

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 April 17, 2024
TIME: 6:00 PM
CHAIRPERSON: Dr. Irvin Brown

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

Written comments on agenda items may be submitted at budgetoffice@cityofsalem.net. Public comment may also be provided in person or via ZOOM. If using ZOOM, please pre-register between 8:00AM and 2:00PM on the day of the meeting at the following link: [Comment and Participate in a City Council Meeting | Salem, Oregon \(cityofsalem.net\)](#)

ADDITIONS AGENDA

2. Public Testimony

- a. Correspondence from Eileen Williamson regarding library
- b. Correspondence from Christine Ertl regarding library
- c. Correspondence from Ray Quisenberry regarding library
- d. Correspondence from Joan Stenbridge regarding library
- e. Correspondence from Laura Stein regarding library
- f. Correspondence from Chane Griggs regarding amphitheater
- g. Correspondence from Lindsay Pirelli regarding library
- h. Correspondence from Ariele Miller regarding library
- i. Correspondence from Rachel Bucci regarding library
- j. Correspondence from Katie Pickthorne regarding library
- k. Correspondence from Peter Bergel regarding library
- l. Correspondence from Lydia Goodman regarding library
- m. Correspondence from Virginia Green regarding library
- n. Correspondence from Claudia Judson regarding library
- o. Correspondence from Juliana Ha regarding library
- p. Correspondence from Stephania Fregosi regarding library
- q. Correspondence from Kim Davis regarding library
- r. Correspondence from Flo Hall regarding library
- s. Correspondence from Torey Jarrett regarding library
- t. Correspondence from Sadie Verville regarding library
- u. Correspondence from Lois Stark regarding library
- v. Correspondence from Karen Sjogren regarding library
- w. Correspondence from Meagan Gossling regarding library
- x. Correspondence from Trish Mahoney regarding library
- y. Correspondence from Doug Yancey regarding library
- z. Correspondence from Paul Blake regarding library
- aa. Correspondence from Liatrix Cottam regarding library
- ab. Correspondence from Mary Beth Hustoles regarding library
- ac. Correspondence from Erik Blake regarding library
- ad. Correspondence from Lisa Miller regarding library

- ae. Additional correspondence from Karen Sjogren regarding library
- af. Correspondence from Deanne Smith regarding library
- ag. Correspondence from Genelle White regarding library
- ah. Correspondence from Erin Donnithorne regarding library
- ai. Correspondence from Lulu Clubb regarding library
- aj. Correspondence from Shawn & Carlos Ortiz-Turner regarding library
- ak. Correspondence from Jessica Allgyer regarding library
- al. Correspondence from Janice DeVito regarding library
- am. Correspondence from Karen Reuter regarding library
- an. Correspondence from Danielle Hoffman regarding library
- ao. Correspondence from Robert Hoffman regarding library
- ap. Correspondence from Alison Taylor regarding library
- aq. Correspondence from Brinsley Hammond-Brouwer regarding library
- ar. Correspondence from Kathy Lingo regarding library
- as. Correspondence from Rachael Atchison regarding library
- at. Correspondence from Tory Timm regarding library
- au. Correspondence from Darbie Versoza regarding library
- av. Correspondence from Karen Heywood regarding library
- aw. Correspondence from Pamela Bilderbeck regarding library
- ax. Correspondence from Francis Starling regarding library
- ay. Correspondence from Southeast Salem Neighborhood Association regarding library
- az. Correspondence from Shade Montague regarding library
- ba. Correspondence from Jonathan Bucci regarding library
- bb. Correspondence from Gary Fisketjon regarding library
- bc. Correspondence from Ariel Loveall regarding library
- bd. Correspondence from Nicole Sallee regarding library
- be. Correspondence from Randy Fishfader regarding library
- bf. Correspondence from Andrea Heywood regarding library
- bg. Correspondence from Joyce Zook regarding library
- bh. Correspondence from Megan Harper regarding library
- bi. Correspondence from Mary Ginnane regarding library
- bj. Correspondence from Rainbow Olmstead regarding library
- bk. Correspondence from Laurie Dougherty regarding library
- bl. Correspondence from Sarah Wood regarding library
- bm. Correspondence from Tina Blacksmith regarding library
- bn. Correspondence from Chad Whitsa regarding library
- bo. Correspondence from Irene Longaker regarding library and airport
- bp. Correspondence from Karen Runkel regarding library
- bq. Correspondence from Lori Little regarding library
- br. Correspondence from Ivy Clark-Henry regarding library
- bs. Correspondence from Carol Goldfarb regarding library
- bt. Correspondence from Annie Battee regarding Youth Development

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

- a*. Staff Report – Responses to Committee Member Questions
- b. Staff Report – Additional Responses to Committee Member Questions
- c. Budget Committee Meeting Procedures

**Original description in item 5a was incorrectly labeled. The Staff Report and materials were included as part of the original agenda, but was incorrectly titled.*

From: [Eileen W](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Salem Library System
Date: Friday, April 12, 2024 8:09:09 AM

KEEP OUR LIBRARY SYSTEM FULLY FUNDED - it is beyond foolishness and it is most short-sighted of our officials to even consider cutting library funding at a time in our country where accurate information is needed to thwart fake news and other misleading published information. My goodness, folks, get a grip on reality.

Eileen Williamson
1043 High Street SE

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Eileen Lane Williamson
503-362-1577 (h)
503-881-9227 (c)

From: [Christine Ertl](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: No Library Cuts
Date: Friday, April 12, 2024 8:20:41 AM

Please do what you can in these lean times to keep our library functioning at its current capacity.

Thank you,

Christine Ertl

Salem citizen and library patron

From: [Ray Quisenberry](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Salem Public Library
Date: Friday, April 12, 2024 9:27:13 AM

To Salem Budget Committee

I'm emailing to ask that you make no further cuts to the Salem library. My understanding that a proposal, called Option 1, which will slash personnel and close the West Salem branch, will be discussed at your next meeting. Please do not go down this path.

I know Salem is facing a budget shortfall, and I was saddened to learn that many of our summer community programs have been cancelled. But our library is already funded at levels well below comparable cities in Oregon. Let's not slice it even more.

Ray Quisenberry
Ward 1

Sent from my iPad

From: [J Stembridge](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#); [citycouncil](#); [Linda Nishioka](#)
Subject: "Option 1" Budget Cuts to Salem Public Library
Date: Friday, April 12, 2024 10:08:32 AM

Dear Citizen Budget Committee, City Counselors, Mayor Hoy, and Councilor Linda Nishioka,

I fully recognize the City of Salem must balance its budget.

I respectfully note that Salem Public Library is a community wide treasure where everyone is welcome, especially those with limited incomes. The Salem Public Library provides a sanctuary where self-improvement, collaboration, and joy are available for all patrons and visitors of all ages and abilities. Salem Public Library serves as a "real life" laboratory where good citizenship is fostered and promoted, and seeds are sown for civic engagement throughout ones lifetime. In short, Salem Public Library is vital to the City of Salem.

If my understanding of the cuts contemplated under "Option 1" (listed directly below) are accurate, I urge you to reject these cuts. Salem Public Library is now operating on a skeleton budget and has already absorbed drastic cuts in staff and service hours.

"Option 1" Cuts to Salem Public Library:

- Completely close the West Salem Branch Library after 67 years of operation.
- Layoff eight library employees in addition to the 7.35 positions eliminated last February. Several bilingual staff who were "last hired" would lose their jobs.
- Reduce the operating hours of the main library from 38 to 25-30 per week (3 or 4 days).
- Reduce library programs, including reading programs for children.
- Other unspecified cutbacks to library collections and services.

As a Salem citizen for nearly 50 years, I can honestly say that one of my most consistent joys has been my weekly visits to Salem Public Library. Please preserve this sacred place for our city; both now and those we want to become informed, contributing, active community members in the future.

Sincerely,
Joan Stembridge
1695 Winter St. SE
Salem, OR 97302

From: [Laura Stein](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: please NO CUTS to our Library
Date: Friday, April 12, 2024 10:12:43 AM

Our Library is a pillar to our community. We can not afford to lose any more of its resources.
Please please please. Do not make any more cuts.

From: [Amy Johnson](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: FW: Amphitheater
Date: Friday, April 12, 2024 11:26:32 AM

Comments for April 17, 2024 Budget Meeting.

From: Chris Hoy <CHoy@cityofsalem.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2024 4:49 PM
To: CityRecorder <CityRecorder@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Fwd: Amphitheater

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Chane Griggs <chanegriggs@gmail.com>
Date: April 11, 2024 at 4:41:48 PM PDT
To: Chris Hoy <CHoy@cityofsalem.net>, Keith Stahley <KStahley@cityofsalem.net>
Cc: Julie Hoy <Julie@geppettossalem.com>, Vanessa Nordyke <vannanordyke@yahoo.com>
Subject: Amphitheater

Chris and Keith,
Is there not room for a discussion on another alternative rather than cutting out the Movies in the Park that actually bring dollars into our city?

From today's article I can not clearly decipher what the actual costs are to the city, but it does beg the question of whether we have given enough thought to that cut. Is there an opportunity to bring in business leaders and some from our philanthropic community to determine if whatever the costs may be, they could be addressed in a different approach.

Please consider this written testimony for Monday's council meeting.

Chane

From: [Amy Johnson](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: FW: Proposed cuts for budget committee meeting 04/17
Date: Friday, April 12, 2024 2:05:52 PM

From: Lindsay Pirelli <lpirelli28@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 1:58 PM
Subject: Proposed cuts for budget committee meeting 04/17

I am commenting today to oppose all the options presented, including option 1. We cannot have any more cuts for the Salem Public Library. The layoffs announced last week that would go into effect if council votes on option 1 would eliminate 5 bilingual Spanish-speaking staff, effectively destroying bilingual services and programming at our library. That is unacceptable. Furthermore, it would reduce the library to 25-30 hours a week, a mere 3 or maybe 4 days of service. You'd be removing a safe space for thousands of people to access. Salem would have services equivalent to those of a library serving a city with a population of 3,000 people. Our city has 180,000 people. You say you don't want to close the library, but this would bring it nearly to the point of closure. The impacts of these cuts would be devastating on our community.

This decision - along with the cuts to events like Movies in the Park, First Friday concerts, and Kids Relay - is destroying the community culture that makes Salem unique. As a born and raised Salem citizen, I'm disappointed that those options would even be up for discussion.

You need to reject these options and find a better solution that do not propose further cuts to our library or public events.

Thank you,
Lindsay P.

From: [Ariele Miller](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Library Cuts
Date: Friday, April 12, 2024 4:00:56 PM

I am writing in to protest the proposed cuts to the Salem Public Library.

In 2023, the library had 315, 067 library visits. The library hosted 4,448 community meetings. Library staff helped people who had questions 29,370 times. People come to the library every week to help with job searches, get books for their classroom, to have a safe place for their kids to play, to use the Internet. Salem Public Library is a community hub and an essential city service.

It is important to note that Salem Public Library provides these services while being understaffed and underfunded. The library already does so much with so little. Further cuts would be devastating.

The budget committee's proposed options for addressing Salem's budget shortfall include cuts to library staff positions, which were already cut in February. The reality is that library staff will not be able to provide the level of service our city expects with these proposed cuts.

The layoffs announced last week that would go into effect if council votes on option 1 would eliminate 5 bilingual Spanish-speaking staff, effectively destroying bilingual services and programming at our library. That is unacceptable. Furthermore, it would reduce the library to 25-30 hours a week, a mere 3 or maybe 4 days of service. You'd be removing a safe space for thousands of people to access. Salem would have services equivalent to those of a library serving a city with a population of 3,000 people. Our city has 180,000 people. You say you don't want to close the library, but this would bring it nearly to the point of closure. The impacts of these cuts would be devastating on our community. You need to reject these options and find a better solution that do not propose further cuts to our library.

We all have to make sacrifices, I am told. But why is it always the ones that have very little or nothing at all that are asked to sacrifice? How much of that money is going to the police? How much are they being asked to sacrifice in this scenario? How much money does it take to keep that gigantic police station across the street from Arches running? I bet that shutting that down and the workers moved to a more downsized location would save some money.

Is graffiti removal really all that important? I think living with the graffiti for a while is a sacrifice I, and others could live with. I recently went on a trip to Rome, and that city has graffiti on every street, and not the ancient historical, or artful kind (although it has those too!). But absolutely no one was bothered by it and it in no way diminished the city's livelihood. In fact, in a lot of ways, it enhanced it.

You want to help the homeless? Give them a place to exist for a few hours without being harassed. Allow them a place where they can access the Internet to try and find a job and/or a place to stay. You want to help kids our failing school system? Allow them a place to learn outside of school on their own terms and keep them off the streets causing or getting into trouble.

Cutting the hours of the library so dramatically cuts access to those trying to better themselves.

My husband and I in the last few years bought a house in Salem, and are starting to consider starting a family. I love my home, I was born and raised in this area. It makes me sick to my stomach to consider this, but these cuts would make me question that decision and consider moving to a city that actually cares about the wants and needs of it's citizens.

Sincerely,
Ariele Miller

From: [Rachel Bucci](#)
To: [Virginia Stapleton](#)
Cc: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Budget cuts / public testimony
Date: Friday, April 12, 2024 4:42:56 PM

Dear Ms. Stapleton,

I am writing to ask that you do everything within your powers as City Councilor for Ward 1 to make sure that cuts are not made to the library budget. I would like this letter to also serve as written testimony for the Citizen Budget Committee.

When our family moved to Salem 17 years ago, one of the first things that we did (even before we arrived!) was to look at the public library web page. I was astounded by the number of programs offered by the public library. Once we arrived, my son (who was a toddler at the time) and I spent many days at the library - for storytime, in the Discovery Room and simply checking out books and exploring. As he grew, so did his interests - fueled in large part by what he discovered at SPL. Whether it was Star Wars, ancient Egypt or World War II, SPL had the materials to satisfy his curiosity and fuel his imagination.

It makes me sad and angry to think that young people in our community will not have the same opportunities for learning and connection that we had at such a pivotal point in our lives.

Please do what you can to ensure that Salem Public Library does not become a mere shell of its former self. Already, the library is open half the hours it was 20 years ago. If the proposed budget cuts go through, Salem will be one of the most underfunded libraries in the state and THE MOST underfunded library in a US capital city. A public embarrassment, if you ask me.

We can do better! We can't afford to further diminish this important community resource and gathering spot. The library was already subjected to recent budget cuts -- please look elsewhere for a solution to the city's budget woes. I would also encourage you to get behind a movement to take the SPL out of the general fund through a library district or levy, so that there is a dedicated revenue stream.

I appreciate your service and your time in reading my letter. I hope you will take it to heart and ensure that Salem remains a vibrant and livable city -- of which the library is a centerpiece.

Sincerely,

Rachel Bucci
549 24th Street NE
Salem OR 97301

cc: Citizen Budget Committee - Public Testimony

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Rachel Bucci
office: 503-364-6946
mobile: 202-271-8954
www.rachelbucci.com

From: [Katie Pickthorne](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Library Cuts - Grossly Unacceptable
Date: Friday, April 12, 2024 6:38:33 PM

To whom it concerns:

ANY cuts to library services, staff or hours should have never been considered. This is a massive failure of the City's administration. The library is a safe space for so many and should be fully funded, fully staffed, and open 24/7. But it has been determined to be expendable?! This is totally unacceptable. I will ensure every effort is made to protect the library and vote out every single person that had anything to do with this. I'm so embarrassed on behalf of every citizen in the State of Oregon - the capital city is a complete budgetary FAILURE!! There is no evidence of fiscal responsibility in any sector, but doing what you did to the library is DISGRACEFUL!!! Fix this immediately!!

