

From: [Greta B](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Written testimony for May 23rd Public Hearing on Ordinance Bill No. 8-22
Date: Monday, May 23, 2022 1:23:47 PM
Attachments: [Street Mural Support Letter GNA Nov 21.docx](#)

Dear Salem City Council members,

I am writing in support of Ordinance Bill No. 8-22, amending Salem Revised Code (SRC) Chapters 14 and 900.

I am lucky enough to live in the Grant neighborhood, with many wonderful residents. Something I deeply appreciate about my neighbors is their hope for a welcoming and vibrant neighborhood.

One of the ways we hope to make our neighborhood more welcoming and vibrant is with a street painting project at the intersection of Belmont and Cottage Streets. I have been working with a group of neighbors the past year or so to bring this hope to fruition. We recently presented four potential designs to the Grant Neighborhood Association at their May 5th meeting. At that meeting, attendees were able to give input on the designs. Additionally, we offered an online voting form so people who could not be at the meeting could give input. We also took the four designs around the neighborhood in person, door-to-door, on Election Day for anyone who could not participate online to give input. We had 60 people weigh in on this design process. You can see the four designs at the Grant Neighborhood Association webpage: <https://www.grantneighborhood.org/>

We greatly appreciate our neighbors' support of this project and are looking forward to the actual work of painting itself! We are excited to add community art to enrich our neighborhood and our city. Thank you for your work to make this possible by amending the Revised Code to allow a process for doing this kind of project in Salem.

We are happy to answer any questions you may have, please let us know if any arise. I'm also attaching the November 2021 letter of support from the Grant Neighborhood Association here for your reference.

Sincerely,

Greta Bergquist

1020 Cottage Street NE

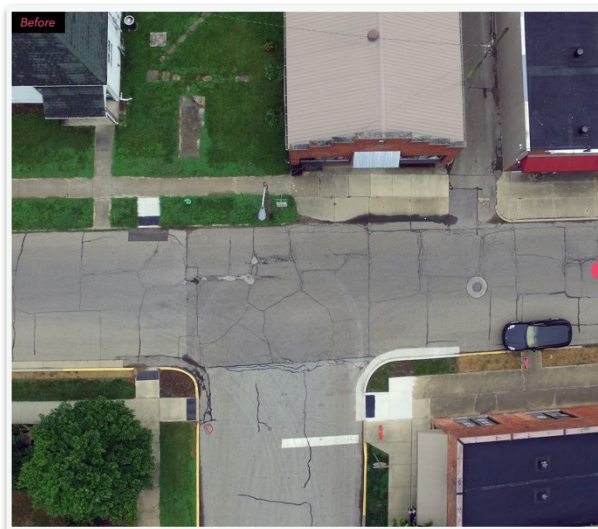
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Mr. Mayor & City Councilors,

At our November 2021 Grant Neighborhood Association meeting, our neighbor Laura Herrmann proposed an idea to brighten one of the intersections in Grant with a colorful geometric painting that covered the entire intersection of Cottage Street NE and Belmont Street NE. Laura and her family live near this street intersection, and she has sought the support of the other neighbors who live on or near the intersection, and they all support the project. After a great presentation and lively discussion among neighbors and board members alike, we voted 11-1 to support this idea and, therefore, submit this letter asking for the city's support and approval for the project.

Also known as Street Paintings or Asphalt Art, a street mural is painted (and maintained) on the intersection itself by the community members living in the nearby vicinity. Public art promotes "placemaking" or the making of a more meaningful public space for the people who live there and for the people who walk by.

The design of the mural would contain colorful, geometric shapes and patterns, not words or images. Neighbors can work together to agree on a design. The movement to add Asphalt Art to streets, crosswalks, and other infrastructure has been building across the country. We include a before and after images below from an intersection of Columbus, Indiana. This is not the exact design being proposed but is representative of the bright and colorful intersection we imagine would result from the hard work of our neighbors.



Columbus, IN - *Before*



After

The Grant Neighborhood Association supports this project and is asking for the city's support as well. Specifically, the neighborhood is requesting permission to paint a colorful, geometric design at the intersection and the necessary street closures to carry out the project sometime in the summer of 2022. Should the city have the ability to lend technical support on site

preparation, paint selection and application, that would be appreciated as well. Finally, any financial support of the project, should the city council be so moved, would be received most gratefully.

Thank you for your consideration of this project!

Sincerely,
Grant Neighborhood Association