8:55:13 AM

I support the motion for a staff report on a mobile crisis unit pilot project because it is so important to have people who understand mental health working with the people in crisis. The subject matter experts should be working to assist those who are in the middle of a mental health crisis not the police. It will cost less money in the long run to assist these people and refer to the correct services instead of just putting people in jail for causing a disturbance.

cindy schnelle
CityRecorder
Fwd: support for mobile crisis unit
Saturday, January 8, 2022 11:20:34 AM

------ Forwarded message ------From: cindy schnelle <<u>cindyfschnelle@gmail.com</u>> Date: Sat, Jan 8, 2022 at 11:19 AM Subject: support for mobile crisis unit To: <<u>citycouncil@cityofsalem.net</u>>

I support the motion for a staff report on a mobile crisis unit pilot project because the need for skilled interventionists in mental health crises has not and cannot be met by police, no matter how well intentioned their response.

I worked at NWHS as an RN for 9 years; many of our patients were homeless and struggling with mental health issues. Many times I witnessed, as well as called 911, requesting a crisis unit for assistance, when, despite many attempts at de-escalation, a patient lost control, or threatened harm to self or others. We never saw a crisis team, though one was supposed to be available. It was always engaged. Sometimes a fire truck would come with the police, sometimes not, and the patient was usually brought to Salem Hospital ER and discharged, or sometimes arrested and placed in jail and then released without treatment; a revolving door. And the effect of seeing a police officer was traumatizing for these already traumatized people. As an example, notification that the police had been informed of a possible insulin overdose in one instance, caused the patient to become enraged, threatening to get revenge on the clinic and ultimately creating a lockdown; causing additional trauma for that patient, and others when the SWAT team showed up. Ultimately, this approach has been expensive and unhelpful. My hope would be that a mobile crisis unit would better serve our unhomed population as well as those in the community having mental health crises and free up the police to deal with crime.

Cindy Schnelle

From:	Christian Sisenstein
То:	citycouncil; CityRecorder
Subject:	Report on mobile crisis center
Date:	Saturday, January 8, 2022 7:12:12 PM

I support the motion for a staff report on a mobile crisis unit pilot pilot project because I believe this to be an amazing thing for Salem. We have seen how amazing a mobile crisis unit has been able to address the gaps of the police in Eugene and how successful it has been. We need something like this is Salem to help address mental health issues and issues with the unhoused that are not solely handled by aggressive police action.

This is IMPORTANT for Salem.

Thank you

Christian Sisenstein

From:	Richard & Deanna Iltis
То:	CityRecorder; citycouncil
Subject:	Mobile crisis unit project
Date:	Friday, January 7, 2022 10:14:27 PM

I support the motion for a staff report on a mobile crisis unit pilot project because there is an example of the effective CAHOOTS program in Eugene-Springfield, and because there is such a need for a similar program here in Salem.

Deanna Iltis Salem

From:	Dave Maceira
To:	<u>CityRecorder</u>
Subject:	Support for Mobile Crisis Unit for Salme
Date:	Sunday, January 9, 2022 8:04:54 PM

I personally support the motion for a staff report on a mobile crisis unit pilot project for the follow reasons.

Having served out community as a front line worker at local warming shelter's, community service event's and serving meals to the unsheltered I have often seen first hand the changing demeanor of guests when confronted by authority figures. The response to a uniformed police officer versus their response to unarmed non-threatening support staff can vary. But it has been my experience that a uniformed response always heightens a guest's emotions and increases their levels of anxiety which can also lead to physical violence and property damage.

For example, guest's that I have attended to in a crisis can take a considerable amount of time, determination and effort to calm down and or deescalate. However, once relaxed even the slightest change in atmosphere, the wrong response to a question, or even an off hand gesture might cause a guest to revert to an agitated state. Additionally, people experiencing a traumatic episode typically shy away from contact with police for many reasons. But one thing is clear. The appearance of an authority figure does escalate emotions and may result in undesirable consequences.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

David Maceira

Sent from Mail for Windows

Dear City Council,

We support the motion for a staff report on a mobile crisis unit pilot project because Salem has a crisis on its hands.

We have read about the benefits of these programs in other communities. We have menally ill wandering our streets, unhoused; we see it everyday living blocks from downtown. The situation is mounting and the city needs to consider a sensible plan of action to help a growing (NOT SHRINKING) mental health crisis in our community. Thank you.

