

Thomas Hammond  
6/12/2023

Salem City Council  
555 Liberty St SE, RM 220  
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Support for Resolution No. 2023-15

Dear Salem City Council Members,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed increase in operational fees aimed at funding essential services for fire, unsheltered individuals, and emergency responders in our city. As a concerned resident and taxpayer, I believe that investing in the well-being and safety of our community should be a top priority, and this initiative will go a long way in achieving that goal.

The provision of adequate resources for fire services, unsheltered individuals, and emergency responders is critical to maintaining a safe, compassionate, and thriving community. Our dedicated firefighters protect our homes, businesses, and natural environment, responding promptly to emergencies and effectively mitigating risks. By increasing operational fees, we can ensure that our fire department has the necessary resources, equipment, and training to carry out their lifesaving work with utmost efficiency and effectiveness.

Furthermore, the proposed increase in operational fees will enable us to address the issue of homelessness in a holistic and compassionate manner. Allocating resources to unsheltered services will help individuals experiencing homelessness access temporary shelter, meals, hygiene facilities, and other critical services. By investing in these resources, we can foster an environment that promotes stability, dignity, and opportunities for individuals to transition out of homelessness and reintegrate into society.

I also want to express my support for the allocation of funds to emergency responders, including law enforcement. These individuals play a crucial role in maintaining public safety and upholding the rule of law. By providing the necessary resources and support to our emergency responders, we enable them to carry out their duties effectively, ensuring the well-being and security of our community.

The proposed increase in operational fees represents a fair and equitable contribution from all individuals and businesses that benefit from the enhanced fire services, unsheltered services, and emergency responders. It is important to recognize that by investing in these services, we are collectively investing in the well-being and safety of our community as a whole.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse the proposed increase in operational fees to fund fire, unsheltered services, and emergency responders in Salem. This measure will play a vital role in

strengthening our city's fire response capabilities, providing crucial support to individuals experiencing homelessness, and ensuring the effectiveness of our emergency responders. I urge each member of the City Council to support and prioritize the passage of this initiative, recognizing the significant benefits it will bring to our community.

Thank you for your time, dedication, and commitment to serving the residents of Salem. I trust that you will carefully consider my viewpoint and take the necessary steps to implement this important measure for the betterment of our city.

Sincerely,

Thomas Hammond