

From: [Joan Lloyd](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Item 5a 23-112 on the agenda of City Council meeting March 13, 2023
Date: Monday, March 13, 2023 1:50:39 PM

Good afternoon, Mayor and Councilors,

Having been a NEN Board member for 16 years, Vice-Chair and Chair of NEN for several years, it is my opinion that individual Neighborhood Associations should decide whether or not to have term limits for their officers. Each NA has its own by-laws written and voted on by their membership in which term limits, if desired, can be written.

I don't think it appropriate that the City Council make the decision to limit terms.

Joan Lloyd

From: [Leslie Polson](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Against Item 5 a23-112
Date: Monday, March 13, 2023 3:49:42 PM

March 13, 2023

Dear Salem City Council

I am not in support of term limits for city councilors - # 5a23-112. The reasons are as follows. There should never be any term limits for volunteering with the city. Chairs and Co chairs are super volunteers who go above and beyond the role of a regular volunteer. Besides preparing agendas and running meetings, they are the point people for the numerous problems in their association. I have seen them handle code problems, graffiti, nuisance neighbors, clean up events and other great neighbor hood gathering events. In order to run an event, they spend time preparing the hospitality, logistics, messaging and organizing activities. Writing grants, procuring donations, reviewing land use decisions – these are valuable activities that the city gets unpaid service from. Why put term limits on donations?

A Chair and co-chair is a time consuming job that requires a big time commitment. If the city of Salem has super volunteers, why stop them? Term limits is not an idea that worked very well with the State Legislature. When there were term limits, there were new faces without institutional memory. The lobbyists, unelected people were running the state because the elected representatives did not understand the intricate rules of writing legislation and the committee process. That idea disappeared and term limits went away. I am a president of an organization that has term limits and I keep getting elected because no one wants to work as hard as I do. This is the situation in many neighborhood associations. There are a few people who are willing to work to make the collaborative process of a neighborhood association work. Yes, being a chair is not always the most popular person. A good chair will hold meetings that are timely and regular. The biggest problem in Salem neighborhood associations is finding chairs and members. Creating term limits will not solve that problem. There should not be term limits on volunteering.

Leslie Polson, 930 Garnet St NE, Salem, OR 97301 5030581-7984