

From: [J Staats](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Testimony
Date: Monday, February 22, 2021 6:02:32 PM
Attachments: [02222021 City Council Testimony for Our Salem.pdf](#)

February 22, 2021

To: Mayor and City Council

Fr: Jason Staats, Co-owner of Across The Street Vintage and Resale - Ward 1 - 1109 Edgewater St. NW and President of Where To Eat Guide, Inc. 1107 Edgewater St NW, Salem, Oregon 97304

Re: Agenda Item 5.c. (21-52) Our Salem

My name is Jason Staats. I own two businesses in Ward 1, on Edgewater St NW., Across The Street Vintage and Resale, and Where To Eat Guide and Associates.

Thank you to the Our Salem team for the work that has gone into the project.

Edgewater Street is one of Salem's gems. It already exudes some of what Our Salem aims to do, which is to develop complete neighborhoods.

One concern is, I do not understand if the council votes on accepting the Our Salem Vision today, is it a land-use issue? If a land-use case, I understand there may be a judicial area that prevents the public from discussing the matter with our city councilors until a formal hearing? I kindly ask the city attorney to address this. The people must not be cut-off from elected representation.

It also concerns me that the updated staff summary requesting the city council to accept Our Salem Vision was only made available to the public in the last ten days or so. Anything less than 30-45 days is not enough for the neighborhood and business associations to gather, interpret and provide feedback.

I request that the city create a firm deadline calendar of when public documents will be produced, when the votes will occur, what matters and periods for changes, what types of corrections the public has input on, etc.

Finally, will those of us who live and work in these communities be able to make changes later, or will Our Salem's Vision be set in stone?

Many other business owners and I disagree with removing the Craft Industrial zoning and believe that an added overlay zone may be a more suitable approach.

Our Salem's mapping for West Salem still has many flaws. The economic impact studies still need to be done to evaluate the ability to bring in high-paying jobs and make sure the current business climate is supported. Other macros and micro issues such as walkability, public transportation hubs, and discussions of affordable and low-income housing still need to be addressed.

As an established business owner in West Salem and an active member of the West Salem

Neighborhood Association, I want the people to be in the driver's seat making the final decision. WE MUST HAVE A SAY; WE MUST BE ABLE TO MAKE CHANGES through the entire process and even perhaps beyond the finalization of Our Salem.

Thank you,
Jason Staats CC:/ West Salem Business Association

Warm regards,

Jason A. Staats

President, Where To Eat Guide | Co-Owner, Across the Street Vintage & Resale |
Founder & Board Member, Pacific NW Experience | Founder, Salem Rainbow Youth
|
Honorary Board Member, Portland Concierge Association |
Vice-Chair, West Salem Neighborhood Association |

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"The great man is he who does not lose his child's heart."
-Mencius, Book IV

"Train the will to do the thing that will produce the condition you desire."
-Sue Ferguson

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