

COUNCIL POLICY NO. A-5

TITLE: COUNCIL STATEMENT ON INFRINGEMENT OF PERSONAL RIGHTS
TO FREEDOM

POLICY: See attachment.

REFERENCE: Council statement adopted August 5, 1991.

**STATEMENT ON INFRINGEMENT OF
PERSONAL RIGHTS TO FREEDOM**

**COMMON COUNCIL - SALEM, OREGON
ADOPTED AUGUST 5, 1991**

The quality of life in Salem stands out as the primary reason why each of us has chosen it for our home. We enjoy the safety a community like ours affords us. We treasure the freedom we have to walk on our streets and to play in our public parks without fear, a freedom that is unknown in many cities across the country.

Our freedom from fear, however, has recently been threatened. The number of citizens made vulnerable may seem few, but a threat to even one person is a threat to us all.

As a City Council, we have one very clear message to deliver: we will not tolerate any infringement on a person's rights to the freedom to live without fear. We will not tolerate the development or presence of groups dedicated to the harassment or harm of any citizens. We will make the eradication of such crimes the highest priority for our community.

To that end:

- We direct our employees to focus their efforts on solving this serious community problem.
- We direct our Police Department personnel to continue their fight to eliminate criminal activity in all segments of our community.
- We work to encourage cooperative efforts among our city employees, our many citizen advisory groups, our school personnel, our social service agencies, and our community groups to fight prejudice and to continue to increase awareness of the rights of each citizen in our community.

We recognize that the scope of this problem goes far beyond the realm of our city government. It is not a problem we can solve alone; it is a problem that the community, through the combined efforts of governments, agencies, community organizations, and all our citizens, must solve together.

The very name "Salem" means "peace." It is critical that we live up to our name and refuse to allow the unjust treatment of any of our citizens. If one of us is living in fear of others in our community, all of us are affected in the end. Through our work as an understanding and united community, we can make sure that Salem remains a city of peace. Therefore, we call upon all Salem citizens to join us in dedicating ourselves to equity and justice for all citizens.