Sincerely,
Katie Pickthorne

From: [Peter Bergel](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#); "[Linda Nishioka](#)"; [Vanessa Nordyke](#)
Subject: No More Library Cuts!
Date: Friday, April 12, 2024 10:38:18 PM

Members of the Citizens Budget Committee:

I wish to take this opportunity to register my intense opposition to balancing the city budget by cutting Library Services.

I realize the Committee has a tough task in front of it as it tries to balance the city's budget without new sources of revenue. Nevertheless, the Library is a crucial component of efforts to protect our democracy by maintaining an educated citizenry – a component we cannot afford to allow to degrade further.

Salem once had one of the busiest and best libraries in the nation. Now... well, you know.

Please, friends, no more cuts to Library Services.

Peter Bergel
pbergel@igc.org

From: [Lydia Goodman](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Library Budget Cuts
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2024 12:48:12 AM

Hello,

All of the budget options presented at the March 21 budget committee meeting are unacceptable options for the Salem Public Library. The library is already one of the most underfunded libraries in our state - most libraries serving a community of our size have much bigger budgets and more staff positions. The library should not be losing even more funds and it certainly should not close. I want to live in a city with a vibrant library that serves all its community members. I urge you to find different options to address the budget shortfall.

The recent proposal to terminate five library staff members who are bilingual Spanish speakers would be a grave mistake. Having books and other educational tools readily available to our Spanish speaking neighbors is essential to the well-being of our youth and society at large.

I love reading and grew up in the Salem Public Library. I participated in the summer reading program for many years. The library was an exciting but peaceful place. I researched and wrote many school research projects there. The free wifi, quiet environment, and late hours were a godsend. I wouldn't be who I am today without the Salem Public Library. Please don't deprive our future generations of this.

Oregon already has a 38% chronically absent rate for public schools. My spouse is a high school teacher in the Salem Keizer School District. They regularly have illiterate students in their class. They are unable to teach many students the subject material because the highschool students in our community cannot read or do basic math. They also oftentimes have students in their class that should be at a correctional facility because of the crimes they have committed, but the correctional facilities are at capacity. So these violent and disruptive students are kept in the public schools where they distract and harm other students. There is regular classroom disruption and school property vandalism due to gang activities. If we cannot afford to hold activities and educational materials in a safe and free space for our youth, we can expect even more behavioral issues and the further deterioration of our communities and broader society.

Sincerely,

Lydia Goodman

From: [Virginia Green](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: A library or else
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2024 12:37:14 PM

To Salem city budget committee :

If our city budget committee cannot find funds for programs to enhance daily life for both children and adults, what other positive action is our committee willing to sponsor?

We can be certain that if the library doors are closed, many opportunities for entertainment and education will be lost.

When I came to Salem 25 years ago, one of the things that attracted me was the prominence of the city library in the midst of the downtown area. Knowing nothing of the city, I assumed that the library was an important part of community life. I discovered that was true: it was a place where a newcomer could get acquainted and join city activities.

Sadly, the organization of the library has become more limited within the city structure and now we learn the building itself, so recently refurbished, is to be used less.

When I had the honor of serving on this same budget committee, there was always discussion of how monies and services could be reallocated if necessary.

So I ask, What else could be more valuable than our library?

With respect,
Virginia Green

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Claudia Judson](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Do Not Cut Funds to the Salem Public Library
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2024 6:48:42 PM

Not only does the library provide important resources, but it also provides services that help our homeless population survive and get back on their feet, which is something we desperately need to mitigate our worsening homelessness crisis. Our taxes should be going to programs and services that benefit our community, not funding genocide against the Palestinian people.

From: [Juliana Ha](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#); [Virginia Stapleton](#); [Deanna Gwyn](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Julie Hoy](#); [Linda Nishioka](#); [Micki Varney](#); [Trevor Phillips](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#)
Subject: 4/17/24 Budget Meeting Testimony
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2024 9:33:05 PM

Good evening to all of you. I hope you take the following paragraphs into account for this coming week.

I am commenting in advance to oppose all of the options presented for the Salem Public Library, including option 1. We cannot have any more cuts for it whatsoever. The layoffs announced last week that will go into effect after you councilors voted on option 1 will eliminate 5 bilingual Spanish-speaking staff, effectively destroying bilingual services and programming at our library. That is unacceptable, especially considering the fact that Hispanic and Latinx people make up the second biggest majority of Salem's population after white people.

Furthermore, this will reduce the library's operating hours to 25-30 hours a week, only three or maybe four days of service. You'll be removing a safe space for thousands of access. Salem will have services equivalent to those of a library serving a city with a population of 3,000 people. Our city has over 60 times that many people, exceeding 180,000 citizens who rely on the library for multiple services. You say you don't want to close the library, but this decision will bring it to the point of closure. The impacts of these cuts will be devastating on our community. You need to reject these options and find a better solution that does not propose further cuts to our library.

Please reconsider the current options for the Salem Public Library before it's too late. Otherwise, there will be more of an educational and wealth gap between white people and people of color that will show themselves and only expand for generations.

Thank you for reading this message in advance.

Sincerely,
Juliana Ha

From: [Stephania Fregosi](#)
To: [Virginia Stapleton](#); [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: library
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2024 4:06:17 PM

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to protest the recent budget (dated Wednesday April 17) proposed by the manager that defunds the Salem library for FY 25.

In particular, I'm against closing the West Salem Branch library, laying off 8 library employees, reducing open hours of the main library (what was the point of remodeling it anyway if you are just going to close it), and reducing library programming.

Sincerely,

Stephania Fregosi
564 Rose St NE, Salem, OR 97301

From: [Kim Davis](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: City budget
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2024 4:16:45 PM

As a frequent library patron, parent and deeply concerned citizen, I writing to express my objections to the Option 1 plan. A strong library system supports a strong community. We cannot afford to reduce availability or quality of library services to our community, particularly services to our children. Salem's future resiliency depends on maintaining an educated and literate citizenry. Please don't jeopardize our community by reducing our library hours or staff!

Thank you.
Kim Davis
97306

From: [Flo Hall](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: No More Cuts to the Library!
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2024 7:32:17 PM

Please the library is one of the best things about Salem. We need our libraries open!

Who needs the library to be open?

The 3 and 4 year olds who first get to hear a book read to them from someone other than their parents.

The young children who learn to share and interact with other children in the Discovery Room.

The elementary and secondary school students who enter the contest, The Battle of the Books.

The school age children who want a good book to read or are doing research.

The students who need a place to visit and learn with other students.

All patrons who need to use the computers,

All of us who go to the concerts, magic shows, plays, guest lectures, etc that are available there.

All of us who want a good book to read, or a movie to view.

All of us who need a quiet place to think or read.

Those are just some of us who need to have the library open. Please do what you can to keep the library open.

From: [Torey Jarrett](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Another voice in the crowd
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 7:31:37 AM

Good morning,

I may be just another voice in the crowd saying there is no way you can cut hours, funds, people, programs in our city that bring joy, education and connection to our community. Are you listening? We love our library! We love our parks! We are not going to be silent about it. What I see is a city who isn't willing to invest in its future. If my children don't have a city that wants to invest in them the way I want them to be invested in, I will make it known that it's time for us and many others to leave. Change your options! Maintain the library, schools and parks at the levels they are now (which is already reduced) and cut funds somewhere else. Please.

-Torey

From: [Amy Johnson](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: FW: No More Cuts to Salem Public Library
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 7:55:17 AM

From: Sadie Verville <srverville@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 5:30 PM
To: Chris Hoy <CHoy@cityofsalem.net>; Trevor Phillips <TPhillips@cityofsalem.net>; Vanessa Nordyke <VNordyke@cityofsalem.net>; CityRecorder <CityRecorder@cityofsalem.net>; Deanna Gwyn <DGwyn@cityofsalem.net>; Jose Gonzalez <JGonzalez@cityofsalem.net>; Julie Hoy <JHoy@cityofsalem.net>; Linda Nishioka <LNishioka@cityofsalem.net>; SALEM Manager <MANAGER@cityofsalem.net>; Micki Varney <MVarney@cityofsalem.net>; Virginia Stapleton <VStapleton@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: No More Cuts to Salem Public Library

Hello,

I am writing to express my concerns about the Salem Public Library layoffs announced on Wednesday. As I understand it, these will go into effect if the council votes on budget option 1. Five of the eight layoffs are bilingual Spanish-speaking staff, and these cuts would eliminate Spanish library programming. That is unacceptable. Furthermore, the cuts would reduce open hours to 3, maybe 4 days of service a week. That takes away safe spaces for teens, it takes away daytime shelter for those experiencing homelessness, it takes away children's literacy opportunities for families, it takes away open computer times for job seekers, and the list goes on. Our library's services would be equal to those serving populations of 3,000 people. This city has a population of 180,000. That is absurd. We are the capitol of Oregon. There cannot be anymore cuts to the library at this rate. This is beyond horrifying.

Please consider your constituents and the health of your community. Please do not vote to pass this option. It might not be closure, but it's almost just as detrimental to Salem. And with 400 layoffs slated for the Salem-Keizer school district in June, it's going to reflect very poorly on this city's values for education and literacy.

Sadie Verville, ward 1

From: [Amy Johnson](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: FW: Salem Public Library
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 7:55:29 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Lois Stark <lois.stark@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 9:08 PM
To: CityRecorder <CityRecorder@cityofsalem.net>; citycouncil <citycouncil@cityofsalem.net>; Keith Stahley <KStahley@cityofsalem.net>; Scott Archer <sarcher@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Salem Public Library

To the Salem City Council and Salem Budget Committee,

Thank you for your service to our community. I can imagine that sometimes it feels like a thankless job. I am also very aware that city councilors do not receive compensation for their many hours of work.

Again, thank you.

The Salem Public Library is an essential service to our community.

- Teens use our library to study and do homework and plan events.
- Many folks use the library to hold large and small meetings.
- The Library of Things provides household items, recreational equipment, board games and lots of other items for free to people with a library card -There are story times for children in English, Spanish, and Russian.
- There is public art on display and rotating art exhibits.
- Cultural performances take place in the Loucks Auditorium for free.
- There is a class for learning English at the library.

These are just SOME of the many activities at the library in addition to books.

The library has already endured BIG cuts. Please do not cut 8 more positions.

You have the power to make changes to the proposed budget. I earnestly encourage you to make no more cuts to the library.

Sincerely,
Lois Stark
440 21st ST SE
Ward 2

Sent from my iPad

From: [Amy Johnson](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: FW: Funding for main library and west Salem branch
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 7:55:43 AM

From: Karen Sjogren <sjogrenkaren2@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 10:33 AM
To: citycouncil <citycouncil@cityofsalem.net>
Cc: Linda Bierly <bierlyskl@gmail.com>; Sandy Whittington <whittington.3boys@gmail.com>;
CityRecorder <CityRecorder@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Funding for main library and west Salem branch

I have lived in Salem 33 years and it seems I have been advocating for the library most of that time, because I feel that libraries are an essential community service. I was one of the founders of the west Salem branch library and watched it take shape. I was pleased that Orville Roth allowed the library to use his property without cost so long as it remained a library. He, too, a leading Salem businessman, recognized how essential the library was and is to the development of the West Salem community. When funding became an issue in the early 2000's, I was the chief petitioner for the formation of a special district that would have expanded the boundaries of the area taxed specifically for library services only. Special districts are the best funding mechanism for any service as the funds must be spent on that service only, and employees have job security (I have worked for one). However, the measure did not pass so I don't suggest trying it again. I would personally be happy to pay a small annual fee to use the library, but operations cannot be based on voluntary contributions. Besides, I feel strongly that libraries should be free to the user. Every community I have lived in, many much smaller and poorer than Salem, have had a library open 40 hours a week and tied into a regional cooperative service to expand the books available. The library should be a priority for this city. It serves especially the very young, for whom reading is an essential part of their mental development, and the old, for whom reading is a pleasant, safe, and rewarding past time. Salem has a large population of seniors and after paying taxes all of their lives they deserve to have a good library. The library is also an environmental asset, as it allows many readers to use the same book. It also fosters equality as the books are equally available to all economic strata of society, those who can't afford to buy them or can't read them on Kindle. Limiting library hours more would also be fiscally responsible at the main library which was recently remodeled, and at the branch library, which might put its status as rent free in jeopardy. So, my bottom line is, don't cut library hours more than they are already. The main library is down to 38 hours and if you cut hours more you will lose full time employees and will not readily get them back. The branch library is down to 10 hours and the alternative, closing it, is unacceptable to those who supported it financially and those who can't use the main library. Unlike parks, for example, you can't withdraw services and expect employees to joyfully come back when funds become available (I have worked for city parks as a seasonal). As for funding, the best idea is to use money from the state which would compensate for the lack of tax revenue from state buildings. However, in the meantime the libraries must be kept open at their present hours even at the expense of other city services. Parks, for example, can be kept open to the public even if they are not as well maintained. Libraries cannot. This city is great at building or paving but does not adequately consider the cost of staffing or maintaining what is built.

It also uses libraries as a political "carrot" to entice voters to pass bond measures with less desirable features. Most recently, the city fashioned a bond measure which included an east Salem branch library. I'm sure that passage in large part was due to the library inclusion. WHAT WERE YOU THINKING when you can't even fund the libraries you have? I know the public here wants and needs libraries based on useage. Please don't further erode trust in government and keep these libraries open at with their present hours. Consider this my input in lieu of comments at meetings real or virtual. You can also research my earlier comments on this issue. Thank you.

From: [Meagan Gossling](#)
To: [SALEM Manager](#)
Subject: Stop this nonsense
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2024 11:25:06 AM

I am commenting today to oppose all the options presented, including option 1. We cannot have anymore cuts for the Salem Public Library. The layoffs announced last week that would go into effect if council votes on option 1 would eliminate 5 bilingual Spanish-speaking staff, effectively destroying bilingual services and programming at our library. That is unacceptable. Furthermore, it would reduce the library to 25-30 hours a week, a mere 3 or maybe 4 days of service. You'd be removing a safe space for thousands of people to access. Salem would have services equivalent to those of a library serving a city with a population of 3,000 people. Our city has 180,000 people. You say you don't want to close the library, but this would bring it nearly to the point of closure. The impacts of these cuts would be devastating on our community. You need to reject these options and find a better solution that do not propose further cuts to our library.

From: [Trish Mahoney](#)
To: [SALEM Manager](#)
Subject: Library Cuts
Date: Friday, April 12, 2024 4:36:27 PM

Dear Mr. Stahley,

I'm writing today to share my concern and disappointment with the budget options currently being discussed that significantly reduce the services of our public library. I am fully aware that the city is in a hard financial position, but I think it is unacceptable for the citizens of Salem to not have consistent access to the library. We are already facing challenges and cuts in our public schools, and I am devastated to think of how this will affect those that not just enjoy the library, but to those people who rely on the services it provides. I want to live in a city that values education and culture, one that prioritizes the well-being of its citizens.

I've lived in a small town of 1,500 people that had a wonderfully vibrant library open daily. I've also lived in a city eight times larger than Salem, with branches located in every major neighborhood. To think that a city the size of Salem can't manage to fund one central library is really troubling to me. It seems that our priorities have become out of step with the needs of the citizens.

I'm asking you to do everything in your power to stop this from happening.

Thank you,

TRISH MAHONEY | The Mahoney Studio Co-owner & Designer
206 234 2331 | themahoney.com

From: [Doug Yancey](#)
To: [SALEM Manager](#)
Subject: Salem Public Library funding
Date: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 11:10:02 AM
Attachments: [Salem Public Library funding - CCRLS response.docx](#)

Mr. Stahley,

Along with many others, CCRLS has been following the ongoing discussions regarding city budget challenges. More specifically, the potential funding impact(s) on Salem Public Library. Please accept the attached letter, as an expression of our concerns.