Heidi Preuss Grew and Scott Grew 1568 Chemeketa Street NE Salem OR 97301

Heidi Preuss Grew International Academy of Ceramics member since 2007 www.heidipreussgrew.com

From:	noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of <u>Jimlyngo@comcast.net</u>	
То:	CityRecorder	
Subject:	City meeting public comment	
Date:	Sunday, January 9, 2022 1:29:25 PM	
Attachments:	ATT00001.bin	

Your Name	James Goeke
Your Email	Jimlyngo@comcast.net
Your Phone	503-931-3387
Street	3145 camellia Dr s
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97302
Message	I strongly support the development of a 'mobile crisis unit' pilot program. I imagine it to be similar if not the same as Eugene's CAHOOTS program. We need our police catching criminals and not dealing with psycho-social problems of the homeless and mentally ill. Our first responders should not have to waste their time ( and our tax dollars ) on these same problems. A mobile crisis unit would be the best solution. The chronically homeless and mentally I'll don't need to be arrested or taken to the ER. They do need to be shunted to the appropriate places to deal with their particular crisis, be it psychological or social problems.

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 1/9/2022.

From:	<u>Jan Jaskoski</u>
То:	<u>CityRecorder</u>
Subject:	Comments on Agenda item 5.b
Date:	Sunday, January 9, 2022 10:17:09 AM

We support the motion for a staff report on a mobile crisis unit pilot project because it would benefit all citizens. A mobile crisis unit has the potential to divert high-end interventions (such as hospitalization or arrest) when a lower level of care may be a safe and effective alternative. This model of intervention may be cost effective by providing savings to police departments if law enforcement can spend shorter time on calls (or not need to respond at all) and providing savings to emergency medical services by avoiding unnecessary admissions. Marion County, which holds the money for such a crisis unit, should take action to connect citizens to services like this that benefit all.

Jan & Tim Jaskoski

From:	Joan Lloyd
To:	CityRecorder; citycouncil
Subject:	Agenda Item 5.b ("Motion from Councilor Vanessa Nordyke requesting information regarding a mobile crisis unit pilot project
Date:	Saturday, January 8, 2022 9:08:15 AM

I support a mobile crisis unit (MCU) pilot project because the responders are trained to deal with folks who are having a behavioral health crisis. The program costs less than sending several police officers and crises are resolved without violence. Eugene has had its successful Cahoots program for several years and Portland has started Portland Street Response.

## https://www.portland.gov/streetresponse

Please initiate a program similar to Cahoots in Salem. The need is urgent.

Joan Lloyd

<u>Jim Scheppke</u>
<u>CityRecorder</u>
<u>citycouncil</u>
Testimony on Agenda Item 5d
Saturday, January 8, 2022 7:40:05 PM

Dear Mayor and City Council

I support the motion for a staff report on a mobile crisis unit pilot project because this will hopefully get this issue off the back burner and back on to the front burner.

I thought when the Budget Committee and the Council voted last year to budget funds in the 2021-22 budget for a mobile crisis unit that the policy was set to pursue this. Since that time nothing has happened. Grant funds that could have been added to City funds have been left on the table. Our police chief has spoken openly in the Salem *Statesman Journal* about his opposition to mobile response units so I can only take from that the policy that was adopted by the appropriate policy-makers is being subverted by City staff. That's not right.

Civilian mobile crisis units are the proven solution to serving people in crisis. They are less expensive and more effective. People in crisis don't need to be confronted by officers with tasers and guns. We need to learn from the death of Natzeryt Viertel just last year at the hands of the police. How might that have ended differently with trained mental health specialists responding to the call about a suicidal young man? Mr. Viertel might be alive today.

Thanks to Councilor Nordyke for her leadership on this issue and for her persistence in attempting to do the right thing for Salem.

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

I support the motion for a staff report on a mobile crisis unit project because I heard a presentation recently that featured a successful program in Eugene, OR, CAHOOTS, sponsored by White Bird Clinic. The evidence they had in regards to collaboration with the police department and their financial savings and overall operations was impressive. Salem should definitely model a similar program.

Joyce Zook, Salem resident

From:	<u>Kim Davis</u>
То:	<u>CityRecorder</u>
Subject:	Motion from Councilor Nordyke requesting information regarding a mobile crisis unit pilot project
Date:	Saturday, January 8, 2022 3:05:15 PM

I support the motion for a staff report on a mobile crisis unit pilot project. As a (retired) social worker, I have repeatedly witnessed first hand the haphazard responses provided to persons experiencing mental health and substance use related crisis by law enforcement officials and staff of for-profit hospitals. There are no illnesses that receive less compassionate responses than those suffered by persons experiencing psychiatric or addiction related crises. It is time for Salem to invest time and resources to identify ways to implement healthier care for our community.

Kim Davis 97306

From:	Kayleen Warner
To:	CityRecorder
Subject:	Agenda Item 5.b
Date:	Sunday, January 9, 2022 7:50:10 AM

I support the motion for a staff report on a mobile crisis unit pilot project because programs like the CAHOOTS program in Eugene and others like this have been successful in other communities and we need solutions to the growing homelessness crisis. Those with mental illness are not capable of helping themselves so we must provide them support.

