

Submitter: Mayor Alex Johnson II
On Behalf Of: Albany Y Veterans Housing
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Capital Construction
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5531
Testimony Before the Capital Construction
Sub-Committee of Ways and Means

Following is the testimony of Mayor of Albany Alex Johnson II, Board member of the Mid-Willamette Family YMCA Veterans Housing and Veteran

Greetings Madam Co-Chair Lieber and Co-Chair Sanchez and members of the committee. My name is Alex Johnson II and I am an active board member of the Mid-Willamette Family YMCA Veterans Housing organization. I am also a proud United States Navy Veteran.

You have heard from our board Chair, Kerry Johnson at your last public hearing, I am here today to reinforce her comments and speak as a Mayor of a growing and dynamic city like Albany.

I want to thank you for providing \$1 million dollars in pre-development funds last year to launch our project. We have great momentum, starting with the legislature's \$1 million dollars, over \$650,000 in community fundraising and the recent acceptance by Oregon Housing and Community Services who have agreed to provide \$10.5 million dollars to our project, leaving us only \$3.3 million dollars short of funding the 38 apartments, which will be dedicated to Veterans in need of affordable housing. The \$3.3 million is what we are hoping you can help us with. If everything falls into place, we should break ground this Fall. This project is in the model of Courtney Place across the street which is a glowing success. We plan to emulate the Courtney Place model which will ultimately include wrap-around services with 2-3 full-time staff people to help support the Veteran residents.

I just want you to know our community is very excited about this project. We get inquiries nearly every day about how we are doing and when will we open.

We humbly ask for your support of this project which obviously has tremendous support and a proven track record.

Thank you.

Mayor Alex Johnson II, phone 541-730-5064

May 9th, 2025