Regards,

Doug Yancey
Director, Chemeketa Cooperative Regional Library Service
Building 9, Room 136
Office: 503-315-4584
Chemeketa Community College
4000 Lancaster Dr. NE, Salem, OR 97305



Chemeketa Cooperative

Regional Library Service

City Leadership,

We have been following recent discussions regarding proposed additional cuts to the Salem Public Library budget and wish to express our concerns. Continued erosion of funding will affect the library's ability to provide core services to residents of Salem. By extension, it will also greatly impact all the member libraries and patrons throughout the CCRLS service area. CCRLS was conceived as a way for libraries in Marion, Polk & Yamhill counties to share resources, expand collections and bring library services to those residing outside of established municipal boundaries (often referred to as 'basic' patrons).

Salem Public Library is easily the largest CCRLS member library. Its collections, programming and staff contribute significantly to the cooperative. It serves nearly 50% of all basic patrons in the district, in addition to City of Salem cardholders. In FY 2022-2023 Salem Public Library circulated almost 300K items to non-SPL patrons at both the main and W. Salem locations. It should be noted that, while significant, this figure does not capture the total number of non-Salem patrons who undoubtedly made use of the library's facilities, services, and other amenities during that same period.

Benefits of CCRLS membership include ongoing, direct financial reimbursements. These are intended to offset the impact of serving CCRLS basic patrons and the efforts member libraries make in sharing their collections with one another. For example, Salem Public Library will receive approximately \$689K in formula-based reimbursement during the current fiscal year (2023-2024). It is also eligible for net-lending and lost material reimbursements, as are all other member libraries.

Direct reimbursements stand in addition to the range of services member libraries receive from CCRLS: daily courier service, automated system provision & management, computer hardware support, shared electronic resources, interlibrary loan, Read-to-Read grant support, etc. It must be stated that municipalities which cannot offer a viable public library would naturally forfeit both the financial and service-specific values available through CCRLS membership.

We recognize that the City of Salem faces very real funding challenges and must produce a non-deficit budget. We also acknowledge that prioritizing cuts among critical services is never an enviable position or easy task. That said, we ask that you include these impacts in your decision-making and recognize the irreplaceable value which Salem Public Library brings to the communities it serves, both within the city limits and throughout the CCRLS service area.

Respectfully,

Doug Yancey, CCRLS Director

From: [Ase and Paul Blake](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: To the Citizen Budget Committee
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 9:13:38 AM

I am writing to appeal to you to give very high priority to providing adequate funding for Salem Public Library.

In 2006 my wife and I moved to West Salem to retire close to relatives. We quickly found that one of Salem's most important attractions was Salem Public Library. It became a central focus of our lives. It provided us with:

- 1 - Books that helped us plan and build our house.
- 2 - Audiobooks for entertainment and edification while we cook, garden, exercise or travel.
- 3 - Art books to help my wife develop and refine her painting skills.
- 4 - Travel guides to help us plan our trips in the US and abroad.
- 5 - Cook books to help us transition to healthier eating habits.
- 6 - Gardening books to help us maintain our yard and our large organic vegetable garden.
- 7 - Novels, biographies, and histories to enrich our lives.
- 8 - Movies and TV series on videotape and DVDs for entertainment.

It is short-sighted, counter-productive, embarrassing and tragic to have such a valuable resource be at the top of the list for cuts each time Salem runs short of money. It has already been starved for funds again and again, and ranks near the bottom in funding when compared with libraries serving other populations of this size. I know from experience that it is far easier to tear something down than it is to rebuild it—the best people leave and find more attractive employment elsewhere.

The West Salem Branch is especially important for our large elderly population. It is much easier and safer to pop over to the West Salem Branch than it is to brave the often aggressive traffic on the bridge and out Commercial to get to the main library and then on the return try to merge safely into Liberty Street and bridge traffic. For people without a car, getting to the main library becomes very difficult indeed.

This is not just a temporary crisis with salvation looming on the distant horizon. Our economy is actually doing very well right now, with low unemployment and huge “kickers” this year. This should NOT be a time when Salem has to resort to draconian measures. In fact, this is a time when Salem should be increasing library funding substantially. If not now, when?

Thank you for your attention. I hope that you will be able to ensure that Salem Public Library--a centerpiece for a healthy city--will flourish now and in the years to come.

Paul A. Blake, MD, MPH

1725 Snowbird Dr. NW

Salem, OR 97304-2051

ahbpab@gmail.com

503-363-4348

From: [Liatris Cottam](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Library
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 10:07:22 AM

To the City Council of Salem,

Please don't further cut library services and access in Salem. One of the reasons I moved here back in the 1980s was because I was so impressed with the library. I'm a firm believer in democracy and I don't believe you can have one without free public libraries. Cutting library services and access affects huge segments of the population from low income to home schoolers and beyond. Everyone benefits from quality community public libraries. Don't wreck ours any more than you have, especially after the renovations and improvements completed during the pandemic.

Thanks for your attention.

- Liatris Cottam

From: mbhustoles@gmail.com
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Proposed library cuts
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 12:21:34 PM

Consultants for the Revenue Task Force made a presentation at a recent city council meeting, where they indicated that their remit was solely to come up with additional funding sources for the city's general fund. I sincerely hope this was a misunderstanding, as the city's financial problems, though not limited to, certainly include the clumping together of vital services into a single pot. This has resulted in city residents being unable to make their desires known through dedicated levies, and put vital services, such as the library, in competition with other vital services such as police and fire. I have been a city resident since 1979, and a Salem Public Library employee for 38 years. In all that time, the city manager's office has been quick to have cuts to the library as the first line in managing budget shortfalls. For 20 years I was the on-site supervisor for the West Salem Branch Library, and it was a common scenario to have cuts to the branch put into the budget as an easy fix; then have city residents come to the council to speak of the importance of the branch to the community; then have the cuts removed or lessened. The same would happen to the main library. The city manager seemed not only physically removed from the libraries (I never saw one at the branch, and it was a cause for celebration if one showed at the main library) but seemingly the manager could only think of the library as a cultural institution, rather than the vital social service that it is. When I first started working at the library, it appeared that potential cuts to the library were used as a tool, a threat, to maintain funding for the general fund. Over the years, as those ongoing small negotiated cuts have lessened the services the library can offer, staffing has become more insecure, as doing vital work without support of the city government becomes exhausting.

We need a dedicated library levy. Several years back we tried for a library district and failed, due in part to having to bring on board county and other municipal entities. A levy doesn't require that. Specific levies for the library, such as the library's recent seismic upgrade, pass. The community loves its library. And this community, especially our residents in economic or social distress, need the library. Before we cut out our financially insecure, be they families or seniors, from vital community life, by shutting them out from the free connections they receive at the library and limiting them to emergency city interactions with police or firefighters, we should remove the false competition between services and establish dedicated ongoing funding to our library system.

For this upcoming year's budget, the library has endured enough cuts. Cutting our evening hours, reducing storytimes and other programs and making the branch an "open as staffing is available" entity, has already severely affected the services a library should provide. Proposed cuts are in no way proportional to the library's small piece of the budget pie.

Sincerely,
Mary Beth Hustoles
Ward 2 city resident

From: [Erik Blake](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Re: To the Citizen Budget Committee
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 12:39:58 PM

I completely second all that my father wrote to you below!

Erik Blake, MD
1719 Gemma Street NW
Salem, OR 97304

On Apr 15, 2024, at 9:13 AM, Ase and Paul Blake <ahbpab@gmail.com> wrote:

I am writing to appeal to you to give very high priority to providing adequate funding for Salem Public Library.

In 2006 my wife and I moved to West Salem to retire close to relatives. We quickly found that one of Salem's most important attractions was Salem Public Library. It became a central focus of our lives. It provided us with:

- 1 - Books that helped us plan and build our house.
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- 3 - Art books to help my wife develop and refine her painting skills.
- 4 - Travel guides to help us plan our trips in the US and abroad.
- 5 - Cook books to help us transition to healthier eating habits.
- 6 - Gardening books to help us maintain our yard and our large organic vegetable garden.
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- 8 - Movies and TV series on videotape and DVDs for entertainment.

It is short-sighted, counter-productive, embarrassing and tragic to have such a valuable resource be at the top of the list for cuts each time Salem runs short of money. It has already been starved for funds again and again, and ranks near the bottom in funding when compared with libraries serving other populations of this size. I know from experience that it is far easier to tear something down than it is to rebuild it—the best people leave and find more attractive employment elsewhere.

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Branch than it is to brave the often aggressive traffic on the bridge and out Commercial to get to the main library and then on the return try to merge safely into Liberty Street and bridge traffic. For people without a car, getting to the main library becomes very difficult indeed.

This is not just a temporary crisis with salvation looming on the distant horizon. Our economy is actually doing very well right now, with low unemployment and huge “kickers” this year. This should NOT be a time when Salem has to resort to draconian measures. In fact, this is a time when Salem should be increasing library funding substantially. If not now, when?

Thank you for your attention. I hope that you will be able to ensure that Salem Public Library--a centerpiece for a healthy city--will flourish now and in the years to come.

Paul A. Blake, MD, MPH
1725 Snowbird Dr. NW
Salem, OR 97304-2051
ahbpab@gmail.com
503-363-4348

From: [L. A. Miller](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#); [citycouncil](#); [budgetoffice](#); [Chris Hoy](#)
Cc: [Virginia Stapleton](#); [Linda Nishioka](#); [Trevor Phillips](#); [Deanna Gwyn](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Julie Hoy](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Micki Varney](#)
Subject: Letter Concerning A Reduction Of Library Services
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 4:11:11 PM

Lisa Miller
Ward 7

Esteemed members of the city council,

Salem is facing a budget problem and somehow our library's future has been placed squarely in the center of this fight. Many members of our society have spoken, over the years, on how valuable libraries are to a city. What is the benefit to a community? I can tell you my personal experience, but I can also tell you what citizens who have studied this very problem have discovered, in their own words.

I have lived in Salem since I was a small child. I spent an enormous amount of time in the children's book section during the summer. It felt like a safe space. Participating in summer reading programs was a huge boon to my cultural and general education as a child. As a young teen I often spent half a day in the library studying for papers with the resources offered. The internet was new at the time. I learned to use a search engine from a librarian to find scholarly articles. I received help looking at old newspapers for historical information, and used periodicals to browse subjects I simply wanted to know more about. The library was a place I could feel at home and supplement my education. Today, it still serves as this type of place even as the world has changed. I have gained and still gain research skills and curiosity about subjects that improve my education and they follow me into adulthood and have aided me in my career, hobbies, and everyday life. Most importantly the library helps me to feel a part of a community, a member of the city of Salem.

In a 2015 article from NPR, entitled "Do We Really need libraries?" by Linton Weeks, sums up why libraries are important to any community.

'What are the benefits of libraries in this day and age?

Like a good librarian, Tony Marx of the New York Public Library has some answers. Today's libraries still lend books, he says. But they also provide other services to communities, such as free access to computers and Wi-Fi, story times to children, language classes to immigrants and technology training to everyone.

"Public libraries are arguably more important today than ever before," Marx says. "Their mission is still the same — to provide free access to information to all people. The way people access information has changed, but they still need the information to succeed, and libraries are providing that."

Or as Andrew Carnegie said many years ago: "A library outranks any other thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert." '

Libraries help our entire community thrive. If people, younger and older, have a place they can learn and grow as our society changes and our city has the capability to provide that space, we all benefit. Fostering community involvement, ensuring our city has a bright future, and giving everyone this exceptional service that the librarians and programs provide, is just as important

as providing police and fire and other city services. It is another type of security in the community. "A library is a place of safety, a haven from the world." ("Why We Need Libraries")

Citizens all over the country prefer to live and visit where there is a working and thriving library system. In Minnesota "[p]eople prefer to live near a public library if they have a choice, and often perceive library access as part of an enhanced quality of life." ("Create and Strengthen Communities - Libraries Matter") Libraries are often visited as tourist destinations or by new residents to a city. "Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is the area's most visited regional asset. The Main Library in Oakland alone is the second most visited destination[.]" ("Library as Tourist Destination") The reason for this gravitation towards libraries is not just the physical books and librarians, although they can offer a huge draw on their own. The library as a physical community meeting space with a focus on education and communication seems to be a main reason for frequent visits. In an ALA document regarding Wisconsin public libraries entitled "Public libraries provide valuable meeting spaces," this topic is discussed.

'Many interviewees place a great deal of importance on the value of a comfortable public library facility where they can gather, especially as opportunities for social interaction have decreased in the wake of more people seeking out services online[.]'

Salem is no different. The decrease of hours and staffing would greatly reduce the ability of community members to hold meetings, socialize outside of their homes, and seek the essential services provided by the library.

Our library has recently undergone a beautiful new upgrade. To reduce staffing and hours to a bare minimum would be a waste of needed, and already funded, resources. Many libraries throughout the country have updated their facilities to keep up with growing community needs, as Jennifer Howard explains for The National Endowment For Humanities:

'To keep up with changing technology and user expectations, public libraries have invested in more computer terminals and Wi-Fi capability. They have upgraded and expanded facilities to provide more outlets, meeting rooms, study spaces, and seating that patrons can use for extended periods of time as they take advantage of free Wi-Fi.'

In addition to these upgrades, Salem has a somewhat unique set of needs. Like any city, we have a changing set of demographics whose needs cannot be met by the same standards of a city in a totally different state. Salem is the Capital of Oregon. With that status comes certain responsibilities. The entire state looks to us as well as Portland as a leader. With that in mind I would like to address our unique demographics. Salem has a high percentage of Spanish speaking residents. On Census.gov the city of Salem has a 22.8% hispanic or latino population, which is greater than the national average of 19.1% hispanic or latino citizens. ("US Census Bureau") While this population may or may not speak Spanish, this data suggests there is a higher likelihood of Salem benefitting from Spanish programming and bilingual librarians than many libraries in the country. Salem also has more citizens under the age of 18 than the national average. Salem has a percentage of 23.2% people under the age of 18 and the national average is 21.7%. ("US Census Bureau") Teens need a safe place to hang out and study and in my trips to our library I have seen teens using the library as such a space. To limit everyone's ability to use this space and all that it offers would do great harm to the community.

I would like to end by giving gratitude to the Salem Public Library. The library has gone through adversity in my time living in Salem, and grown stronger from the challenges. The services the library provides are immeasurable, such as: mobile apps, concerts, study rooms, the library of things, self check out, free parking, movie and music check out, wifi, computers, reading programs, cultural programs, arts and crafts programs, language lessons and services, child enrichment, space for community meetings, compiling Salem's history, and of course books. Imagine our city with a 20% reduction of these services, 30% reduction or even greater. Community members would have less places to spend time, socialize, gather, learn, and grow. The alternatives would create strain on other city services, and create a deficit in community involvement for years to come.

Please consider other options than drastically limiting the library's budget. There are other areas where we can ask volunteers to fill in to help such as in areas of our parks, police support, or fire support, or find a compromise that does not severely limit a needed service such as the library. Reducing services that create community only limits our community. Let's build our community.

I really appreciate your time in hearing me on this important issue. Thank you to the city council and employees of the city for your attention to this matter.

Thank you,

Lisa Miller
Resident of Salem, 33 years

Citations

Weeks, Linton. "Do We Really Need Libraries?" NPR, NPR, 5 May 2015, www.npr.org/sections/npr-history-dept/2015/05/05/403529103/do-we-really-need-libraries.

Gaiman, Neil, and Chris Riddell. "Neil Gaiman and Chris Riddell on Why We Need Libraries – an Essay in Pictures." The Guardian, Guardian News and Media, 6 Sept. 2018, www.theguardian.com/books/gallery/2018/sep/06/neil-gaiman-and-chris-riddell-on-why-we-need-libraries-an-essay-in-pictures.

