

Amy Johnson

From: Kopcho <Team.Kopcho@pm.me>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 3:16 PM
To: CityRecorder; citycouncil
Subject: Public Testimony for City Council July 13, 2020 - Agenda Item 6d - Performance Audit

Dear Mayor Bennett and Members of City Council,

Over the course of the last few months the degradation in trust and public perception of the role of law enforcement in the community has been noticeable. This lack of trust follows years of overall decline in trust in government: a 2016 poll found over 40% of Oregonians did not have confidence in their state government. Governmental auditing is one tool that can help curtail this decline by advancing principles that are critical to managing public resources, such as accountability, transparency, integrity, and equity.

Auditors' work can increase public trust by providing analysis and recommendations related to effectiveness of governance, programs, and services; compliance with rules, laws and legal agreements; assessment of risks and threats; and investigations of potential fraud and abuse. Additionally, audit work can lead to positive outcomes including:

- improved programs and services;
- cost savings;
- improved performance accountability;
- improved awareness of risks; and
- prevention of future problems.

Organizations without strong audit functions or those that do not heed auditor advice run the risk of adverse circumstances. For example, in early 2018, an audit warned the City of Atlanta of key information technology vulnerabilities; however, city officials did not address the risk, and shortly after, city information systems were held at ransom by hackers. Services were incapacitated for more than a week before city officials agreed to pay over \$50,000 to unlock the computer systems.

The Association of Local Government Auditors describes auditors as a wise investment, citing audits that led to significant public savings, increased revenue, improved performance, or discovery of fraud:

- Oregon auditors identified a major problem in Medicaid services that was addressed by leadership with estimated \$12.6 million saved each month
- A city of Chardon, Ohio audit found the city could save \$463,000 through: dispatch operations consolidation, staffing reduction, overtime optimization, and formalized policies and procedures; and
- An audit in Massachusetts identified potentially widespread fraud and abuse related to overtime claims for shifts not worked, and led to investigations of 42 state troopers.

If structured and staffed appropriately, an independent performance audit department can be extremely effective and productive. In addition to work that leads to new revenue, cost recovery, and economic impact, performance audits can also address highly complex programs like those found in city police departments:

- An audit of the San Francisco Police Department detailed five findings and nine recommendations ranging from overtime effectiveness to establishment of performance metrics;
- An audit of the San Diego Police Patrol Operations found dispatch data could be analyzed for potential improvements and more community input was necessary; and

- An audit of Oakland Police Department Overtime found limits were not being enforced, written policies didn't exist, and improvement in operations could be made.

Auditors can intercept emerging concerns before they become costly to the city and its taxpayers.

As a government performance auditor with over a decade of experience in federal, state, and local settings, it should come as no surprise that I support Councilor Nordyke's motion for a performance audit of the Salem Police Department. However, such an audit should be only undertaken by adhering to audit standards set forth by the U.S. Government Accountability Office and carried out by an independent and objective auditor with a broad scope of authority. As such, the city must look forward by considering a permanent audit function. I can make available language for model legislation for such a function upon request.

Should the city forgo such an function, consideration should be given for a permanent office similar to that of Eugene's independent Police Auditor.

Respectfully,

C. Kopcho

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.

Amy Johnson

From: Diane Chavez <dianedalychavez@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:53 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Salem Police Department Performance Audit

It has been said that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. I think that we need to look closely at our Salem city budget to see if we are spending money in ways that support the needs of Salem residents and thus function to prevent crime. I think an audit of the police department is a good place to start the discussion of where our dollars are best spent. Let's start with knowing where they are currently being spent.

Sincerely,
Diane Chavez
ward 1, Salem Oregon

Amy Johnson

From: Laurie Dougherty <lauriedougherty@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:21 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: City Council meeting 7/13/20 Agenda item 6.d. Police Performance Audit

To: Mayor Bennett and Salem City Councilors
From: Laurie Dougherty
Salem resident Ward 1
Re: Agenda item 6.d. 20-277

I support the proposal for a performance audit of the Salem Police Department. The police must be held accountable both for individual actions and behaviors and for the policies, procedures and culture of the Department as a whole.

The Police Department takes up one third of the city budget, and the police respond to many incidents where social or health services would be more appropriate. I hope the audit will be able to make recommendations for reallocating portions of the police budget to more beneficial resources.

Amy Johnson

From: Sarah Romanek <ssromanek@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:10 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Public Comment for Agenda item 5.a. and 6.d.

To the Salem City Council,

I support Councilor Hoy's motion to direct the City to start the process of renaming the Center Street Bridge and Center Street in Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s honor.

I support Councilor Nordyke's motion for a Performance Audit of the Salem Police department. This process should be done independent from the City and SPD.

Thank you,
Sarah Romanek
Ward 7