

**From:** [lorrie walker](#)  
**To:** [Trevor Womack](#); [citycouncil](#); [Chris Hoy](#)  
**Subject:** Salem Issues  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 8:38:14 AM

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Chief Womack,

I am looking forward to the meeting tonight. I have been concerned about teenagers and violence in Salem for some time. I haven't felt safe at times in Salem.

I occasionally listen to the police scanner. It is truly shocking to hear what happens in our area.

A former co-worker's son was shot and killed outside a bar. A neighbor was going to the state fair and saw a teenager shot and killed a few feet in front of her car. A teenager who violently killed a unsheltered man. Traumatic loss of lives.

I have also heard of issues with violence in our schools. I personally think it was a big mistake to take officers out of schools. I don't believe in a school to prison pipeline. I believe in if the shoe fits mentality.

I hope to be at the meeting tonight. I am thankful this discussion is taking place. Thankful people are going to be talking and looking for solutions.

I am very much in support of you as the leader of Salem PD, Salem police and thankful for all you, they do every day.

Respectfully,  
Lorrie Walker

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**From:** [Roberta A](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#); [Virginia Stapleton](#)  
**Subject:** Gun violence...  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 1:40:42 PM

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Hello,

I'm writing in lieu of attending tonight's work session. I am doubly interested in this issue given that the City and the County are working on this together. There's strength in numbers!

Please know, I am convinced our forefathers had no idea of the modernization of weapons of war. Given the changes since the second amendment was written, I want you to know that I'm against weapons of war in the hands of non-military persons.

When the second amendment was written, we had no military industrial complex. We now do. Back then, the militia was necessary; now it's not. Applying the 18th Century law in the 21st Century makes our lives more dangerous.

Please do what is necessary to rectify this issue, once and for all. Hunting is one thing; open carry by those who threaten average Americans is another. Ban bump stocks, AR15s, any AKs, number of rounds any gun can shoot, and add age and health limitations, as well as criminal status including those charged though whose trial may not have occurred to date. Feel free to add anything you think is important that I may not have thought of as I write.

Thank you for listening. Roberta Cade  
1321 Chemeketa St NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
503 580-2878

**From:** [Stacey Vieyra-Braendle](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony - November 20th work session  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 4:50:08 PM

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Hello Salem City Councilors and Mayor Hoy,

As many of you may know, my husband and I live in Ward 6. What you may not know is that we live in a neighborhood that experiences amongst the most violence in the city. Professionally, my husband and I are both invested in finding solutions to community violence. My husband is a public defender in the juvenile justice system. I have worked with persons who were both survivors of and accused of violent offenses and am passionate about furthering the role of my profession (occupational therapy) in working with justice-involved individuals. Despite our professional and personal proximity to community violence, we are lucky to have never been the direct target of violence. We have seen the aftermath though. We've seen the devastating impacts to families, both of victims and suspects. We've seen lives ruined by punitive systems that offer no hope or opportunity for rehabilitation. We've seen the financial strain on societies that fund those systems. We've had drive-by shootings occur feet from where we sat in our yard and heard gunshots at all hours of the night. One particularly traumatic event took place two years ago. We had decided to enjoy a spontaneous drive to get ice cream, and on our way home (just a block from our house), a car suddenly crashed on the road in front of us. We immediately pulled over and were the first to respond to check on the driver, who had been shot. We felt so helpless, knowing there was nothing we could do to save him as he died in front of our eyes. Not a day goes by that I don't think back on that night. I share all this to emphasize how invested we are in finding genuine solutions to curb violence in our community.

I was excited to hear about your joint work session with other elected leaders to discuss the Gun Violence Problem Analysis recently released. I'm encouraged to see our city engaging in a crucial first step to implementing community-based violence interventions. I cannot stress how much I appreciate that data is being brought into this conversation, particularly data that attempts to make sense of the "why" behind violent incidents. Societally, we often lose sight of the "why" in response to the "what". However, when we peel back the layers to find the true roots of violence (poverty, lack of opportunity, not feeling a sense of belonging, etc.), we can then design programs that not only reduce violence, but have positive impacts on other significant public health issues (houselessness, absenteeism in school, chronic disease, etc).

As the conversation moves forward, I urge you and partners in this work to engage additional community members, and to center the perspectives of those who have been identified as most high risk to be connected to community violence. It's imperative that we utilize both their experiences and the data presented in this report to design solutions. And again, it's imperative that the solutions we design are focused on addressing the true roots of community violence. It's not enough to create partnerships and programming that connect, say, high-risk youth to the criminal justice system and law enforcement. Rather, we must truly address their base needs and the barriers that have created an environment in which violence becomes a necessary survival skill (whether true or perceived survival skill). I would also like to advocate for utilizing a trauma-informed approach in this work as well, and would love to see our city make steps to become a compassionate, trauma-informed city too.

I know that our city is facing a serious budget crisis. In addition to that, community-based

violence initiatives are also work that often take time for the benefits to actualize. As such, it may not seem that implementing solutions can/should be a funding/time priority. However, I assure you that there are many community members and organizations that would gladly share in the work, as well as many funding opportunities for program development in this area. As a faculty member in the developing Occupational Therapy Doctorate Program at Western Oregon University, I can attest to our interest in partnering in this work. We are currently working on developing partnerships with other city partners and initiatives, and with my personal/professional ties to the issue, would advocate loudly for us to partner with you in this work moving forward.

Thank you for reading through my thoughts on this topic, and thank you for devoting this work session to the issue as well. I know that the work won't stop here.

Stay well,  
Stacey Vieyra-Braendle

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**Dr. Stacey Vieyra-Braendle, OTD, OTR/L, MT-BC**

Pronouns: she/her/hers

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