"Create and Strengthen Communities - Libraries Matter", American Library Association, dynamically generated page. <http://www.ala.org/tools/research/librariesmatter/category/create-and-strengthen-communities> (Accessed April 14, 2024)

"Library as Tourist Destination", American Library Association, July 15, 2011. <http://www.ala.org/tools/research/librariesmatter/library-tourist-destination> (Accessed April 14, 2024) Document ID: b4186f44-c45e-cec4-4de6-6bbb0e3a0242

"Public libraries provide valuable meeting spaces", American Library Association, February 29, 2012. <http://www.ala.org/tools/research/librariesmatter/public-libraries-provide-valuable-meeting-spaces> (Accessed April 15, 2024) Document ID: dff4410a-cb3c-c0e4-91e4-0c60a920abef

Howard, Jennifer, et al. "The Complicated Role of the Modern Public Library." The National Endowment for the Humanities, 7 Nov. 2019, www.neh.gov/article/complicated-role-modern-public-library.(Accessed April 14, 2024)

U.S. Census Bureau Quickfacts: Salem City, Oregon; United States, www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/salemcityoregon,US/PST045222. Accessed 15 Apr. 2024.

From: [Josh Eggleston](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: FW: Library
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 4:11:39 PM

-Josh | 503-588-6130

From: Karen Sjogren <sjogrenkaren2@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 10:37 AM
To: CityRecorder <CityRecorder@cityofsalem.net>; citycouncil <citycouncil@cityofsalem.net>; Linda Bierly <bierlyskl@gmail.com>
Subject: Library

In my previous comment just sent, should have read fiscally "irresponsible" to reduce hours further on the recently remodeled main library.

From: [Deanne Smith](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Save the Library
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 5:24:02 PM

Dear Budget Committee,

Enough is enough! Our library has already sustained terrible budget cuts — more than any other city department. You must look elsewhere to balance the FY25 budget. Our two libraries are open exactly HALF as many hours as they were open two decades ago. Libraries are not “truly discretionary” as our City Manager told a reporter. They are essential! Please spare us any more cuts to our library.

I have worked in the library world for over 30 years and I know how important a library is to a community. Salem Public Library has so many things to offer to people of all ages.

—Deanne Smith

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From: [Genelle White](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Library and budget
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 5:34:11 PM

Cut cops before library or city parks and rec

Sent from my iPhone

From: [ERIN DONNITHORNE](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Don't cut the Salem Public Library
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 5:57:36 PM

To whom it may concern,
Due to my work schedule I am unlikely to be available to attend the budget meeting addressing the future of the Salem Public Library. Therefore, I am writing today to plead that you do not further cut the budget for our library. I vehemently disagree with the City Manager's assertion that library services are "discretionary." The Salem library provides core services to the community; it provides safe spaces for youth to participate in programs and complete homework. The library provides internet access for those experiencing homelessness to search for jobs, housing, etc. The library provides reading programs for all ages, which broadens the mind and encourages learning. The library offers a lending library for those in the community to borrow tools or other objects that folks may not otherwise have access to. I volunteer at the library about every other month at their read to a pet program and it is always busy! It's a joy to see children learning to embrace a love of reading, which will benefit them throughout their lives. Our library serves a vital role in this community and deserves our support. I recognize the city of Salem is experiencing a budget shortfall but please do not cut our library's services further.

Thank you,
Erin Donnithorne
Resident of Ward 3

From: [Lulu Clubb](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Keep our libraries open
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 6:21:20 PM

Third spaces like libraries do more good for our community than any other institution. Keep them open!

M Clubb

From: [Shawn Ortiz-Turner](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Public Comment: library cuts
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 6:35:32 PM

Our public library stands as a beacon of knowledge, a sanctuary for learning, and a cornerstone of our community. However, recent proposals to further cut its funding jeopardize not only the services it provides but also the very essence of what makes our community vibrant and inclusive.

****Importance of the Public Library:****

1. ****Equal Access to Knowledge:**** The public library serves as a great equalizer, providing access to information and resources regardless of one's socioeconomic status. Cutting its funding would limit this access, creating disparities in education and opportunity.

2. ****Community Hub:**** Our library is more than just a repository of books. It's a gathering place for people of all ages, backgrounds, and interests. From children's storytime to adult education workshops, the library fosters community connections and social cohesion.

3. ****Support for Lifelong Learning:**** In an ever-changing world, the need for continuous learning is paramount. The library offers programs and resources that support lifelong learning, from job training to technology classes, empowering individuals to adapt and thrive in today's society.

****Negative Impact of Further Cuts:****

1. ****Reduced Services:**** Further cuts to the library's budget would inevitably lead to reduced hours, fewer programs, and diminished collections. This not only deprives current patrons of valuable resources but also discourages potential users from engaging with the library.

2. ****Loss of Expertise:**** Librarians are trained professionals who curate collections, provide research assistance, and offer guidance on information literacy. Additional cuts would result in layoffs or reduced staffing levels, depriving our community of this invaluable expertise.

3. ****Diminished Community Well-being:**** A thriving public library is a sign of a healthy community. Beyond its tangible benefits, such as improved literacy rates and enhanced job skills, the library contributes to the overall well-being of our community by fostering a sense of belonging and civic pride.

****Call to Action:****

We urge decision-makers to reconsider any proposals to further cut funding to our public library. Instead, we encourage investment in this vital institution that enriches the lives of residents, strengthens our community bonds, and ensures equitable access to information for all. Let us preserve our library as a beacon of knowledge, a hub of community engagement, and a testament to our collective commitment to the common good.

****Absolutely, advocating for the preservation of public library funding is crucial for the well-being of our community. Here's a draft for your public comment document:**

****Title: Preserving Our Community's Heart: Why Further Cuts to Our Public Library Should Be Reconsidered****

****Introduction:****

Our public library stands as a beacon of knowledge, a sanctuary for learning, and a cornerstone of our community. However, recent proposals to further cut its funding jeopardize not only the services it provides but also the very essence of what makes our community vibrant and inclusive.

****Importance of the Public Library:****

1. ****Equal Access to Knowledge:**** The public library serves as a great equalizer, providing access to information and resources regardless of one's socioeconomic status. Cutting its funding would limit this access, creating disparities in education and opportunity.

2. ****Community Hub:**** Our library is more than just a repository of books. It's a gathering place for people of all ages, backgrounds, and interests. From children's storytime to adult education workshops, the library fosters community connections and social cohesion.

3. ****Support for Lifelong Learning:**** In an ever-changing world, the need for continuous learning is paramount. The library offers programs and resources that support lifelong learning, from job training to technology classes, empowering individuals to adapt and thrive today.

****Negative Impact of Further Cuts:****

1. ****Reduced Services:**** Further cuts to the library's budget would inevitably lead to reduced hours, fewer programs, and diminished collections. This not only deprives current patrons of valuable resources but also discourages potential users from engaging with the library.

2. ****Loss of Expertise:**** Librarians are trained professionals who curate collections, provide research assistance, and offer guidance on information literacy. Additional cuts would result in layoffs or reduced staffing levels, depriving our community of this invaluable expertise.

3. ****Diminished Community Well-being:**** A thriving public library is a sign of a healthy community. Beyond its tangible benefits, such as improved literacy rates and enhanced job skills, the library contributes to the overall well-being of our community by fostering a sense of belonging and civic pride.

We urge decision-makers to reconsider any proposals to further cut funding to our public library. Instead, we encourage investment in this vital institution that enriches the lives of residents, strengthens our community bonds, and ensures equitable access to information for all. Let us preserve our library as a beacon of knowledge, a hub of community engagement, and a testament to our collective commitment to the common good.

In conclusion, the public library is not just a building filled with books; it's a cornerstone of our community's identity and vitality. We must safeguard its future by advocating for adequate funding and support. Together, let's ensure that our library continues to thrive and serve as a source of inspiration, education, and empowerment for generations to come.

Thank You, Shawn & Carlos Ortiz-Turner

From: [Jessica Allgyer](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Library
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 6:47:00 PM

Please do not reduce the hours for the Libraries in Salem. These provide vital services to residents.

Thank you
Jessica Allgyer

From: [Janice DeVito](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: PLEADING WITH YOU!!!!
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 7:50:52 PM

Have you sent an email to the Citizen Budget Committee yet? Send to budgetoffice@cityofsalem.net

Dear Budget Committee:

Enough is enough! Our library has already sustained terrible budget cuts — more than any other city department. You must look elsewhere to balance the FY25 budget. Our two libraries are open exactly *half* as many hours as they were open two decades ago. Libraries are not “truly discretionary” as our City Manager told a reporter. They are essential! Please spare us any more cuts to our library.

Janice DeVito
4748 Liberty Road So. #105
Salem. 97302

From: [Karen Reuter](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Salem Public Library
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 7:51:13 PM

To the Library financial officer and the budget committee;

A few years ago citizens of Salem voted to support the upgrading of the library against earthquakes. This was an expensive endeavor the citizens were willing to undertake. Surely, it was evident then, as it is now, how important a public library is to the citizens of Salem.

I appreciate how difficult it is to manage decreasing funds to support the library. Few city services are appreciated as much as the library is by our citizens.

As the Capitol city of Oregon, it would be disgraceful to reduce library hours so severely as suggested. Short of finding a philanthropist, such as Carnegie was for community libraries in the 1920s, is there anything that can be done to find necessary tax funds from our largest commercial establishments, which often pay less or no property taxes?

What can be done to find state tax dollars to offset the lack of tax funds from all the state owned properties located in our city? As state government grows it puts undo pressure on all our other city services, which then harms services the local community values. Please, save our much loved city library from reduced hours and fewer employed staff members.

Sincerely;
Karen Wolfe Reuter.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [Danielle Hoffman](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#); [SALEM Manager](#); [CityRecorder](#); [Chris Hoy](#); [Micki Varney](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Deanna Gwyn](#); [Trevor Phillips](#); [Linda Nishioka](#); [Virginia Stapleton](#)
Subject: Budget Concerns
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 8:03:42 PM

Hello City Leadership,

I am writing to express my deep concern with the proposed budget options presented thus far. I oppose all options presented, especially option 1. We cannot have anymore cuts for the Salem Public Library. The layoffs announced last week that would go into effect if council votes on option 1 would eliminate 5 bilingual Spanish-speaking staff, effectively destroying bilingual services and programming at our library. That is unacceptable. Furthermore, it would reduce the library to 25-30 hours a week, a mere 3 or maybe 4 days of service. You'd be removing a safe space for thousands of people to access. Salem would have services equivalent to those of a library serving a city with a population of 3,000 people. Our city has 180,000 people. You say you don't want to close the library, but this would bring it nearly to the point of closure. The impacts of these cuts would be devastating on our community. You need to reject these options and find a better solution that do not propose further cuts to our library.

I would like to see options that cut our police budget and want to see further plans for alternative methods for community policing and wellness, similar to that of CAHOOTS in Eugene.

Libraries and community program are ESSENTIAL services necessary for a healthy, thriving community and must be prioritized. I also reject any proposals that include cuts to such programs, or senior center cuts. These must be maintained, and even strengthened and grow.

Thank you,

Danielle Hoffman

From: [Robert Hoffman](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#); [SALEM Manager](#); [CityRecorder](#); [Chris Hoy](#); [Micki Varney](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Deanna Gwyn](#); [Trevor Phillips](#); [Linda Nishioka](#); [Virginia Stapleton](#)
Subject: Budget concerns
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 8:33:49 PM

Good evening City Leadership,

I am writing to express my extreme concern with the proposed budget options presented thus far. I oppose all options presented, especially option 1. We cannot have anymore cuts for the Salem Public Library. The layoffs announced last week that would go into effect if council votes on option 1 would eliminate 5 bilingual Spanish-speaking staff, effectively destroying bilingual services and programming at our library. That is completely unacceptable.

Furthermore, it would reduce the library to 25-30 hours a week, a mere 3 or maybe 4 days of service. You'd be removing a safe space for thousands of people to access. Salem would have services equivalent to those of a library serving a city with a population of 3,000 people. Our city has 180,000 people. You say you don't want to close the library, but this would bring it nearly to the point of closure. The impacts of these cuts would be devastating on our community. You need to reject these options and find a better solution that do not propose further cuts to our library.

I would like to see options that cut our police budget and want to see further plans for alternative methods for community policing and wellness, similar to that of CAHOOTS in Eugene.

Libraries and community program are ESSENTIAL services necessary for a healthy, thriving community and must be prioritized. I also reject any proposals that include cuts to such programs, or senior center cuts. These must be maintained, and even strengthened and grow.

Thank you,

Robert Hoffman

From: [John Taylor](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Library Budget
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 8:37:05 PM

I am deeply troubled by the options concerning the library budget, potentially laying off significant staff, reducing hours downtown, and closure of the West Salem Branch Library.

As a tax payer, former library employment (1986-1995), and an educator, I want to state unequivocally that funding our library, it's staff, resources, programs, and access is not an arbitrary line item on a budget proposal. It should be a non negotiable.

We are the capital city of Oregon. At one time we had a library that was a role model and the envy of other communities in our state, and nationally. Our library was honored at the National level. We can be that library again if we value the services that our remodeled library has the opportunities to provide for the Salem community. Books, programs, story times, E-books, reference staff, computers, tool lending library, art gallery, outreach services among other things, all contribute to enriching our wonderful city.

It particularly concerns me that 1 out of 4 residents in the city of Salem are citizens for whom English is a second language. The city has given notice to 8 FTE library staff, 5 of whom are bi-lingual. It is essential that we honor the diversity of our cities population by ensuring that all residents have equal access to our library services, and have employees who are able to communicate with to them.

Please go back to the drawing board and look at creative ways to maintain current hours and staffing. I strongly encourage you to consider other options seriously, such as a levy. Reach out to state government for financial support, as well as other communities where they have successfully found ways to fund their libraries and increase services outside the broken system of taxation, which is not serving our community well.

Salem can again have a library that is the envy of everyone. By finding consistent funding, the main library and West Salem Branch library, can increase hours and staffing. It would provide staff the opportunity to provide much needed outreach services to under-served families and communities and increase their access to books and other library materials. Solid funding sources would allow Operation Bookshelf, in conjunction with Assistance League, to be offered again. It is a travesty that it was discontinued after 50 years of providing library books to homebound and medically fragile residents.

Please, at least maintain current staffing, and hours, even though they are inadequate, while you explore other options for funding. If other communities can do it, so can we. Our library and the services they offer are valuable community resource for so many.

Thank you,
Alison Taylor

Sent from my iPad

From: [Brinsley Hammond-Brouwer](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Library budget cuts
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 8:42:50 PM

Dear Budget Committee,

I'm devastated by the recent discussions around cutting public library funding - I can't believe this is even an option under consideration - but I'm also absolutely appalled. The library is such an important part of Salem's culture and provides so many essential and fun services to the community. It was instrumental to my growth as a person from childhood, participating in the Summer Reading Club starting as soon as I was able and begging my parents to let me visit the West Salem branch as often as we could, stacking as many books in my arms as I could because my mom had a rule that I could check out as many as I could carry. In middle school, I was painfully shy and anxious but got up the courage to join the Teen Advisory Board and become active in volunteering and participating in events for the Teen Scene. I stayed in TAB all through high school, eventually becoming the co-chair and using my experience to connect more with my community. Because of that supportive environment I became so much more confident, happy, and social, and developed my leadership and interpersonal skills. This would not have been possible without the library. I would be a completely different person, a more timid one who hadn't developed the skills I needed, who hadn't found a social network and creative outlet and a way to help my community.

