

From: [Clifford Eiffler-Rodriguez](#)
To: [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: In support of Mobile Crisis Unit
Date: Monday, September 26, 2022 1:58:34 PM

It's been two years since Councilor Nordyke brought up establishing a mobile crisis unit.

I continue to support the proposal but am befuddled why this continues to be a non-starter for our city leadership.

This city council and three city managers who have filled the position in the interim are liable, in part, for the rampant violence visited upon people living in Salem by the police department because you sit on your hands.

You have sat there and listened as experts from CAHOOTS have shared the myriad of benefits Salem stood to gain by creating a similar program. And you did nothing.

Countless advocates and community members have testified in support of launching this as strong resource for our community. AND YOU DID NOTHING.

Since that initial proposal for a MCU both the police and fire departments have come to you, with their hands out, asking for more money. Each of them citing growing response times and the changing nature the calls they deal with.

Instead of utilizing a proven method like a MCU, this council digs in the couch cushions to find these departments the cash. Despite Chief Niblock going on record that he would not consider alternative ways to deploy his resources to emergency calls and the police's rampant violence.

I am including one video, filmed earlier this month of officers forcing a man experiencing a crisis to the ground and then subsequently tasing him when he was being restrained by FOUR officers.

Also attached are photos of Daniel Garcia, another victim of the way this very violent police department deals with people in the struggling with substance abuse.

Those cases and several of the people killed by the police department in the past 22 months have had a mental health crisis as their catalyst event.

Your inaction is not only callous but demonstrates a degree of cruelty that makes people scared to live in this city.

This is how our city deals with mental health crises.

Blood is on your hands.

Now we are here, on the verge of a third year of the same proposal.

The speed which this proposal has moved is absolutely negligent.

What will be your legacy?

Step up.

Regards,

Clifford Eiffler-Rodriguez

Ward 7

Salem Police assault houseless man in crisis: <https://youtu.be/vumxnmPedOE>





From: [Carol Goldfarb](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#); [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Support for Agenda Item 5.a (Motion from Councilor Vanessa Nurdyke concerning a Request for Proposals for a Mobile Crisis Unit)
Date: Monday, September 26, 2022 3:40:21 PM

Please vote YES on the motion from Councilor Vanessa Nurdyke concerning a Request for Proposals for a Mobile Crisis Unit.

My youngest daughter goes to college in Eugene and one day we unknowingly were parked next to a CAHOOTS van in a grocery parking lot. The CAHOOTS service providers were talking to someone who was experiencing some distress but who was willing talking to the service providers. The situation was handled and no police officers were involved. Civilian-based mobile crisis units will free up police and other first responders to handle emergencies that require their specialized services while allowing those in need of the civilian-based mobile crisis units to have their needs met by people trained to help those are struggling. I have another young adult who has autism and though normally extremely articulate, when in stressful situations, their communication skills don't function as well and they get overwhelmed. It would be a relief to know that trained mental health professionals or social workers would be called in to de-escalate a crisis situation. Eugene's CAHOOTS diverts between 3-8% of calls from police. Mobile crisis units complete the public safety spectrum and allow those with specialized training to handle the emergencies for which they are best trained. Please support a mobile crisis unit for Salem.

Thank you.

Carol Goldfarb

From: [Hollie Oakes-Miller](#)
To: [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [Vanessa Nordyke](#)
Subject: Support for Agenda Item 5.a
Date: Monday, September 26, 2022 3:21:41 PM

City Leaders,

We support agenda item 5.a. Salem desperately needs a mobile crisis unit that can respond to local situations that are better served by a trained non-law enforcement response team staffed by social workers, medics, and mental healthcare professionals. There is ample evidence from other cities that this type of crisis support works, it keeps community members safer, and it is more cost effective than sending police and other first responders to situations they aren't adequately trained for or have the capacity to handle.

Please vote YES on the motion from Councilor Vanessa Nordyke concerning a Request for Proposals for a Mobile Crisis Unit.

Gary Miller & Hollie Oakes-Miller
Ward 5

From: [Jennifer Sprague](#)
To: [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#); [Micki Varney](#)
Subject: Support for Agenda Item 5.a (Motion from Councilor Vanessa Nordyke concerning a Request for Proposals for a Mobile Crisis Unit)
Date: Monday, September 26, 2022 4:04:17 PM

Councilor Varney and all of the Salem City Councilors:

Please vote YES on the motion from Councilor Vanessa Nordyke concerning a Request for Proposals for a Mobile Crisis Unit.

Our community needs a Mobile Crisis Unit. Our city's law enforcement shouldn't have to respond to health care crises, and people experiencing a mental health emergency should be able to receive quick access to mental health care and not be arrested and put in jail just because they are having a mental health emergency. It's more effective, more efficient and less expensive to have social workers, mental health and medical professionals, rather than law enforcement, respond to people who are struggling. And mobile crisis units free up our other first responders (police, fire, ambulance), for other calls.

Please support Agenda Item 5.a and vote YES on Councilor Nordyke's motion for RFPs for a MCU.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Sprague
Ward 8
548 W. Hills Way NW
Salem, OR 97304

From: [Benjamin Turner](#)
To: [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Support for Agenda Item 5.a (Motion from Councilor Vanessa Nordyke concerning a Request for Proposals for a Mobile Crisis Unit)
Date: Monday, September 26, 2022 3:48:19 PM

Please vote YES on the motion from Councilor Vanessa Nordyke concerning a Request for Proposals for a Mobile Crisis Unit. Civilian-based mobile crisis units are being created in cities across the country to serve people in crisis. We need social workers, mental health and medical professionals to respond to people who are struggling. Mobile crisis units also free up other first responders, like police, fire, and ambulance, for higher acuity calls. Mobile crisis units complete the public safety spectrum.