Kayleen Warner 3318 Oakcrest Dr NW Salem, OR 97304

From:	Lorie Fontaine
То:	citycouncil; CityRecorder
Subject:	Agenda Item 5.b Mobile Crisis Unit Pilot Project
Date:	Sunday, January 9, 2022 11:22:47 PM

Dear Mayor and City Councilors,

First, thank you to Councilor Nordyke for continuing to bring this critical issue forward. I support the motion for a staff report on a mobile crisis unit pilot project because I believe in public safety for ALL of our citizens. I know people in my own neighborhood who fear for the safety of their precious loved ones with mental illness if the police are ever called.

When my sister suffered terrifying hallucinations and delusions she repeatedly called 911 for help. Instead of receiving help she was arrested and had to go to court, a humiliating and frightening experience for this former nun, like severe schizophrenia wasn't enough terror. Donna was a gentle soul who deserved treatment, support and kindness from mental health professionals, not arrest.

Let's use the right tools for the job and not inflict further trauma on our families.

I read the statement from our Chief of Police about why he doesn't support a mobile crisis unit at this time and, sadly, it's yet another reason so many of us have lost faith in our police. I encourage Chief Womack to reconsider his stance regarding our mentally ill parents, siblings, and children. Our community needs a trusted response when our vulnerable citizens are in crisis. Please support this study.

Thank you, Lorie Fontaine Ward 7

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Lisa Novak
То:	Chuck Bennett; citycouncil; Trevor Phillips; Vanessa Nordyke; Virginia Stapleton; Tom Andersen; Jackie Leung;
	Jose Gonzalez; Chris Hoy; Jim Lewis
Cc:	CityRecorder
Subject:	01-10-2022 City Council Meeting, Agenda Item 5d.
Date:	Friday, January 7, 2022 10:41:14 AM
Attachments:	Written Testimony for City Council Meeting 01-10-2022.pdf

Dear Mayor Bennett and Salem City Council,

Attached, please find my letter of support for a motion by Councilor Nordyke during the upcoming January 10 Council Meeting, Agenda Item 5d.

Sincerely,

Lisa Novak Ward 3 4423 Nalani Ct SE, Salem, OR 97302 January 7, 2022

City of Salem 555 Liberty St SE Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Mobile Crisis Unit Pilot Project, Motion from Councilor Vanessa Nordyke January 10, 2022 City Council Meeting, Agenda Item 5d.

Dear Mayor Bennett and Salem City Council,

I am writing in support of Councilor Nordyke's motion to direct Salem City Staff to study the feasibility a Mobile Crisis Unit Pilot Project. I respectfully ask that this be taken under serious consideration during the January 10 City Council Meeting.

I understand that the City of Eugene employed such a program (CAHOOTS) years ago. Being comparable in population, I believe we can look at their plan and results and consider implementing a similar program in Salem.

My husband and I relocated to Salem from Oregon City in June 2021. As active members of the Oregon City community, we saw first-hand the benefits of such a program. The program included the addition of a Behavioral Health Specialist, and the position serves as a resource for the department personnel when working with individuals that are experiencing a mental health crisis. The Specialist also assisted individuals and their families by connecting appropriate services to reduce future law enforcement interventions and divert individuals from jail whenever possible. This position provides crisis intervention, case management, consultation, and referral for a variety of individuals in need. Other duties include outreach engagement of clients and families struggling with symptoms of mental illness and substance abuse. This position also provides additional resources and training for not only the police department, but other City departments and community.

This not only freed up the police from answering such calls, but also greatly reduced the number of individuals arrested (bogging down resources), while providing and directing them to the services they need.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa Novak Ward 3 4423 Nalani Ct SE Salem, OR 97302

From:	Laura Sauter
То:	citycouncil; CityRecorder
Subject:	Agenda Item 5.b Mobile Crisis Unit
Date:	Sunday, January 9, 2022 9:05:17 AM

I support the motion for a staff report on a mobile crisis unit pilot project because Salem needs trained mental health professionals to SUPPORT the police in their difficult work. The crisis unit should have it's own funding added to the police department budget and work as a team with officers. This approach has been proven to de-escalate situations and results in increased safety for officers and the public.

Sent from my iPhone

January 9, 2022

Salem City Council Members,

I am writing in support of Councilwoman Vanessa Nordyke's motion requesting a staff report regarding a mobile crisis unit pilot project. I am familiar with the CAHOOTS program in Eugene, OR as well as similar programs across our country and believe Salem has a dire need for such services. A staff report is the first step toward a program in Salem and I strongly urge you to support this motion.