I've met a few of my closest friends through Teen Scene events, and have discovered hobbies, interests and strengths I never would have found otherwise. And my story isn't unique - so many people have similar experiences with the library, and many have even more profound ones. The library doesn't just offer books, and it doesn't even simply offer community and connection. It also offers resources like free internet, research options, a safe place, and importantly, it's one of the last free spots for people of all ages. Please, *please*, keep this in mind as you consider crippling one of the most important services the City of Salem offers. It would hurt more people than you can imagine.

Sincerely,
Brinsley Hammond-Brouwer

From: [kathy](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Cc: [Linda Nishioka](#)
Subject: Salem public library
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 8:53:52 PM

I am writing to urge budgetary support for the Salem Public Library. I personally use the downtown library to do historical research, and to borrow books about topics I enjoy. The knowledge that I gain from the historical research is passed along to others in my role as a volunteer tour guide at the Bush House Museum. Thus the library's resources not only benefit me, but also the visitors and students who learn more about history from my tours: Salem history, Oregon history, and architectural history.

We absolutely cannot allow this library's staff and hours to be cut further. That would be incredibly short sighted and lead to a downward spiral that would take years to correct. Salem's reputation as a desirable place to live, and a desirable tourist destination, are at stake.

Sincerely,
Kathy Lingo
1755 Winter St SE, Salem

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Rachael Atchison](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Fund the library
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 9:19:35 PM

I wanted to voice my opinion that the library, as well as the senior center and park/rec programs, should be viewed as public safety programs and not “discretionary”. An informed, healthy and active community IS a safe one. If we continue to pour all our general fund into the police department at the expense of services that truly connect us then what will they be protecting? This imbalance in our budget does not leave me feeling safe at all!

Rachael Atchison
Morningside

From: [Victoria Timm](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Do not cut the public library
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 9:23:21 PM

Dear counselors,

I have been going to the Salem Public Library since I was a little girl. It is honestly one of my favorite places on this little slice of Earth. I cannot think of any place, outside of homes, that I've spent more time in. To cut the library is like to cut the veins that supply the very blood our city needs. This is already an underfunded and previously cut institution. How dare you even consider more cuts. This is a heinous choice for you all to make. I genuinely cannot think of any place that needs the money more. Please do not do this. I'm not sure my heart will have a place to go if the library is hardly open.

-Tory Timm

From: [Darbie Versoza](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 9:58:02 PM

Dear budget committee ,

I'm writing to ask that you consider how much the Salem Public Library means to our city.

In 2023, the library had 315, 067 library visits. The library hosted 4,448 community meetings. Library staff helped people who had questions 29,370 times. People come to the library every week to help with job searches, get books for their classroom, to have a safe place for their kids to play, to use the Internet. Salem Public Library is a community hub and an essential city service.

It is important to note that Salem Public Library provides these services while being understaffed and underfunded. The library already does so much with so little. Further cuts would be devastating.

The budget committee's proposed options for addressing Salem's budget shortfall include cuts to library staff positions, which were already cut in February. The reality is that library staff will not be able to provide the level of service our city expects with these proposed cuts.

The proposed option #3 that includes closing the library altogether as of July 1st, is ridiculous. It is shocking the city would see the library as unnecessary to the vibrant, healthy city we want to live in. The proposed options are a shortsighted solution. Please request the budget committee bring alternative options for addressing the budget shortfall. Do not cut library services.

Sincerely,

Darbie Versoza

Sent from Gmail Mobile

From: [heywoodks](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Salem libraries
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 12:17:59 AM

Isn't this just another way to ban books, limit education to those that don't have other options when you limit library access? Perhaps a unforeseen opportunity for those with the more conservative agenda?

I'm writing against these budget cuts, but I have zero confidence in the city to actually listen and understand the impact.

Karen Heywood

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device

From: [Pamela Bilderbeck](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Library
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 6:23:34 AM

Dear City Council,

Please do not close the library. It is the heart of our community and it is necessary. Personally, I'm there every week or so picking up books and DVDs (free! No streaming fees!).

I'd happily pay \$10/month to support the library. There are other options and I urge you to do more research, brainstorming and crowdsourcing.

Thank you,

From: [Francis Starling](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Regarding the library
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 7:38:20 AM

Dear councilors,

I am writing to urge you not to cut funding for the library. I understand the tough budget position that the city is in, and that there are limited options available to you, but there must be a better option than this.

The library is not only a place of learning, but also a safe community space for both groups and individuals who do not have money to go elsewhere. Cutting the library's hours will mean more people out on the streets, especially kids and teens during the summer when they are not in school.

The library serves so many more purposes than just a place to get books. It is an incredibly important resource, community space, and support for the people in our city, and it is already severely underfunded in proportion to our population. If we cut funding now, it will be virtually impossible to recover and reinstate the funding later.

We cannot afford to let the library slide into decline and eventual death. I urge you to reconsider and search for other options where cuts can be made.

Thank you for your time,

Francis Starling

From: [SESNA Southeast Salem Neighborhood Association](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Cc: [spriem@hotmail.com](#)
Subject: Comment on Budget considerations FY 2025
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 8:09:39 AM
Attachments: [SESNA - Neighborhood support for Library.pdf](#)

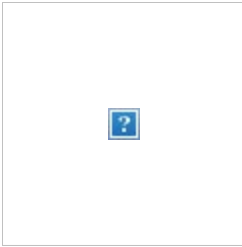
To whom it concerns,

Attached you'll find, in regards to the April 17 meeting agenda, a comment on the budget considerations FY 2025 from the Southeast Salem Neighborhood Association.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Arnaud Verstuyf
SESNA, Vice-Chair

--



SESNA | Southeast Salem Neighborhood Association
[sesna.community](#) | info@sesna.community



2024-04-14

ATTN: Citizen Budget Committee, City of Salem, OR
RE: Further library funding cut for FY 2025

Dear Chair Dr. Brown,
Dear Committee Members,

Our Neighborhood Association has learned how for FY 2025 the City is considering further cuts to Salem Library service. After studying the historical and current budget and operational information, we can only conclude that further cuts would strongly disadvantage our residents. The Library plays a uniquely important role. It provides:

1. access to educational opportunities on all levels.
2. access to technology too expensive for many families.
3. a social gathering place for all ages.
4. a quiet hangout for minorities, under-served by the goals of commercial and religious entities.

We recognize how, as it stands today, the Salem Library and its satellite locations are already underfunded in comparison to similarly sized cities, and how further curtailing library operations is a slap in the face of those citizens who are paying, through the recent bond measure, for the library upgrades.

Therefore, we strongly urge the Committee to end the multi-decade-long erosion of this fundamental pillar of modern society and start reversing course by NOT approving a further decrease in funding for our City Library, indeed, we urge that the long decline be reversed.

Thank you,

Shannon Priem
SESNA, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannon Priem".

From: [Shade Montague](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Salem Public Library
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 9:26:56 AM

Dear Councilors,

I'm sure you've already heard from many members of this community about all the benefits the Salem Public Library provides, but I wanted to point out one you may not be considering.

The library provides much more than education. It provides a reliable, safe, free meeting space for nonprofits. As Executive Secretary of Salem Capital Pride, I have been responsible for planning many events, and I can tell you that is a rarity.

As I'm sure you're aware, Oregon weather is far from reliable, so an indoor location that can be relied upon for free community events, like holiday potlucks, clothing swaps, hobby meetups, and many more, is crucial to the formation of long-lasting relationships and support networks.

Community is not built easily, and having a consistent place to gather is pivotal. If you cut funding from the library, you not only limit our access to education, you limit our access to each other.

I urge you to protect the library, for the sake of the community.

Regards,

Shade Montague

From: [Jonathan Bucci](#)
To: [Virginia Stapleton](#); [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Public Library cuts
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 10:39:23 AM

Hello Virginia,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the city's plan to make further cuts to our library here in Salem. As you know the library has already gone through a round of significant cuts. Additional cuts will reduce the library to a shell of what it currently is. I believe the leaders of our city need to understand that the library plays a critical role in the life of the city and its residents, They need to find other ways to meet their budget goals. Cutting one of the best departments in this city - a department that adds to the quality of life in Salem - seems counterproductive in the effort to build a safe, educated, engaged, and welcoming city. City leadership should listen closely to their constituents who come to tomorrow's meeting.

I understand that you are working to prevent additional cuts to the library, and I thank you for that effort. Please do all you can to convince your fellow council members to join you in that effort and stop these outrageous proposed cuts to the library.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Bucci

--

Jonathan Bucci
Curator of Collections and Exhibitions
Hallie Ford Museum of Art
Willamette University
900 State Street
Salem, Oregon 97301
503-370-6861

From: [Gary Fisketjon](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#); [budgetoffice](#)
Cc: [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Lois Stark](#); [Heather Johnson](#)
Subject: The fate of the Salem Public Library
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 10:41:14 AM

TO THE CITIZEN BUDGET COMMITTEE:

My name is Gary Fisketjon. I was born here in 1954 and grew up off Doaks Ferry Road, educated at Brush College Elementary, West Salem Junior High, and McNary, graduating in 1972. That comprehensive public education, and many great teachers at those schools, enabled me to attend the University of San Francisco and to graduate from Williams College (in Massachusetts) in 1976. A year later, at a summer- school program on book and magazine publishing at Radcliffe University, I discovered that the only career I wanted to pursue would be in book publishing. And from that summer on I worked as an editor for over forty years, publishing several hundred books at Random House, Vintage Books, Atlantic Monthly Press, and Alfred A. Knopf. After retiring, I moved back home in 2020.

Reading had obviously been central at school here, and I enjoyed it thoroughly. Also, my mother and sister read constantly. And my favorite teachers taught us how essential reading was in practical, educational, and social terms. Because Salem had no genuine bookstore then, I bought as many books (mostly *Hardy Boys*....) as I could afford at J.K. Gill, Meier and Frank or, weirdly, my mother's sewing shop. Later on, I also checked books out at the imposing Oregon State Library downtown by the capital. When the Salem Public Library opened only months before I left home to go to college in 1972, it seemed truly miraculous in every respect; it provided a service I wish had been available ever since I was old enough to check out books myself. Over the following decades I used the library whenever I came home on vacation, admiring it yet again on each occasion.

When my wife and I arrived at our new home just as Covid was shutting everything down, the library itself had already been closed for its massive, years-long reinvention. Once it reopened, I became a fervent member and on every single visit have seen people of all ages and backgrounds attracted by its wide variety of useful and pleasurable offerings, more and more of them coming in every month. It was *bustling*, a gathering place and an essential hub of civic activity that includes far more than just the books: computer access, language and other classes, an amazing array of newspapers and periodicals, exhibitions of paintings and other artwork. All the more so after the pandemic years, it is a gathering place that every city would envy.

Indeed, *every* city – and in particular a *capital* city -- requires a public library to be complete. Like schools, police and fire departments, post offices, parks and recreation, to name a few, it is a service that *defines* a city. Small towns can't afford one, cities certainly *need* one. Salem is home to the oldest university in the West, yet the cost of our library has now become an issue

– as well as a justification for cutting back the services it provides to our residents? Or even more drastic and irresponsible measures? *After* the enormous cost of its renovation as an ongoing institution in our city? This doesn't make any sense. How can the city decide to welch on that promise and just cut and slash and walk away? The only wise course is to *increase* what the library makes available to all of the citizens, to extend rather than reduce its hours of operation, to enhance its reputation and attract more members by establishing a reading series featuring popular and well-known writers in addition to those of local interest (akin to what the Dallas library offers). What greater gift can any city give its people *for free*?

As your constituent in Ward 7, I applaud the hard and generous work you do to maintain and improve Salem's quality of life when it's challenged by homelessness, addiction, and a host of problems that didn't afflict the city of my childhood. Still, in the last few years I have seen our library offer a great many people refuge, information, connection, and hope, a genuine *community*. This is why I hope you can support for a dedicated local levy that can help Salem preserve our library and even expand its wonderful services.

With gratitude and best wishes,

Gary Fisketjon

4158 Homestead Road South
Salem, Oregon 97302

garyfisketjon@hotmail.com
(615) 972 2561

From: [A.L](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Save Salem Library
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 1:12:08 PM

To all that are reading this and to whom it may concern,

I have been going to the library since I was a child. I have used the computers, the printers, read hundreds of books here, had many dates with my husband when we first started courting in 2007. I printed out my resume at the Salem Public Library for my first long term job at Dairy Queen of West Salem.

Now as a mother of two children, I have started taking my oldest son since he was a year and half old, my youngest since he was born in 2022.

I never imagined having to write to all of you, pleading and hoping that you can all find it within your hearts and selves to understand the full extent of what it is that you are doing when you begin to make cuts to the library like you have.

Since you have reduced Sunday hours we are no longer able to go enjoy the weekend play times we used to have. Monday being cut also meant this, and as a mother of an autistic child I will tell you that this has affected us greatly since we do not have a play place that is suitable to his needs for free that is on this side of town within walking distance. Especially on rainy days. We still continue to use the library as it is a safe space for my son to be himself. He can be silly, a little loud, engage with other children his age, enjoy the playroom, and the several other amazing assets the children's library room has.

We do not have family here in town to help us, hardly any family to visit, and the library has become in some ways a second home to us.

If you continue to make cuts, with shorter hours, less days open, and closing other branches, you are cutting off more and more accessibility to opportunities to create community and instead will continue to sow massive seeds of discord and discontent within the city that you all seem to pretend to love so much. I am working very hard to create acceptable budget plans, which will help with the economic growth and deficit recovery, on the revenue task force - however in the meantime I will also let you now how deeply this affects my family as well.

- Ariel Loveall

From: [Nicole Sallee](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Written Testimony Regarding Salem Public Library
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 1:18:00 PM

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the proposed further budget cuts to the Salem Public Library. While I understand the budgetary challenges that our community faces, I strongly believe that the library is an essential institution that plays a vital role in our society. In case you missed the library's own stats that they posted last week for National Library Week-

- The library has 54,562 registered users. Out of our population that is 1 in 3 people registered at the library!
- Last year 1.2 million items were borrowed.
- Events last year were attended by 12,895 people.
- In March 28,615 people visited the library.
- There were 313,329 eBooks & eAudiobooks checked out last year.
- Reference staff have answered 20,602 questions thus far this year.

The Salem Public Library serves as a cornerstone of education, knowledge, and community engagement. It provides access to valuable resources, promotes literacy, and offers a safe and inclusive space for all residents. However, the library has already experienced significant cuts in recent months, resulting in reduced operating hours and diminished staffing levels. These measures have already had a noticeable impact on the quality of services provided.

I urge the Budget Committee to explore alternative solutions in order to mitigate the impact on the library's operations. Further budget cuts would only exacerbate the challenges faced by the library and hinder its ability to serve our community effectively. I kindly request that the Budget Committee reconsider the proposed budget cuts and prioritize the preservation of our beloved Salem Public Library. It is crucial that we continue to invest in this invaluable resource that has a profound and lasting impact on the lives of our residents. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that you will carefully consider the concerns raised and make a decision that upholds the importance of the Salem Public Library. Sincerely,
Nicole C. Sallee

From: [Randy Fishfader](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Library Funding
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 2:09:26 PM

Dear Citizen Budget Committee,

I am writing in support of the library and asking that you do not make further cuts to the considerable cuts already in place in library services. The library provides essential building blocks for our children as they develop into citizens as well as the rest of our population. Please don't undermine this essential element of an educated citizenry.

Thank you,
Randy Fishfader

From: [Andrea Heywood](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Cc: [Virginia Stapleton](#)
Subject: City Library
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 3:07:32 PM

I am writing in support of funding our city library. As a community we deserve to create a community we desire to be apart of. This includes all the benefits of our library and more.

