

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of dobo3274@gmail.com
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Contact Budget Office
Date: Sunday, May 9, 2021 8:23:26 AM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Bonnie O'Connell
Your Email	dobo3274@gmail.com
Your Phone	503 949-7228
Street	2120 Robins Lane SE, unit 149
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97306
Message	Please support our neighborhood associations. Salem citizens benefit greatly from these associations. An example is the night time lighting in Bush Park. SCAN association was instrumental in securing this lovely and beneficial lighting.

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 5/9/2021.

From: [NoReply](#) on behalf of Donalddavis@gmail.com
To: [Finance](#)
Subject: Public Comment to City of Salem Budget Committee
Date: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 8:22:36 PM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Donald Davis
Your Email	Donalddavis@gmail.com
Your Phone	5035502340
Street	440 23rd ct nw
City	salem
State	OR
Zip	97304
Message	<p>I know that this years budget system is too late to change, however with the recent windfalls from Biden's economic package I believe that the time to purchase more hotels/motels to humanely move people without houses into immediate shelter is more important now then ever. The costs of homelessness mean that the city often pays for increased enforcement costs that do not solve the underlying issue of people not having a place to go. This initial large outlay of money will pay dividends in the future by allowing the city more control over how the homeless shelter is being run. I urge the City to work with its community partners in order to increase the livability and thus the economy of Salem. Lets not wait to act until Salem's homeless crisis becomes the next LA</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 5/19/2021.

From: [Jim Scheppke](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Testimony on the Proposed FY2022 Budget for the June 14th Public Hearing
Date: Friday, June 4, 2021 8:31:53 AM

Dear Mayor and City Council:

I write in opposition to the plan to purchase body cameras and other cameras for the Salem Police Department in FY 2022 for the following reasons:

- 1) There was no evidence or data presented to Citizen Budget Committee that justified the need to spend millions of scarce General Fund dollars over the next five years for this purpose. The Police Chief commented that body cams were “standard equipment.” That’s not good enough. What is the problem we are trying to solve? How much police misconduct or questionable conduct have we experienced in Salem in recent years (data please)? In my recollection, there has been very little. That is a credit to the Salem Police Department and its leadership and its recruiting practices. Let’s assume that will continue. Until that changes, body cameras are a very expensive solution in search of a problem.
- 2) There has now been years of experience with police body camera programs in cities across the U.S., and there is a considerable amount of research into the cost/effectiveness of these programs. Much of this research has shown that these programs have not been cost/effective. For example, researchers at George Mason University’s Center for Evidenced-Based Crime Policy conducted a meta-analysis of 70 body camera studies and found that cameras have not had statistically significant effects on most measures of officer behavior or citizen’s views of the police. Shouldn’t the City Council review this literature before committing us to millions of dollars of cost over the next five years?
- 3) The Salem Police Department recently underwent an assessment of its policies and practices by a national consulting firm. As I recall, there was not a recommendation for a body camera program in that assessment. If that was not the case, what is the rationale for moving forward with such a program?
- 4) There were no solid cost estimates presented to the Citizen Budget Committee or to the public for this program, only a range of costs. We do know that recently the City of Tigard approved a contract to spend \$1.46 million over the next five years for a body camera program. Tigard only has about a third of the number of officers that Salem has, so it would be reasonable to expect that a body camera program for Salem would cost as much as \$4.5 million over the next five years. With the severe underfunding of our parks, our library, our planning and code enforcement, and other City departments, is this really the best use of General Fund dollars?
- 5) I proposed to the Citizen Budget Committee that we begin to address the severe underfunding of the Salem Public Library in FY 2022 by reopening our main library on Mondays beginning on January 1, 2022. The City Manager presented a cost estimate for that of approximately \$290,000. The Citizen Budget Committee considered this but in the end rejected the idea, noting that the Library had just begun to develop a new long range strategic plan and that it would be premature to plan to reopen the main library on Monday before the plan is completed. This same logic should apply in the case of the Salem Police Department

which is also embarking on a strategic planning process. Why would it be premature to plan to spend \$290,000 to have our renewed library open on Mondays in 2022, but not premature to spend maybe three times as much on a body camera program in advance of the completion of the SPD strategic plan? Why the double standard here?

I ask that the City Council amend the recommendation of the Citizen Budget Committee and put off committing millions of scarce General Fund dollars in 2022 and beyond for a body cam solution in search of a problem.

Best regards,

Jim Scheppke

Ward 2