

**Friends of Salem Police
1495 Commercial St. NE
Salem, OR 97301**

February 20, 2017

Mayor and City Council
City of Salem
555 Commercial St. SE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Mayor Bennett and Councilors:

Thank you for your thorough study of issues related to building a new headquarters for the Salem Police Department. There is widespread agreement that the department needs a larger home—now and for the next few decades. This larger building will accommodate the growing complexity of community policing and the pressing need for modernization for the benefit of our citizens.

You have four draft resolutions before you at the Feb. 21 work session. All of them provide responsible answers to questions regarding how large the headquarters should be, and we will not presume to recommend one over the others. We have been organizing our committee for several weeks, and we are prepared to advocate for passage of whichever resolution you approve.

However, please note that solutions proposed by other interested parties are distracting from the central issues: timing of an election and whether the police building should be packaged with upgrades of other city buildings. These upgrades are certainly vital, and the city should address them soon. What Salem needs—sooner, rather than later—is a decision in May to just proceed with a new police headquarters for the long-term security and safety of Salem's residents. What helps with passage is the outstanding reputation of our police chief and his officers and staff.

We draw your attention to the work session attachment "Response to Council Questions Regarding Bond Measure." In it, city staff and architects serving the city show that Salem residents' investment in a new police headquarters is sound and roughly equal to the cost of another project with which ours is being compared.

Salem residents deserve a thorough discussion of the police headquarters question, and they deserve a chance to decide on a resolution that has been pared down from the measure that lost last year. This spring is a good time to do that. The Friends of Salem Police will campaign vigorously for passage of the measure. We urge you to act this month to bring this issue to Salem voters in May.

Thank you.

Cordially



Gerald W. Frank
Co-chairperson
Friends of Salem Police



Janet Taylor
Co-chairperson
Friends of Salem Police

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LEGAL DEPARTMENT