Several benefits including:

1. Libraries help revitalize struggling or depressed neighborhoods and downtowns.
2. Libraries are important partners in sustainability.
3. Libraries' special collections grow out of specific community needs.
4. Libraries are places where people come to know themselves and their communities.
5. Libraries serve as catalysts for addressing social problems.
6. Libraries promote civil discourse.

And many more examples can be found here: <https://publiclibrariesonline.org/2013/04/community-centered-23-reasons-why-your-library-is-the-most-important-place-in-town/>

There are also statistics on the correlations of expanded library services resulting in drops in crime rates. Something that putting more money into police services with not fix the root cause of! Poverty, lack of community, lack of resources all lead to higher crime rates and are all things that libraries assist in addressing.

A community our size needs MORE library resources, not less!

Thank you and please take the time to evaluate the larger picture. Losing library services could lead to a community we don't want.

Andrea Heywood
1632 Court St NE
Salem OR

From: [Joyce Zook](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#); [Micki Varney](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#)
Subject: Option 1 - NO More CUTS
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 7:50:49 PM

To: Citizen Budget Committee for the meeting on April 17th
From: Joyce Zook, West Salem Resident

As a patron of the Salem Public Library for the past twenty plus years, I am very concerned about the cuts that have taken place by the City of Salem, and the proposal for more cuts in the future to our library system.

The library services diverse populations of people in so many ways, maintaining safety, security, computer services, children's learning, teenagers' gathering and social venue, not to mention the meeting spaces for small groups, book groups, non-profit organizations, and a venue for community meetings with topics of interest. The availability and accessibility of all forms of media to keep the community members engaged and informed about topics and urgent needs in the community are a very strong value for the citizens of Salem.

I urge you to take actions that will spare any more cuts to library funding! I know of many people who volunteer at the library, making it more cost effective. Since we have redesigned and upgraded this structure, let us maximize our services to all Salem and surrounding residents! The parking structure is utilized to nearly full capacity all hours that the library is open, showing that usage of services are valued highly by much of the population.

I visited the library regularly when grandchildren were in their early years, and I can't imagine this service not being available to future generations. I utilize the library myself to check out all types of media, and highly value the ability to schedule an event for my non-profit organization in the Anderson Rooms. **Please adopt a goal to return the library to full services so our Salem area residents will have these opportunities to build community connections.**

From: [Megan Harper](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Budget and Library
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 9:12:30 PM

Good evening,

I am a Salem resident from Ward 4. I wanted to talk to you about the upcoming budget decisions.

I know the city is very concerned about safety--we are living in more violent times over the past few years. My children are 3, 5, and 7 and I worry about this frequently.

When I first drafted this email, I intended to tell you my own heartfelt story about how the library was just instrumental in helping me overcome very confusing postpartum depression and OCD after I had my first child--but I think it is adequately summed up that way, and I want to bring in some different and perhaps more important points.

I am 40 years old and have spent my entire career since graduating from college in the social services arena. I have been a Licensed Clinical Social Worker for many years, primarily at Oregon State Hospital, working with folks who have used the Guilty Except Insanity plea. (Currently I work for OHA as a Policy Analyst for this same population). I say this to demonstrate that I do have some professional expertise around what makes at least a certain population of people dangerous.

But I don't expect you to listen only to my more anecdotal expertise. A leading researcher on the topic of school shootings, Dr. Jillian Peterson, has found that when people are missing key social connections, they are more likely to be violent, and when they are able to build those social connections, they are much less likely to be violent. Her information is here: <https://www.theviolenceproject.org/>

I will corroborate that this lines up with my own observations. In my time at the State Hospital, folks did better when they had meaningful connections.

The problem is, our own personal budgets are all strained, and we have very few places we can go outside of our own homes where we don't have to pay and we don't have to believe something in particular. (I'm not being dismissive of churches, I am a practicing, weekly-Mass-attending, preschool Sunday School teaching Catholic--I just think non religious folks need these spaces too.) Public parks are one example, but in Oregon, they aren't great places to congregate during all weather. If we don't already come with a support system, we are so limited in places we can just connect with others--the library is one main place that offers this. I've had so many clients over the years who want to get sober and just struggle with it tell me that they would often visit their library while they waited out a craving for their substance of choice.

I'm not trying to downplay the work that the City of Salem police force offers--but if we are going to keep everyone safe, including police officers, we need significant prevention efforts. We need opportunities for the resident of our city to form community. And the most disadvantaged among us often need it most.

Please consider public/third spaces as a public safety tool when voting on the budget. Healthy societies have functional and available libraries.

Sincerely,

Megan Harper

From: [Mary Ginnane](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: 2024-25 Budget
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 10:38:11 PM

Members of the Salem Citizen Budget Committee:

I am a long-time Salem resident (since 1985) and voter in Ward 7. I remember the years when Salem Public Library did not have Sunday hours. Family caregiving drew me away from Salem in 2011. I returned in January, 2024 excited to become reacquainted with the remodeled and stabilized Salem Public Library. Except that mid-year budget reductions resulted in a capital city library with no Sunday hours again, no evening hours, and one branch reduced to 10 hours a week. This level of access is disturbing in this day and age. Libraries play a key role in assisting citizens to read, learn, recreate, gain pre-literacy and literacy skills, pursue interests, use technology and much more. Libraries are fundamental to how a democracy works supporting the availability of accurate information about issues and candidates. Libraries are welcoming safe spaces for all in a community furthering inclusion and equity values.

My request of you the Citizen Budget Committee is that service levels of the Salem Public Library Main Branch and the West Salem Branch be restored. It is unfathomable that further cuts even be discussed.

I know the work you are engaged in is not easy and there are great needs and limited resources. For the reasons listed above I urge you to view a full service accessible public library as top priority and allocate the funds to do so. These comments are for the public record.

Thank you,
Mary Ginnane
5141 Zosel Ave. S.
Salem, OR 97306

From: [Rainbow Olmstead](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: About the library
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 11:33:12 PM

Hi! The library is really important to me. Because I'm disabled, I don't have the energy to write much more, but the Operation Bookshelf thing meant a lot to me while it was happening. Please keep the library funded.

Rainbow (they/them)

From: [Laurie Dougherty](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Protect the Library and other beneficial programs
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 11:39:04 PM

To the Salem Budget Committee,

The Salem Public Library is an essential part of our community, providing so many valuable services and programs for people of all ages. Salem needs to redefine public safety. Public safety is not just a matter for the police and fire departments. How can we talk about safety without addressing needs for shelter and for safe places offering wholesome activities?

Cuts to the budgets for the library, parks, Center 50+ and homeless services are signs of neglect. Neglect contributes to delinquency and deterioration of physical and mental health. This is not the way to make us safer. Salem's budget must reflect values and priorities that improve our lives rather than diminishing them.

Laurie Dougherty

Ward 1

From: [Sarah Wood](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Save Salem Public Library
Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 6:46:44 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

Hello, my name is Sarah Wood. I am an elementary school counselor in Salem-Keizer Public Schools, and I am also a concerned citizen.

I moved to Salem in 2015 to pursue my career in school counseling, and this is my home now. I want to see it become a thriving place for its community, somewhere everyone can belong. A library is an essential part of bringing a community together. I grew up going to my local public library in Wisconsin weekly if not daily, and even in retirement, my mom still volunteers at that same library several times a week.

For the low-income families I serve at my school--families like the one I grew up in--the library offers an oasis. You can gain access to books about any topic, learn skills, teach yourself new things, and find a path out of poverty. Libraries lift up communities and inspire people to work towards the dream we all share: a better community for everyone.

Please find a path forward to protect our public library here in Salem. Our community deserves it, right down to our youngest citizens.

Thank you for your time,
Sarah Wood
(she/her)

From: [tinablacksmith](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: NO MORE LIBRARY CUTS
Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 8:42:26 AM

Dear Budget Committee,

I am writing again in regards to our library. I love visiting the library. Lots of people do! We live in Salem, the capital of Oregon. How can you propose reducing hours even more and cutting jobs? The library has already sustained budget cuts. Look elsewhere to balance the 2025 budget. The two library branches are open half as many hours as they were two decades ago. The City Manager thinks our library is *discretionary*, so not vital, necessary, or essential in other words. By proposing budget cuts and even considering closing the library, the Budget Committee is insinuating that learning and knowledge is not as vital as other services (mainly the *police* budget!). Has the budget committee ever considered cutting positions and salaries from the top down instead of going after the every day services that residents use and enjoy? You have heard our voices. Please spare any more cuts to the library!

Tina Blacksmith

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

From: [Chad Whitsa](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Testimony for Salem City Budget Committee Meeting 4/17/2024
Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 10:50:40 AM

Dear Members of the Salem City Budget Committee,

My name is Chad Whitsa. I am a resident of Salem's 2nd Ward. I am writing to share my perspective on the allocation of resources within the city budget, particularly regarding the current focus on growth projects.

While I understand the challenges the city faces in addressing ongoing budget shortfalls, I believe that the solution may not solely lie in seeking new revenue streams but rather in reallocating existing resources to achieve a more balanced budget. Specifically, I urge the committee to reconsider the allocation of funds currently earmarked for growth projects, such as the expansion of commercial air services at the Salem airport and the cultural & tourism fund.

Instead of channeling significant financial resources into initiatives aimed at fostering growth, I propose redirecting these funds towards making Salem a more vibrant and safe place to live. By prioritizing investments in programs that enhance the quality of life for residents and foster a sense of community, we can create an environment where growth naturally follows.

To this end, I strongly advocate for fully funding programs that are focused on making the city livable at its current size before considering new growth initiatives. At the forefront of these priorities should be the complete and full funding of the city library. The library serves as the heart of our community, providing essential services that contribute to education, civic engagement, and cultural enrichment.

The programs offered by the library not only promote literacy and learning but also facilitate meaningful interactions among residents, fostering a sense of belonging and civic pride. Investing in the library is not only an investment in the present well-being of our community but also in its future prosperity.

In conclusion, I urge the Salem City Budget Committee to prioritize funding for programs that contribute to the liveability and vibrancy of our city, with a particular emphasis on fully funding the city library. By investing in these essential services, we can create a stronger, more resilient community that is poised for sustainable growth.

Sincerely,

Chad Whitsa
Salem resident

From: [Irene LONGAKER](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Funding the Library
Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 11:38:16 AM

The Salem library is one of the most important service in Salem. We need to support it not cut anymore services. It is essential for children to learn to value books and learn to read. We are already in trouble with so many young and old under educated people. This has dire consequences to our life as we know it. Please Fund our Libraries.

Irene Longaker
975 High ST. SE
Salem, OR 97302

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Karen Runkel](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Saving our Library
Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 11:59:18 AM

As the proud and seemingly progressive capital city in our beloved state, how can we even contemplate the proposed horrific reductions in our library budget?!

Libraries are so important to all citizens, young and old, and ours is a handsome treasure. How tragic it would be to take away more services and employees.

I urge you to consider not just grown book lovers, but your children and grandchildren as well—we owe them a library of the highest quality.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Tami Carpenter](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: FW: ORLA response to Salem City Council eyeing lodging tax for Library shortfall
Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 2:01:34 PM

From: Lori Little <llittle@oregonrla.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 1:22 PM
To: Chris Hoy <CHoy@cityofsalem.net>; citycouncil <citycouncil@cityofsalem.net>
Cc: Virginia Stapleton <VStapleton@cityofsalem.net>; Linda Nishioka <LNishioka@cityofsalem.net>; Trevor Phillips <TPhillips@cityofsalem.net>; Deanna Gwyn <DGwyn@cityofsalem.net>; Jose Gonzalez <JGonzalez@cityofsalem.net>; Julie Hoy <JHoy@cityofsalem.net>; Vanessa Nordyke <VNordyke@cityofsalem.net>; Micki Varney <MVarney@cityofsalem.net>; Jason Brandt <jbrandt@oregonrla.org>
Subject: ORLA response to Salem City Council eyeing lodging tax for Library shortfall

Mayor and Salem City Council Members,

I wanted to give you advance notice of ORLA's response to the Mayor's proposal of using lodging tax dollars to cover the library shortfall. Should you have any questions, please contact Jason Brandt, President & CEO, ORLA at 503.302.5060 or email him at JBrandt@OregonRLA.org.

Thank you,

Lori Little

Salem City Council Eyes Lodging Tax for Library Shortfall

The Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association (ORLA) is proactively looking into a proposal by Salem Mayor Chris Hoy to use transient lodging taxes to fund around \$1.2 million in the library's budget. Under his proposal, the city would access lodging tax dollars from Salem's Cultural and Tourism Fund to cover the shortfall in library operations.

"Each jurisdiction with a transient lodging tax has both restricted and unrestricted parameters for how our industry tax money can be spent," said Jason Brandt, President & CEO for the Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association. "The question here is whether the City of Salem has \$1.2 million in unrestricted funds from the transient lodging tax to spend however they deem appropriate. If the City uses the portion of industry taxes restricted by state law for tourism, then ORLA will need to take appropriate action against this proposal."

Reforms passed in the 2003 Oregon Legislative Session established rules for how local governments can spend industry tax dollars. In short, spending on tourism promotion and tourism-related facilities (defined in state statute) was locked in as a percentage of total lodging tax collections on July 1, 2003. And on July 2, 2003, moving forward, any increase in a local lodging tax rate or establishment of a new lodging tax not already in existence must allocate 70 percent of revenues to tourism promotion and tourism-related facilities with the remaining 30 percent serving as unrestricted revenue for the local government to spend however they see fit.

Diverting lodging taxes in support of other local government priorities essentially shortchanges the Oregon hospitality industry's ability to bring visitor dollars to restaurant, lodging, and retail businesses year-round. Protection of industry tax dollars is a priority for ORLA as we remain focused on embracing shoulder and off-season promotions to entice visitors to local communities across Oregon year-round.

ORLA serves as the industry's watchdog on lodging tax spending by local governments across Oregon. We produced a helpful video that our industry members and local government stakeholders can review that explains how local lodging taxes must be expended in accordance with Oregon's state law.

View the [Oregon Lodging Tax Defined](#) video and visit the Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association's website at OregonRLA.org for more information.

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Lori Little

Director of Communications

Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association

8565 SW Salish Lane, Suite 120 | Wilsonville | Oregon 97070

Direct: 971.224.1506 | Mobile: 503.957.8945 | Main: 503.682.4422

Twitter: [@OregonRLA](#) | Facebook: [OregonRLA](#) | LinkedIn: [ORLA](#)

www.OregonRLA.org

From: [Ivy Clark-Henry](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#); [Virginia Stapleton](#)
Subject: Public Comment / Testimony Submission for 4/17/2024 Budget Committee Meeting
Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 2:09:24 PM

Good afternoon,

Please find below my testimony for the 4/17/24 Budget Committee Meeting:

I am commenting today to oppose **all of the budget options presented**, including option 1. We cannot have any more cuts for the Salem Public Library, Microshelters, Center 50+, or SafePark. The Library layoffs announced last week that would go into effect if council votes on option 1 would eliminate 5 bilingual Spanish-speaking staff, effectively destroying bilingual services and programming at our library. That is unacceptable. Furthermore, it would reduce the library to 25-30 hours a week, a mere 3 or 4 days of service. You'd be removing a safe space for thousands of people to access. Salem would have services equivalent to those of a library serving a city with a population of 3,000 people. Our city has 180,000 people. You say you don't want to close the library, but this would bring it nearly to the point of closure. The impacts of these cuts would be devastating on our community. You need to reject these options and find a better solution that does not propose further cuts to our social services that actually help our city.

Option three is titled '*no reductions to public safety*', and I challenge you to rethink your idea of what 'public safety' is. The fact that leaving our retired neighbors, homeless neighbors, non-white neighbors, low-income neighbors, or neighbors with children without access to vital resources is even an option for you is shocking and shameful. Resources that are life-saving, life-giving, or necessary to thrive and survive in a city that will hand more money over to the police amid hand-wringing claims that "there's nothing you can do", or "that's just the unfortunate way of things".

