

ADDITIONS A G E N D A



Joint Meeting of the City of Salem Budget Committee and
the Salem Urban Renewal Agency Budget Committee

DATE: Wednesday, May 11, 2022
TIME: 6:00 PM
CHAIRPERSON: Virginia Stapleton
PLACE: Virtual Online Meeting

STAFF LIAISON:
Josh Eggleston, Chief Financial Officer
503•588•6130
jeggleston@cityofsalem.net
Kali Leinenbach, Senior Fiscal Analyst
503•588•6231
kleinenbach@cityofsalem.net

ADDITIONS AGENDA

- 2. PUBLIC TESTIMONY
 - b. Correspondence from Mari Anne Gest regarding affordable housing and homelessness.
 - c. Correspondence from Lynn Takata regarding graffiti abatement.
 - d. Correspondence (additional) from Kaethe Mentrum regarding Stortz Avenue NE.

- 5. INFORMATION ITEMS
 - c. Staff Report: Additional Responses to Committee Member Questions

The City of Salem budget information can be accessed on the internet at: www.cityofsalem.net/departments/budget

NOTE: Disability-related accommodations, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to participate in this meeting, are available upon request. Sign language and interpreters for languages other than English are also available upon request. To request such an accommodation or interpretation, contact Kali Leinenbach, (503) 588-6231 or kleinenbach@cityofsalem.net at least 2 business days before this meeting. TTD/TTY telephone (503) 588-6439 is also available 24/7.

The City of Salem values all persons without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, domestic partnership, disability, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity and source of income.

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of mgest@msn.com
To: budgetoffice
Subject: Contact Budget Office
Date: Friday, May 6, 2022 3:22:57 PM
Attachments: [City Council letter.docx](#)

Your Name	Mari Anne Gest
Your Email	mgest@msn.com
Your Phone	5038518845
Street	865 Valleywood Dr. SE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97306
Message	Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 5/6/2022.

May 6, 2022

Salem City Council members:

I live in Ward 4 and have worked for Church at the Park for over a year until I was recently laid off due to funding issues. Since I have been following the council meetings on television, I have learned a lot and understand and appreciate many of your decisions and dilemma's moving forward on the topic of homelessness.

I'd like to point out an issue that needs correction as you move forward with the 2022-23 Budget.

According to the Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance, a wage earners' affordable rent is \$624. per month. The 2021 estimated monthly rent that is affordable at mean renter wages is calculated to be \$720 in Marion Co. Data for Marion and Polk counties show the median income of homeless households with any source of income (roughly 51% of the homeless population in Marion and Polk Counties) is \$8,820 per year. According to Arches, CAA, 2018, SSI brings in approximately \$750 a month. Average rent for a zero-bedroom apt. in Marion and Polk is \$949 a month, making housing unattainable for households depending on SSI. This gap leaves the majority of homeless individuals and families without affordable options to be self-sufficient in long-term permanent housing.

The Federal standard is that no more than 30% of a household's gross income should be spent on rent and utilities. Households paying more than 30% of their income are considered cost burdened. Households paying more than 50% of their income are considered severely rent burdened.

According to the Oregon Department of Employment, Oregon's median household income reached \$69,165 in 2018. Marion County - \$56,408 and Polk \$62,389. That means that 80% of the median household income would be approximately \$54,800.

The numbers for 2022 will be much higher as inflation and the lack of available rentals has driven costs even higher. **My point is that 80% of the family median wage as noted in your upcoming budget for affordable housing is not affordable.** Maybe its affordable for developers but not for our residents. Please correct the 80% to reflect a more realistic approach to help Marion and Polk residents afford housing. **30% to 40% of the family median wage is more realistic and will help alleviate homelessness.**

At a recent council meeting the council discussed development of the Nordstrom Mall in downtown Salem. Originally the Council asked that 25% of the units built be affordable at the 80% family median wage which was already too high to be affordable. The developer came back in April saying they could only afford to make eight units out of 157 units affordable and the affordable rate will be \$999. a month for a studio apartment. (Already not affordable at that rate for a studio.) Loss of revenue for the City is \$71,000 a year for 10 years – that is a loss of \$710,000 in city revenue that could have been used to provide temporary shelters for the

homeless or to invest in affordable housing. Homelessness is the communities #1 issue. The Council unanimously adopted the change from 25% of units to be affordable to eight studio units at \$999.00 a month. For what we are losing in revenue the council has not touched the homeless issue.

