

## City Manager's Update — November 17, 2020

Prepared for Mayor and Councilors. Please contact Steve Powers, City Manager, for additional information.

### *At Your Service*

From Marion Polk Food Share,

Because our region is interconnected, and people who live in the Santiam Canyon come to Salem frequently for work, shopping, business and entertainment, I wanted to send you this update on food assistance in the wildfire zones. I am grateful to report that the buildings of our food pantry partners in the Santiam Canyon survived the fires. Dedicated volunteers have resumed serving residents in Mehama, Lyons, Mill City, Gates, Idanha, Detroit, and the surrounding area. With generous support from people in Salem and throughout Marion and Polk counties, we have been able to refill these food pantries and meal sites with fresh dairy, produce, meat, frozen food, and canned goods. Community members are visiting our partner agencies to restock their cupboards, connect with their neighbors and receive a warm meal. I am grateful for our partnership with the City of Salem, and our work together to make sure that everyone in our community has enough to eat.

### **COVID**

The Two-Week Freeze measures will be in effect from November 18 through December 2, statewide. These risk reduction measures are critical in limiting the spread of COVID-19, reducing risk in communities more vulnerable to serious illness and death, and helping conserve hospital capacity so that all Oregonians can continue to have access to quality care. According to Governor Kate Brown, some COVID-19 hotspot counties will likely need to stay in the Freeze for much longer than two weeks.

The Two-Week Freeze measures include:

- Limiting social get-togethers (indoors and outdoors) to no more than six people, total, from no more than two households.
- Limiting faith-based organizations to a maximum of 25 people indoors or 50 people outdoors.
- Limiting eating and drinking establishments to take-out and delivery only.
- Closing gyms and fitness organizations.
- Closing indoor recreational facilities, museums, indoor entertainment activities, and indoor pools and sports courts.
- Closing zoos, gardens, aquariums, outdoor entertainment activities, and outdoor pools.
- Limiting grocery stores and pharmacies to a maximum of 75% capacity and encouraging curbside pickup.
- Limiting retail stores and retail malls (indoor and outdoor) to a maximum of 75% capacity and encouraging curbside pickup.
- Closing venues (that host or facilitate indoor or outdoor events).
- Requiring all businesses to mandate work-from-home to the greatest extent possible and closing offices to the public.

- Prohibiting indoor visiting in long-term care facilities (outdoor visitation permitted for supporting quality of life).

### ***Community and Economic Development***

In October, the City issued 50 new single-family or duplex building permits, 20 more than the October average since 2005.

Salem has been nationally recognized by LendEDU as one of the fastest-growing U.S. cities that is still affordable for renters. You can see the full report [here](#). LendEDU analyzed the most up-to-date data for nearly 30,000 cities and we first found the 1,000 U.S. cities that are projected to grow the fastest over the next five years. LendEDU then ranked those 1,000 cities according to each one's average monthly rent cost, including utilities. Specifically, Salem is projected to grow by 12.96% over the next five years and the average monthly rent cost in Salem is \$1,028.68, which means it's still very affordable despite its potential for growth. These figures ranked Salem #365 in the entire country and #11 in the state of Oregon. According to LendEDU, the cities on this list, like Salem, are not only the fastest-growing communities in the country but are also some of the most affordable places to rent, making them excellent locations for young adults to start their life journeys.

### ***Fires***

The Salem Housing Authority is assisting the Marion County Housing Authority house voucher recipients in Salem. The placements are a challenge because Salem has limited vacancy in the voucher-rate units. Earlier this month, 97 Santiam Canyon households needed housing assistance.

The State's Project Turnkey program is open for applications. Eligible applicants include 501c3 nonprofit organizations and cities, counties, housing authorities, or tribal communities. Eligible regions include Clackamas, Douglas, Jackson, Klamath, Lane, Linn, Lincoln, and Marion counties and tribal communities impacted by fire. The deadline to apply is November 25. Project Turnkey is grant program for the purpose of acquiring hotels/motels for use as non-congregate shelter in wildfire-affected counties. It is made possible because of a \$30 million allocation from the Oregon Legislature.

### ***Police***

Work has started on the performance audit of the Police Department. The consultants are conducting interviews this week. The steering committee provided helpful guidance on whom to interview. Hillard/Heintze will be meeting with members of the Police Department, mayor and councilors, City departments and community agencies that work with the Police Department, and community groups and organizations.

How to watch the Steering Committee meetings:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xpcf7O648wM>

Keep track of progress here:

<https://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/police-audit.aspx>

## ***Police Station***

I have approved the thirteenth contract amendment with JE Dunn. The amendment adjusts the substantial completion date for the project and increases the guaranteed maximum price. The amendment adds \$522,871 to the price, for a total contract amount, including preconstruction services, of \$59,186,946. There is \$2.4 million remaining in the project contingency budget, with \$1.8 million in additional potential change items. The substantial completion date was adjusted to accommodate delays caused by hazardous air quality from the wildfires. Move-in will be completed by the end of November. All traffic signals are operational. Liberty and Division are open to two-way traffic.

Thanks for reading,  
Steve