I hope you find yourself:

- In need of the internet or a computer when yours breaks and you have a video interview that day.
- In need of stable housing so you can sleep indoors while you're on an affordable housing waitlist for months - if not years.
- In need of an air-conditioned place to take your kids when the power goes out.
- In need of estate planning assistance when you can't afford it, because your social security can barely cover your cost of living.

I've lived in Salem my whole life. I got married here. I was lucky enough to buy a house in the same neighborhood I grew up in, that my mother grew up in, that my grandmother built a life in.

Fix your mess without punishing the citizens of the city you're supposed to serve - you live here, too. Is this what you want? Is this a legacy you can twist into something positive so you can ease your conscience?

Ivy Clark-Henry
503-881-6635
276 14th St. NE
Ward One

From: [Carol Goldfarb](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Save Our Library
Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 2:48:59 PM
Attachments: [PastedGraphic-1.png](#)
[PastedGraphic-2.png](#)

A library is the heart and soul of a city. It is NOT something you can cut and not expect any consequences. Salem-Keizer Public Schools cut out their elementary and middle school licensed librarians and reading rates have suffered. The district expected that the high school librarian would do the job of roughly 4 elementary school librarians and 1-2 middle school librarians.

When our family first was looking to move to Salem, we had a 1-year-old and we went to see the public library. The Salem Public Library was impressive. In the small town of 4000 people that we were coming from, our daughter was already enjoying story time at their library. Once we moved, our daughter would cry and fuss if we spent less than 2 hours at the library between story time, looking at books to check out, the discovery room, and the wonderful dollhouse. The sleepovers that the library had for completing "no-screens week" were memorable. The summer reading club was a time for my kids to "max out" their library cards. They enjoyed the groups that came to perform in Loucks and participating in the SPL talent shows for kids and adults. Both my girls became members of the Teen Advisory Board (TAB) and my younger daughter was co-president during her senior year (2019-20). TAB gave her leadership experience and a group of friends who had similar interests. The annual Haunted House put on by TAB was as much fun for the TAB kids to put together as it was enjoyable for the kids and teens who visited it.

I believe it was in 2018 that the voters approved the bond for the retrofit and seismic upgrade to the library. It's only been two years since that was completed and you are considering crippling the library with cuts or possibly closing it. That is going against the wishes of the voters. The librarian for the State Library of Oregon mentioned creating a library district and that she was willing to help in that regard. This is a time for creative thinking – to make proverbial "stone soup".

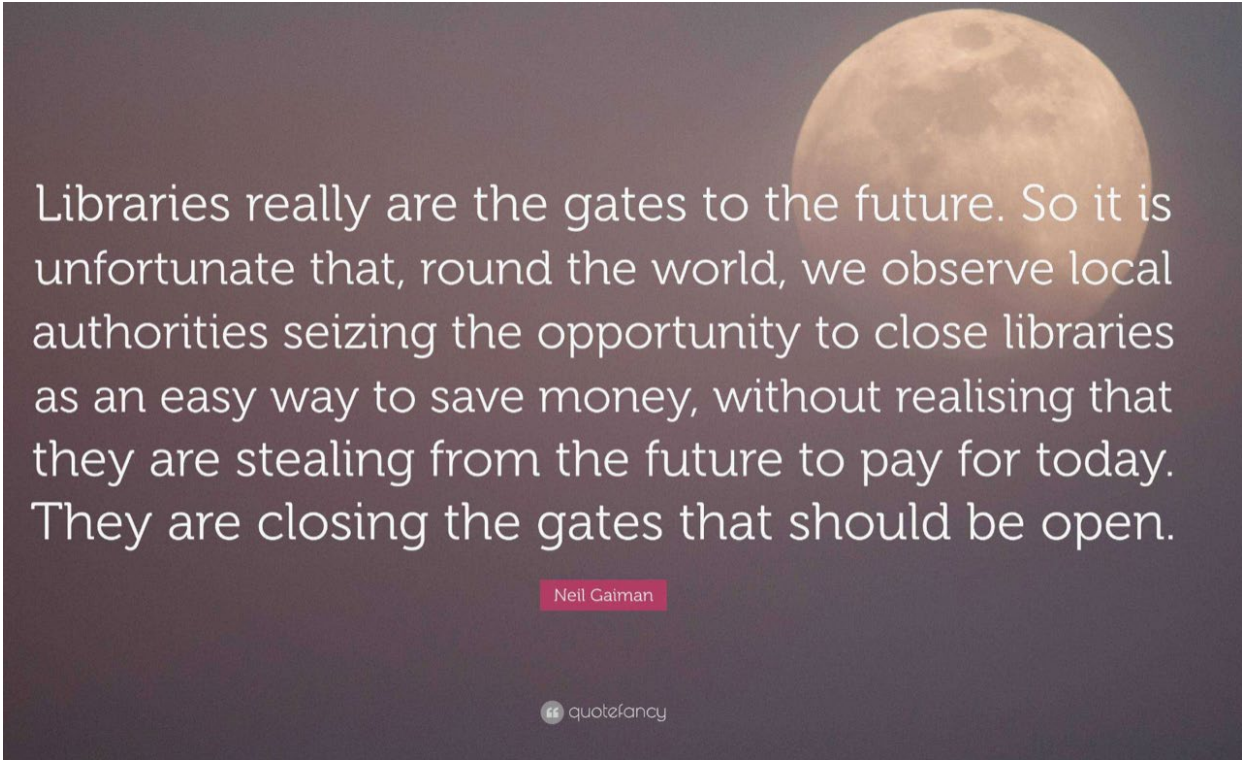
A small non-profit that I co-chaired would rent library meeting rooms. Without the library, where will small groups like ours be able to find a place to meet?

I was at the library on one of the first warm, sunny Saturdays this year and it was very busy. Oregonians usually head outdoors at the first sign of sunshine but it was wonderful to see how busy the library was. You will be doing a disservice to the community if you cut library services or, in the extreme, close it.

SAVE OUR LIBRARY!


Thank you for your time and attention.

Carol Goldfarb



Libraries really are the gates to the future. So it is unfortunate that, round the world, we observe local authorities seizing the opportunity to close libraries as an easy way to save money, without realising that they are stealing from the future to pay for today. They are closing the gates that should be open.

Neil Gaiman

 quotefancy

"Libraries are the thin
red line between
civilisation and
barbarism."

- Neil Gaiman

From: [Annie Battee](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Our Youth Deserve One City Employee
Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 2:52:06 PM

Dear Budget Committee,

The City employs one Youth Serves staff member who has provided leadership, community engagement, volunteer training and much more for youth throughout the City. Salem youth deserve to have one employee providing service to them and giving them the opportunity to participate in making Salem a great city and give back while learning skills that help them grow.

Please do not cut this one position from the budget. Our Youth is our future, let's show our commitment to them.

Sincerely,
Annie Battee
Ward 3

TO: Budget Committee Members

THROUGH: Keith Stahley, 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 April 16, 2024.

RECOMMENDATION:

Information only.

BACKGROUND:

1. I also could not find the report on lawsuits the City paid out in the FY 20-24 budget book from last year. Can you send me the page reference (if there's a page reference in the FY 2025 budget as well, I'd love that).

Below is a list of cases or pre-litigation settlements made thus far in FY 2024.

Case Type	Case / Claimant	Amount	Date (payment or event)	Notes
Civil	Carmona – Perez v. City of Salem	\$95,000	1/9/2024	
Civil	McCloud v. City of Salem	\$85,000	11/29/2023	
Civil	Garza, Christopher V. City of Salem et al.	\$2,003,646.50	3/13/2024	\$894.938.19 paid by City, \$1,108,708.31 paid by Allied Insurance
Pre -Litigation (Risk)	Deering Management	\$5,000	12/25/2022	Flooding

Pre -Litigation (Risk)	NW Natural	\$2,134.75	6/15/2023	Damaged gas line
Pre -Litigation (Risk)	Cifuentes Espino, Jacylin	\$299.00	7/26/2023	Damaged windshield
Pre -Litigation (Risk)	Cox, Garrett	\$359.92	7/28/2023	Police spiked vehicle
Pre -Litigation (Risk)	NW Natural	\$226.49	8/2/2023	Damaged gas line
Pre -Litigation (Risk)	Olsen, April	\$398.00	8/16/2023	Damaged windshield
Pre -Litigation (Risk)	Goggins, John	\$7,854.14	8/31/2023	Tree damaged vehicle
Pre -Litigation (Risk)	Galver, Sally	\$17,925.01	11/4/2023	Flooding
Pre -Litigation (Risk)	Kennedy, Bryan	\$47,568.45	11/4/2023	Flooding
Pre -Litigation (Risk)	Nguyen, Chuong	\$230.00	11/7/2023	Covered drain
Pre -Litigation (Risk)	Hogue, Jake	\$6,410.39	11/30/2023	Sewer backup
Pre -Litigation (Risk)	Affinity Property	\$2,532.00	11/30/2023	Sewer backup
Pre -Litigation (Risk)	Huntzinger, Jessica	\$243.95	1/30/2024	Police spiked vehicle
Pre -Litigation (Risk)	Hayase, Leslie	\$332.00	2/8/2024	Tire damage due to steel plate
Pre -Litigation (Risk)	Coleman, James	\$300.00	2/21/2024	Damaged planter beds
Pre -Litigation (Risk)	Hornsby, Don	\$781.99	3/14/2024	Inspector damage
Pre -Litigation (Risk)	Tallinger, Collin	\$15,475.00	3/21/2024	Water main break

2. On Page 5 of the 2024 budget, the narrative outlines the wide array of infrastructure that the city maintains: sidewalks, paths and trails, parks and streets, and systems used to collect, transport and clean water, wastewater, and stormwater, as well as buildings and other facilities. What was the aggregate general fund cost that was budgeted for maintaining city assets during FY 2024, and what is proposed for 2025?

The proposed FY 2025 budget includes \$843,830 of contributions of the General Fund to Capital construction. Please see attachment 1.

3. On Page 174 of the 2024 budget, the narrative indicates that general fund programs “provide assistance to low income individuals and families, funding for social service and other aid programs serving low-income individuals, help with emergency food baskets, homeless education and case management services, services for homeless youth, and utility support.” What was the aggregate general fund cost of these programs in the 2024 budget and what is proposed for 2025? If there are other general fund programs that provide assistance to low income individuals and families, could you please identify them and provide their cost for 2024 and 2025?

In FY 2024 there were approximately \$400,000 in direct service grants from the General Fund to various community partners. The proposed FY 2025 budget eliminates these grants.

4. Salem’s transportation fund is near crisis. In the answer to a January question about the City’s need to fund transportation, while ODOT is spending billions of dollars expanding highways, staff did not address the question on whether the City has noted the opportunity cost of spending said billions to legislators, but rather “ODOT has maintenance shortfalls as well.” Staff did not acknowledge any reason for ODOT’s shortfall, including the approximately [\\$9,000,000,000](#) five-mile-long highway expansion project with a bridge in North Portland (IBR), and spending millions planning projects there is no funding to complete, like the [\\$12,000,000 study for a massive interchange at Highways 22 and 51](#). Lately rumors have been heard that ODOT is hoping to reduce local share of the Highway Trust Fund even more in the 2025 session. Do the city staff not believe these hugely expensive highway expansions pushed by ODOT and legislators are a trade-off, pushing out the ability to meet critical needs at the City and around the state, or simply that it is not politically feasible to stop these expansions?

Salem’s Transportation Fund is on the same trajectory as the General Fund. Revenue is not keeping pace with expenditures, so residents will either experience service reductions by 2027, or the Council and/or community will implement additional revenue sources to stabilize funding, or a combination of both. Staff at the City of Salem involved in transportation funding discussions have not heard of any proposed changes to the distribution of State Highway Revenue. There is always the possibility that something could be proposed, however, both the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) and Association of Oregon Counties would advocate strongly for the current funding model for local agencies to remain or increase. There has been discussion in various policy advisory committees about minimizing the amount of State Highway Revenue taken off the top for specific programs, so we will work with the LOC to monitor the policy priorities during the 2025 Legislative Session and advocate for local funding. It is our understanding that the Interstate Bridge project is proposed to be funded with bonds

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supported by the State's General Fund. The Hwy 22 interchange at Highway 51 is one of many identified needs state-wide that are currently unfunded. For these reasons, we do not anticipate either of these specific projects impacting the existing State Highway Revenue allocation unless there is a change to the formula or funding is redirected to other programs.

5. The U.S. Department of Justice's CrimeSolutions database [generally finds](#) body cameras to be ineffective at the various goals they are intended to achieve. Of ten randomly-controlled trials, only one of ten found the cameras to be effective, while five found them to have no or a negative effect. (Four were indeterminate). The MetaAnalysis published in CrimeSolutions found cameras had no effect on use of force, assaults on officers, crimes, officer-initiated calls for service, traffic stops, or stop-and-frisk. "Research does not necessarily support the effectiveness of body-worn cameras in achieving those desired outcomes. A comprehensive review of 70 studies of body-worn camera use found that the larger body of research on body-worn cameras showed no consistent or no statistically significant effects." Is there something unique about Salem's experience?

Thank you for the question. As you noted, the studies cited specifically examined effectiveness specific to the incidence (increase or decrease the amount) of use of force, assaults on officers, crimes, officer-initiated calls for service, traffic stops, or stop-and-frisk. The benefits Chief Womack cited during his statement to the budget committee were unrelated to those areas. After one full year of body-worn camera (BWC) program operation, realized benefits for SPD include reduced formal complaints against officers, reduced staff time spent on administrative investigations, improved quality and amount of evidence for criminal investigations, and reduced risk related to civil litigation.

As the Chief of Police, I view body-worn cameras as an essential and standard piece of law enforcement equipment and technology. It is also worth noting the [ten randomly controlled trials](#) not only found five to have "no or negative effect," but also that one was rated as "effective" and four as "promising." 80% of larger police agencies deploy body-worn camera technology. Not having such technology would place us well outside the norm, increasing our risk exposure and removing an important tool for both officer and citizen accountability. Proving we do things correctly is just as valuable as proving misconduct or mistakes when they do occur, and society now expects that proof to be in the form of direct video and audio evidence.

6. Chief Womack mentioned body cameras result in speedier resolution of complaints. DOJ analysis of studies from other communities do not consistently show this effect. How is this tracked, and how much money does this save?

Formal complaints against our officers dropped by 82% in our first full year of BWC operation as compared to the prior year. Fewer formal complaints translate directly into less staff time spent investigating and participating in the complaint investigation

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process. As an understaffed department (see attachment 2), freeing up any amount of staff time helps to improve overall efficiencies by redirecting staff hours toward other needed functions.

7. Chief Womack mentioned benefits in liability and lawsuits against the city to having body cameras. Without being able to know about lawsuits that were not paid out by the city, how can budget committee members best understand the City's understanding of the projected savings here?

It is always a challenge to measure that which does not occur. However, there have been several publicly reported recent judgments or settlements related to SPD litigation related to incidents that occurred prior to the implementation of our BWC program. We believe having quality video and audio footage in each of those incidents would have limited the City's liability.

8. While Chief Womack asserted body cameras are now standard equipment, the budget process is one of trade-offs. Does Chief Womack believe having 4-5 fewer officers in the field is worth the approximate \$1 million in annual expenses for the body camera program?

Chief Womack believes all officers must be well trained and equipped, which includes the use body- and in-car cameras. He also believes the department to be understaffed, as outlined in a recent [community engagement assessment](#) and subsequent [independent staffing analysis](#). Both equipment and additional staff are needed to effectively police the city. The City Manager has submitted his proposed budget, which was the result of a priority-based budgeting process that considered trade-offs at the enterprise level to achieve a balanced budget.