I recognize finding funding for homelessness is problematic and will take more time and money. There appears to be no end in sight with the population of homeless in Salem projected to increase to over 3,000 people. We need a sustainable funding source. I hope you will consider adopting a stable funding source. At one council meeting, Councilor Stapleton suggested raising utility rates by \$2 from \$8 to \$10. This is the discussion we should be having. If I may be of help, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your support in the past to help the homeless but we need to do more. Our community deserves better.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mari Anne Gest
865 Valleywood Dr. SE
Salem, OR 97306
Mgest@msn.com

From: [Lynn Takata](#)
To: [Tom Andersen](#); [Virginia Stapleton](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Chuck Bennett](#); [Trevor Womack](#); [Chris Hoy](#); [Jackie Leung](#); [Micki Varney](#); [Police](#); [Debra Aguilar](#); [Jennifer Hingston](#); [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Graffiti Abatement Request for additional staff
Date: Monday, May 9, 2022 7:03:12 AM

Why the City needs a part time or one seasonal staff on the weekends on the Graffiti Abatement team.

There is one full-time person working M-F on the Graffiti Abatement Team for the entire City of Salem. This department, part of the city's Police Department, in the past has been very effective resource for our community's safety.

The City plans to hire an additional person but no one works on the weekends. I have been waiting to have graffiti removed from several alleys in the neighborhood for approximately eight weeks.

Below is an example of graffiti that was done on Saturday evening this weekend. It's graffiti that is potentially dangerous. It is a sign of two groups having a dispute about turf for drug sales in the area. As dealing with drug houses is difficult and time-consuming, a helpful tool is to remove graffiti. This graffiti is all within three square blocks in Northeast Salem and is adjacent to a suspected drug house. As many of the shootings in our community are related to drugs, we need your help.

Removing graffiti ASAP is important for community safety. If you don't live in some of Salem's communities being impacted by weekly gun shots, violence, and graffiti, please help keep the rest of the city safe.

Sadly, within three years, two murders related to drugs have occurred within two blocks of my house. Bullets are flying through the neighborhood and thankfully an innocent bystander has not been impacted yet. Many neighbors have moved or are talking about leaving Salem.













This request is not about tagging a personal name or the occasional cute graffiti. As I was not able to share my PowerPoint at the budget committee meeting I'm submitting these photos.

The police department has kindly given me graffiti removal chemicals. This has been helpful but being able to get a signed waiver from owners of properties is difficult.

We appreciate your consideration.

Thank you,

From: [Kaethe Mentrum](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: For testimonial
Date: Thursday, May 5, 2022 11:41:22 AM

Hello Kelli,

Please also include the below testimony for May 11th as part of that agenda re speed bumps. By doing what this person is suggesting, there could be money saved for speed bumps.

Thank you,
Kaethe Mentrum
Secretary/Park Chair
NGNA

The below came from a wise board member we are proud to have. We agree the City should reprioritize therefore, we want to send it to you. Money can be spent on more priority matters like the speed bumps on certain residential roads as Stortz, 31st, Edgewood and more as well as dangerous area bike lanes (as the tunnel on Portland Road NE near the PO), crumbling sidewalks, pot holes, etc.

"I also think reinforcing select buildings for earthquakes is not a priority over street and bridge improvements.

Just saying...

Cities should prioritize expenditures for the general and not for special welfare.

What does it say that the 2008 bond didn't solve the transportation issues.

Seems like the actual city budget should be reprioritized.

My thoughts. I'm a "big picture" thinker. "

For the Budget Committee Meeting of: May 4, 2022
Agenda Item No.: 5.c.

TO: Budget Committee Members

THROUGH: Kristin Retherford, Interim City Manager

FROM: Josh Eggleston, Chief Financial Officer

SUBJECT: Additional Responses to Committee Member Questions

SUMMARY:

Committee members have reached out to City departments with excellent questions. In the interest of sharing information and increasing understanding, the questions and responses are compiled in this document.

ISSUE:

Responses to member questions through May 10, 2022.

RECOMMENDATION:

Information only.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. What is the current status of the Graffiti Abatement Team?

The Police Department has two full time graffiti abatement specialists who work to abate graffiti citywide. One of those positions has been vacant since January, which reduced our response capacity. We are set to hire a new employee to fill that vacancy by month's end. With both full-time positions once again filled, we will return to the standard schedule which provides coverage Monday-Friday, 10-hours per day.

During this period of reduced response capacity, staff had a conversation with a community member about how we might provide coverage on weekends. That discussion generated the idea for an additional part-time employee. However, we do not have the budget to add additional positions to the graffiti team at this time.