Thank you,

Marc Nisenfeld 5010 Coloma Ct SE

From:	Margaret Stephens
То:	CityRecorder; citycouncil
Subject:	Agenda Item 5.b (Motion from requesting information regarding a mobile crisis unit pilot project)
Date:	Sunday, January 9, 2022 7:41:18 PM

I support the motion for a staff report on a mobile crisis unit pilot project because we need to provide fast and qualified assistance for people having mental health crises. The professionals responding do not necessarily need to be law enforcement. By providing mental health and homelessness assistance with a mobile crisis unit, police can focus on criminal activity. I strongly support establishing a mobile crisis unit. We desperately need this In Salem

Ray Quisenberry Ward 1

Sent from my iPad

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I support the motion for a staff report on a mobile crisis unit pilot project because I know firsthand the needs of Salem residents with mental health challenges. A close friend, who lived with us for a long time, experienced many encounters with police. Some were able to help him thru his mental health crises., at least a little bit. Some were not. Most often there was no one appropriate to actually call for help.

Please do anything you can to develop a CAHOOTS style program here in Salem

Thank you

Susan Graves 1240 Hillendale SE Salem, OR

From:	rhollemon@comcast.net
То:	<u>CityRecorder</u>
Subject:	Agenda Item 5.bmobile crisis unit pilot project
Date:	Saturday, January 8, 2022 9:36:49 AM

We support Councilor Vanessa Nordyke's motion for a staff report on a mobile crisis unit pilot project. Salem has a lot of homeless people and many of them have mental health and/or substance abuse problems. These are difficult problems to deal with, as we experienced with one of our sons. Police are not trained to deal with people experiencing crisis and may make a bad situation worse, as we've seen happen in other cities. A mobile crisis unit can deescalate a crisis and get appropriate help for the individual. We hope Salem will invest in a mobile crisis unit, so we urge City Council to order staff to research funding resources, identify potential community partners, and estimate costs as a prerequisite to establishing a mobile crisis unit in Salem.

Sally & Ray Hollemon 3335 Crestview Dr. S Salem, OR 97302 Jan. 9, 2022

Salem City Council members -

My name is Sarah Rohrs. I live in Northeast Salem.

I support the motion for a staff report on a mobile crisis unit pilot project because Salem could benefit greatly from such a service and studying it is a good first step. (Agenda Item 5.b on the Salem City Council Jan. 10 meeting agenda)

Salem has a large number of people living on the streets. Many are struggling with mental health and other issues. A mobile crisis unit, modeled after the successful one called CAHOOTS in Eugene, could provide much-needed services to these folks directly and in a humane manner.

The alternative is often that police are called and people go into the criminal justice system rather than receive the mental health and health services they need.

I support the use of staff time to research such a proposal fully and completely. As I go about town in Salem I frequently see and encounter houseless people in distress and in great need of help. I support the city of Salem taking a significant first step in providing meaningful, humane and lasting help to them.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sarah Rohrs

Dear City Councilors,

I strongly support the motion by Councilor Nordyke for a staff report on a mobile crisis unit pilot project because our current approach--delegating this responsibility to the police--is not working. The police are trained in law enforcement and crime prevention, but they generally have no expertise at all in dealing mindfully and effectively with emotional trauma, and in fact their intervention can often exacerbate trauma and paranoia, leading to tragic outcomes. Such emotional crises should be handled by mobile crisis units who are specifically trained in skillful intervention. Please vote YES on this motion, so that Salem follows best practices in caring for ALL of our citizens, especially those in personal crisis.

Sincerely,

Thomas I. Ellis, Ph.D. 4553 Fir Dell Dr SE Salem, OR 97302

(H) 971-701-6965 (C) 503-385-5594 Email: <u>tiellis@gmail.com</u>

"Everything that lives is Holy." --William Blake

From:	Vernelle J Judy
То:	<u>CityRecorder</u>
Subject:	CAHOOTS Project
Date:	Sunday, January 9, 2022 7:38:16 AM

I support the motion for a staff report on a mobile crisis unit pilot project similar to Eugene's CAHOOTS because Salem and Marion County is filled with caring, generous folks who wish to help those in need of such a program but currently have no source of a comprehensive program staffed to assist as needed. Why should Salem reinvent the wheel and end up with a square one when a round one that works has already been in use? Why spend money on trying to come up with an idea when some other city already came up with one? Why can't the City of Salem government prove to it's citizens that it is intelligent and caring?

Vernelle J Judy Citizen of NorthEast Neighborhood Salem Oregon

vernelle.judy@gmail.com tripshoe@gmail.com Author of: THE BIG ONE, TRIPPING ON OREGON'S TREASURES & TRIPPING ON A SHOESTRING