9. How does the City evaluate the value of having a full-service police department, with a bomb squad and a SWAT team, against other possible uses of those resources?

As one of the largest police agencies in Oregon, there is a need to provide specialized teams with enhanced training, expertise, and equipment. Not having these teams at the ready here in Salem would require the reliance upon teams that may not be readily available or able to respond from outside agencies such as Portland, Eugene, and Oregon State Police.

Our specialized teams, such as crowd management, SWAT, and bomb squad, do not involved full-time staff assignments. Rather, those specialized duties are ancillary to an officer's primary assignment. For example, a SWAT team member might be a full-time violent crime detective but also a trained and equipped member of our SWAT team. When a specialized team is activated for an emergency incident, the team members step away from their primary assignment long enough to complete the special mission only. Eliminating a specialized team would not eliminate the need or cost of that full time

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employee. Nor would it eliminate the need for our personnel to respond in some capacity to the incident which currently requires a special team response.

The department also seeks non-general fund sources for larger, costly specialized equipment purchases. For example, the department is currently seeking to replace an outdated bomb truck through a combination of asset forfeiture, grant, and community donation funds.

10. Some subdepartments of the police department apparently have few staff but also a higher-paid sergeant. Is there a general approach for thinking about the sergeant-to-sworn officer-to-community service officer staffing plan, and are there opportunities to retain police FTEs by having more officers, more CSOs, and less management?

Policing involves high-risk activities and adequate supervision is crucial. This February, the Department eliminated one lieutenant and one sergeant (management positions) with the FY24 supplement budget. All managers have additional responsibilities beyond the primary section/unit assignment listed in the budget document and many of them have operational duties in addition to their administrative duties.

Due to the relatively small size of our agency, in the past we have relied on smaller special units to improve policing in the city. As we have been stymied in our growth relative to the population, we have consistently evaluated team size and function, adjusting accordingly. Coincidentally, since the mid-year budget adjustments we no longer have small units (less than 5 officers) being supervised by a sergeant.

11. In a revenue task force staff report, a question about traffic cameras was answered as them not being a viable revenue source. That answer appeared to focus on just two elements - costs of the program, and revenues from violations. As the fire department responded to over 1,100 traffic crashes last year, does the City do any thinking or analysis on the various costs reduced by having fewer crashes (fire, police, ambulance, city infrastructure), as the general result of safety cameras?

The Police Department has not conducted a cost/benefit analysis of savings achieved through crash reduction. Actual cost reductions are not realized without the elimination of staff positions and both the fire and police departments are currently understaffed. Any staff time saved by a service reduction or efficiency measure in one area is immediately consumed by another service demand.

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12. The current commercial, industrial, institutional and public operations fee is set at \$73.90 per month. How much would be raised if that fee were increased to \$100 per month?

Approximately \$158,000 would be raised by increasing the fee for this customer classification to \$100.

13. How much would be raised by a 10% increase in the city's operations fee on single-family residential, from the current \$15.33/month?

The increase would be \$1.4M.

14. The term "citizen" has been weaponized by far-right extremists, driving increased violence against immigrants and people of color. What would it take to rename this committee without that term in the title (e.g. "Salem Budget Committee")?

The Budget Committee is referred to as the "Citizen Budget Committee" on the City website for the Boards and Commissions. It is not referred as the Citizens Budget Committee in Charter or Code. Staff can easily adjust this naming convention for the Boards and Commissions section of the website. Moss Adams is currently working on a review of Boards and Commissions around the City. Staff has let Moss Adams know that there is interest in renaming the Budget Committee name officially as part of that work.

15. Given the council's vote last night (3/25) to proceed with a study of forming a new urban renewal area along Front Street north of downtown, I have the following questions:

- How much will the study and related activities cost, and from where will the money come? How many staff will be involved in the study? What consultants will be involved?

Creating a new urban renewal area typically costs around \$60,000 in consulting costs. This covers detailed financial analysis that is highly specialized as well as drafting a statutorily required URA Plan and Report. The proposed department budget includes funds for this purpose, which would come from the General Fund. Oregon is limited in consultants that do this kind of work. We have worked in the past with Tiberius Solutions, Elaine Howard Consulting, and EcoNorthwest for urban renewal-related consulting support and anticipate drawing from this same consultant pool. Multiple staff will be involved in this effort across the Community

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Planning and Development Department and the Public Works Department, as creating a new urban renewal area involves identifying needed infrastructure improvements. However, this work will not be additive for most staff as they are already engaged in this through other infrastructure planning work for the proposed Cannery project on Front Street and other public and private development and infrastructure planning projects within the contemplated URA boundary. One Program Manager will be tasked as lead and this will be about 20% of their workload for the next year. Other staff (approximately 6 from Community Planning and Development and 4 from Public Works) will be needed on an occasional basis, with this absorbing up to 5% of their capacity over the upcoming year.

- Over the past 20 years, what has been the average share of city land in urban renewal areas, in percentage terms?

Approximately 11% of the City's acreage is within Urban Renewal Areas (approximate due to small annexations that regularly occur with development that affect total acreage). This has been consistent over the last 20 years +/- a percentage.

FY 2025-29 Proposed CIP General Fund Contributions

Project Group	Project Name	CIP Page	CIP Number	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	CIP Total
Parking Structures	Pringle Parkade Top Deck Overlay Repair, Drainage, and Coating	49	0000944	\$ 345,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 345,000
Information Technology	Expanded Data Storage Array	44	0000737	\$ 256,040	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 256,040
Buildings	Multiple Building System Improvements	43	0001628	\$ 124,790	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 124,790
Parks	Salem Park Improvement Projects (SPIF)*	18	0000160	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 300,000
Buildings	City Hall Uninterrupted Power Supply Replacement	39	0001544	\$ 58,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 58,000
Information Technology	Advanced Active Directory Administration	45	0001554	\$ -	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500,000
Buildings	Information Technology / Human Resources and Capital Community Media HVAC Replacement	41	0001622	\$ -	\$ 145,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 145,000
Parks	Bush's Pasture Park Maintenance Building	31	0001509	\$ -	\$ 75,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75,000
Information Technology	Replace Data Storage Array	45	0001553	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 315,060	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 315,060
Buildings	Center 50+ HVAC Replacement	42	0001625	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200,000
Parks	Aldrich Park Improvements	26	0001154	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 135,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 135,000
Parks	Playground Rehabilitation	19	0000654	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 225,000

Buildings	Fire Stations 5, 10, and 11 Gate Operator and System Replacements	41	0001623	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 52,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 52,000
Buildings	Shops Complex Building 24 / 24C HVAC Replacements	42	0001624	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000
Buildings	Fire Stations 2, 3, 4, 6 and 9 Roof Replacements and Exterior Paint	43	0001627	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 425,000	\$ -	\$ 425,000
Buildings	Fire Stations 5, 7, 10 and 11 HVAC Replacements	42	0001626	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 208,000	\$ -	\$ 208,000
Parks	Hillview Park Shelter Rehabilitation	19	0000660	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ -	\$ 150,000
GF Total:				\$ 843,830	\$ 780,000	\$ 887,060	\$ 918,000	\$ 135,000	\$ 3,563,890

**Project has companion funding in addition to General Fund contributions*



MEMO

TO: Mayor, Council President and Councilors
City Council

THROUGH: Steve Powers
City Manager's Office

FROM: Trevor Womack, Chief of Police
Police

DATE: November 9, 2021

SUBJECT: Independent Staffing Analysis

In April 2021, the Hillard Heintze consulting firm completed an independent assessment of the Salem Police Department's policies, procedures and operations. Their report noted the Department must increase staffing to successfully implement their recommendations and meet community expectations, with an emphasis on interactions with communities of color, the unsheltered population, and those experiencing behavioral health crisis. The Department subsequently requested the firm conduct a more in-depth staffing analysis to help inform decisions regarding current staffing needs and the prioritization of existing resources.

On October 5, we received the Hillard Heintze staffing analysis, which I am sharing here for your general awareness (full report attached). Findings and recommendations include:

- SPD is understaffed, particularly in Patrol Division.
- Patrol has continued to promptly respond to 9-1-1 emergency calls, but this comes at the expense of other services and proactive community engagement.
- The existing police corporal rank is uncommon in the industry and supervisory duties should remain at the sergeant level.
- Adjustments to Patrol shifts could improve staffing efficiency. However, even with the recommended adjustments, Patrol requires 27-83 additional officers. This range is based upon the desired level of "unobligated patrol time," which is the amount of unassigned time officers have during their shifts to do proactive work, including community engagement. The low end provides 50% unobligated time while the high end provides 67% unobligated time.
- SPD command-level management structure may benefit from addition of the police captain rank. Currently, 9 police lieutenants report directly to three deputy chiefs.
- Violent crime levels exceed the capacity of the Violent Crimes Unit to conduct follow-up investigations; more detectives are needed.

- The Department should continue identifying alternative call response options (physically respond to fewer calls). Examples include further limiting response to burglary alarm calls and routing more call types to online reporting.
- More capacity is needed to manage digital evidence and investigative technology services (demands are increasing rapidly).
- The Department should enhance succession planning in specialized units and up the ranks.
- The crime scene and evidence processing unit may benefit from additional non-sworn management expertise.
- Non-sworn Community Service Officer (CSO) capacity should be expanded. Current CSOs are not full-time, career employees.
- Enhancing online services could improve non-sworn records management staff efficiency.

Attachments:

1. Hillard Heintze Final Report for the City of Salem, Oregon

CITY OF SALEM BUDGET COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

I. ROBERTS' RULES TO GOVERN PROCEEDINGS

Unless otherwise provided by law or modified by these rules, the procedure for Budget Committee meetings shall be governed by Roberts' Rules of Order, Revised. The Budget Committee has an obligation to the citizens to be clear and simple in its procedures and in the consideration of the questions coming before it. Therefore, Committee members should avoid invoking the finer points of parliamentary procedures when such points serve to obscure the issues before the Committee as a whole, and confuse the audience at meetings.

II. AGENDAS

- A. The City Manager shall prepare an agenda for every Budget Committee meeting. Agendas and information material for the meetings shall be distributed in a timely fashion, preceding the meeting. Committee approval shall not be required for an agenda.
- B. The order of business for all regular meetings of the Budget Committee shall be as follows. However, when it appears to be in the best interest of the public, the order of business may be changed for any single meeting by two-thirds vote of members present:
 - 1. Opening exercises (includes call to order, roll call, pledge of allegiance)
 - 2. New business
 - 3. Old business
 - 4. Adjournment

III. SCHEDULE

Meetings shall start at 6:00 pm, and shall adjourn no later than 10:00 p.m. However, a majority of the Budget Committee can extend the time to adjourn a meeting by half hour intervals by majority vote of members present at the meeting.

IV. OFFICERS

The officers of the Budget Committee shall be the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson.

V. PRESIDING OFFICER

- A. The Budget Committee Chairperson shall be the presiding officer. In the absence of the Chairperson, the presiding officer shall be the Vice Chair. In the event of the absence of both the Chairperson and the Vice Chair, and if where a quorum is present, the member with the most senior membership on the Budget Committee shall call the meeting to order, and the Budget Committee shall elect a Chair Pro Tem, who shall serve until the arrival of the Chairperson or the Vice-Chair, as the case may be.
- B. The Presiding Officer may move, second and debate from the chair, subject only to such limitations of debate as are by these rules imposed on all members, and shall not be deprived of any of the rights and privileges of a Budget Committee member by reason of acting as the Presiding Officer.

VI. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

- A. Time shall be allotted on each agenda for public testimony.
- B. The presiding officer shall invite the public to testify at the time(s) allotted. In order to allow time for everyone wishing to testify, the following time limits shall apply:
 - 1. Individual testimony is limited to three minutes.
 - 2. Groups shall select a spokesperson, whose testimony will be limited to five minutes.
 - 3. After the spokesperson's presentation, the presiding officer will ask all of those in the group in the audience to indicate their support by a show of hands.
 - 4. If other members of the same group have additional information, their testimony is limited to three minutes.

VII. DEPARTMENT REVIEW PRESENTATIONS

- A. An overview of each fund will be presented by the City Manager. At the City Manager's discretion, a department head may make the presentation for their individual department's budgets;
- B. Department heads will be available to answer specific questions about the department's budget;
- C. The public is invited to testify on the fund's budget;
- D. The Budget Committee reviews and discusses the proposed budget; and
- E. Budget Committee closes review of the fund's budget.

VIII. QUORUM

A quorum of the Budget Committee must be present to hold a meeting. A quorum shall consist of ten Budget Committee members.

IX. VOTING

In order for a motion to be approved, a vote must receive ten ayes.

X. SUBSTITUTE MOTIONS

A substitute motion is a motion which proposes to replace a pending main motion in its entirety. If seconded, debate on the relative merits of the main motion and the substitute motion shall be in order. If approved, a substitute motion shall stand as the main motion, and the original main motion shall be deemed to have been rejected; if the substitute motion is rejected, vote shall proceed to the main motion.

XI. CALLING THE QUESTION

Any Budget Committee member may call for the question at any time. The Presiding Officer shall then ask whether any Committee member has further comments, and, if no Committee member requests the floor, vote shall be immediately taken.

XII. STAFF REPONSES TO BUDGET COMMITTEE QUESTIONS

For staff responses and/or analysis expected to take one hour or longer to prepare, the request shall be approved by the Committee as a whole before staff time is utilized. Committee requests involving less than one hour staff time may be approved by the City Manager without Committee action.

XIII. "WISH LIST"

Use of the Wish List process, recognizes that the Budget Committee desires to review and tentatively approve or close review on all budgets before making their recommendation to the City Council. The Wish List provides the opportunity at the end of the review meetings to balance the proposed budget in the manner and content determined by the Budget Committee.

XIV. PRE-MEETING BRIEFINGS

Based on a majority vote of the Budget Committee, the City Manager may schedule pre-meeting informational briefings. These meetings will be held before the full Budget Committee conducts the formal review sessions, and provide the opportunity for Budget Committee members to ask staff questions about the budgets that are

scheduled for review. The meetings are optional and no decisions will be made at the pre-meetings. Pre-meetings are open to the public and will be noticed as such.

XV. SPECIAL MEETINGS

A special meeting of the Budget Committee may be called by the presiding officer, or upon the request of not less than ten members of the Budget Committee submitted in writing to the Presiding Officer, or upon majority vote of the City Council.

XVI. BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES

- A. Minutes of all meetings shall be comprised of a “final action agenda” and a recording of the meeting in electronic form. Minutes shall be maintained in the Budget Office.
- B. The “final action agenda” shall contain the following information:
 - 1. The date, time and place of the meeting or session;
 - 2. The names of the members recorded as either present or absent;
 - 3. Any motions, and amendments thereto, a record of all votes taken, and general description of all matters considered during the meeting
- C. Approval of the minutes shall not require review of the electronic recording of the meeting or reading of the final action agenda in open meeting prior to approval. The final action agenda may be revised at any time by the City Manager to correct spelling, numbering and other technical defects. Prior to approval, any member may request the amendment or correction of the final action agenda to accurately reflect the substance of any motion, amendment or matter considered during the prior meeting. If objection is made by any Committee member to such amendment or correction, the amendment or correction shall only be made upon majority vote of the Budget Committee.

XVII. AMENDMENT OF PROCEDURES

These procedures may be amended, or new procedures adopted, by a vote of at least ten ayes of the Budget Committee, provided that the proposed amendments or new procedures have been introduced into the record at a prior Budget Committee meeting not less than six days prior to Budget Committee action on the proposed amendment or adoption.