

July 12, 2017

Chuck Bennett, Mayor
Steve McCoid, Council President
555 Liberty Street SE
Salem, OR 97301

Mr. Bennett, Mr. McCoid and members of the Salem City Council,

First, let me say thank you. The City of Salem provided the funding necessary to purchase a house more than 30 years ago, that became a safe haven for thousands of victims of domestic violence; sexual assault; stalking; and human trafficking in our community. In fact, **15,887 children and adults** have stayed in the shelter since it opened in 1978 (**140,105 nights of shelter**)! The City's investment in our program has saved countless lives and provided a safe home where victims were able rebuild their lives free of violence.



Formerly Mid-Valley Women's Crisis Service

When we received the loan more than 30 years ago, it came with a stipulation for us to repay the loan, if we stopped using it as a shelter. Current loan agreements from the City of Salem with nonprofits typically have a 10 year "repayment" process. As long as the nonprofit uses the space as outlined in the agreement for 10 years, the loan is forgiven. If we had purchased our shelter under this plan, we would have exceeded this requirement more than 3x's over. We hope you will agree we have made good use of the funds you entrusted to us all those years ago.

The Center for Hope & Safety is respectfully requesting a waiver of the repayment of the original loan made more than 30 years ago, for \$60,000 and two small subsequent loans; one in 1985 for \$5,100 and in 2003 for \$4,001. Both of the small loans were used for improvement to the house. A waiver of the repayment will allow us to use the funds from the sale of the old shelter for the benefit of victims of violence in our new shelter. We will use the \$69,101 in funds to make sure vulnerable families continue to receive vital services in Salem.

We have been told by the staff at Urban Renewal that only the City Council can waive the requirement that we repay these old loans. We hope you will consider allowing this waiver, so the funds can be used to provide shelter services for many years to come. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like for me to address this issue in front of City Council.

Thank you for your consideration. The Center for Hope & Safety appreciates our long-term vital partnership with the City of Salem.

Sincerely,

Jayne Downing
Executive Director

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because everyone deserves a life free of violence