

Amy Johnson

From: Ray Quisenberry <rayquisenberry@centurylink.net>
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2020 3:43 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Salem Health request to waive fees

Council members

I've read the request from Salem Health asking the city to waive the standard fee for using public space for private use. The city should deny the request.

With a general fund falling short, and the immediate need for extra revenue, it would be poor public policy to waive these fees. It would be very hard to explain to citizens now seeing a new fee on their own monthly utility billing why Salem Health is getting a special break, and especially hard to explain to homeless advocates that are struggling to secure a place for our most vulnerable citizens why the city opted to not collect these fees. It would also be unfair to those now using these sports on a first come, first served basis.

Instead, Salem Health should be encouraging their employees to use transit and to car pool, or to provide a van pool. If they still need spaces after trying that approach, then they should pay the going rate.

Please do not grant the waiver.

Ray Quisenberry

920 5th St. NE

Sent from my iPad

Amy Johnson

From: Jim Scheppke <jscheppke@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 9:38 PM
To: citycouncil
Cc: CityRecorder
Subject: Testimony on Agenda Item 3.3b

Dear Salem City Council:

Regarding the request by Salem Health for a parking fee waiver request for the use of on-street parking spaces for 30 months, I request that the Council deny this request.

The reasons for denial given by staff are very sound. On-street parking spaces are a community asset for which the City should be compensated, and mitigating the impacts of construction projects should always be the responsibility of the property owner and not the City. Deviating from the latter sets a bad precedent that will lead to future requests from other property owners.

There is also the matter of the loss of General Fund revenue that the City cannot afford. The fact that Salem Health does not contribute to the General Fund, as I do, makes this particularly offensive to me.

Finally we know from the recent Greenhouse Gas Inventory that the large majority of greenhouse gas pollution in Salem (53%) comes from cars and trucks. As one of Salem's largest employers, Salem Health has contributed to this by providing free parking to its staff, incentivizing hundreds of Single Occupancy Vehicles commuting to and from work every day. According to the staff report the free on street parking spaces requested will be "primarily used by Salem Health staff." This will only perpetuate Salem Health's significant contribution to unhealthy carbon pollution in Salem. I hope when Salem finally adopts a Climate Action Plan that it will require major employers to stop promoting SOV commuting with free parking.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jim Scheppke
1840 E Nob Hill SE Salem