From: [Lois Stark](#)
To: [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [Vanessa Nordyke](#)
Subject: Support for Agenda Item 5.a
Date: Monday, September 26, 2022 1:51:32 PM

Hello Mayor and members of the City Council,

I'm writing today in support of the request for proposals for a Mobile Crisis Unit for the City of Salem.

This is NOT about defunding the police. This is about getting trained mental health professionals on the streets to intervene when there is a mental health crisis.

This kind of service is much less expensive than an ER visit or a police stop. Plus, it is better for the people experiencing a crisis. Sometimes a police vehicle can seem intimidating and scary.

In addition, the unit could help with people who are experiencing homelessness, grief issues, or people contemplating suicide.

My son lives in Eugene and has very very good things to say about the Cahoots program there. It is widely accepted as an innovative service that many cities are copying.

This type of service could be one more great things about living in Salem.

Please support this agenda item.

Lois Stark
Ward 2
440 21st SE
Salem, OR 97301

From: [lorrie walker](#)
To: [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [lorrie walker](#)
Subject: Mobile Crisis Unit
Date: Monday, September 26, 2022 2:17:49 PM

Mayor Bennett and Salem City Council,

I am in full support of moving forward with a mobile crisis unit for the city of Salem. This is long overdue. Salem has been in need of this for many years.

Salem has a large number of correctional institutions as well as the main Oregon State Hospital located here. Many people when released do not have adequate support services in place. Many are too mentally ill to know they need help. Many are unsheltered in Salem. Many are in crisis, be it, suicidal, hungry, delusional, mental health needs, water, a person to listen, etc. Many do not need a police response. Many delusional people are scared of people, especially the police.

A crisis response unit would save money and time of a Salem Police response when a EMT / qualified mental health person could talk with the person and determine needs.

As a person who worked in the mental health system over 30 years, 28 at the Oregon State Hospital, it is way past time. As a advocate & volunteer with unsheltered, I know many of the people on our streets.

A mobile crisis unit could benefit everyone.

Salem needs Police available to respond to criminal issues. Please move forward with this.

Respectfully,

Lorrie Walker, Guardian & Unsheltered Advocate

Ward 2 Resident

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Murray McNeil](#)
To: [Barbara Nabb](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Re: Support for Agenda Item 5.a (Motion from Councilor Vanessa Nordyke concerning a Request for Proposals for a Mobile Crisis Unit)
Date: Monday, September 26, 2022 1:28:43 PM

Please read below.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 26, 2022, at 10:25 AM, Barbara Nabb <bnabbster@gmail.com> wrote:

Please vote YES on the motion from Councilor Vanessa Nordyke concerning a Request for Proposals for a Mobile Crisis Unit. Civilian-based mobile crisis units are being created in cities across the country to serve people in crisis. We need social workers, mental health and medical professionals to respond to people who are struggling. Mobile crisis units also free up other first responders, like police, fire, and ambulance, for higher acuity calls. Mobile crisis units complete the public safety spectrum.

Thank you,
Barbara Nabb

From: [Osvaldo Avila](#)
To: [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Support for Agenda Item 5.a (Motion from Councilor Vanessa Nordyke concerning a Request for Proposals for a Mobile Crisis Unit).
Date: Monday, September 26, 2022 4:03:39 PM

Please vote YES on the motion from Councilor Vanessa Nordyke concerning a Request for Proposals for a Mobile Crisis Unit. Civilian-based mobile crisis units are being created in cities across the country to serve people in crisis. We need social workers, mental health and medical professionals to respond to people who are struggling. Mobile crisis units also free up other first responders, like police, fire, and ambulance, for higher acuity calls. Mobile crisis units complete the public safety spectrum.

Osvaldo F Avila
Salem resident (West Salem)

From: [Talía Ruehr](#)
To: [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Support for Agenda Item 5.a (Motion from Councilor Vanessa Nordyke concerning a Request for Proposals for a Mobile Crisis Unit)Please vote YES on the motion from Councilor Vanessa Nordyke concerning a Request for Proposals for a Mobile Crisis Unit. Civ...
Date: Monday, September 26, 2022 3:04:09 PM

Dear City Council,

Please vote YES on the motion from Councilor Vanessa Nordyke concerning a Request for Proposals for a Mobile Crisis Unit. Civilian-based mobile crisis units are being created in cities across the country to serve people in crisis. We need social workers, mental health, and medical professionals to respond to people who are struggling with issues they are better suited to handle in a more productive manner. It is crucial to consider that mobile crisis units free up other first responders, like police, fire, and ambulance, for higher acuity calls. Mobile crisis units have a significantly decreased chance of any harm coming to anyone involved rather than police or firefighters who are not often specifically and thoroughly trained in mental health and crisis situations. It's important to this city to decrease any chance of injury to any citizens or officials and support people who are in crisis. My family and I worry about my sister who is Autistic. Mobile crisis units would ease our fears of a public meltdown of hers entirely unintentionally become a matter involving the police. It is vital to protect vulnerable people in our community. To bring it upon ourselves to help and care for people.

I request that you please vote yes on Agenda Item 5.a.

Thank you for your time!

-Talía Ruehr