



SALEM POLICE EMPLOYEES UNION

STRENGTH THROUGH UNITY

February 13, 2026

Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair

Representative Rob Nosse, Co-Chair

Members of the Joint Committee on Ways & Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

Oregon State Capitol

900 Court Street NE

Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Subcommittee,

On behalf of the sworn members of the Salem Police Employees' Union, we write in strong support of the City of Salem's request for ongoing, direct funding for the Safe, Clean and Healthy Capital City initiative.

Our officers serve on the front lines every day in the Capitol Mall area and throughout downtown Salem. We see firsthand the public safety challenges associated with unmanaged campsites, behavioral health crises, substance use, and repeat emergency calls in the city's core. These impacts are intensified in the areas surrounding state facilities, where a significant amount of public activity occurs but where the City does not receive property tax revenue to support the level of services required.

The expansion of the Homeless Services Team (HST) and related components of the Safe, Clean and Healthy initiative has made a measurable difference. Moving from limited coverage to seven-day-a-week staffing has improved consistency, responsiveness, and officer presence in high-impact areas. This model allows officers to focus on proactive engagement, connecting individuals with services, and reducing repeat calls for service — while maintaining accountability and public safety.

Importantly, this initiative helps ensure patrol officers and fire personnel are available for other urgent emergencies. When behavioral health and homelessness-related calls are addressed through coordinated outreach and co-response, it improves system-wide efficiency and better serves the entire community.

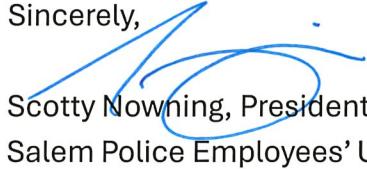
The work being done through this initiative reflects what our officers strive for every day: protecting public safety while treating people with dignity and respect. Sustaining this program will help maintain momentum, reduce strain on emergency services, and improve outcomes for individuals experiencing homelessness.

**PO Box 583
Salem, OR 97308**

We respectfully urge your support for continued state investment in this effort. Salem is Oregon's Capital City, and maintaining safety and livability around critical state facilities is a shared responsibility.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to public safety across our state.

Sincerely,


Scotty Nowning, President
Salem Police Employees' Union



"Strength Through Unity"