

From: [Shelly Abbs](#)
To: [City Recorder](#)
Subject: Homeless/Warming Shelter - Please read at city council meeting
Date: Friday, May 5, 2023 8:38:08 AM

Hello,

As a nearby resident of Molalla's warming center, I would like to formally request that it not be allowed to reopen.

A large majority of these people have made a choice to live their lives in this manner. It is my choice to work hard for what I have and how I live. This epidemic is about CHOICE. They chose to not follow rules and society guidelines and expect others in the community to support them and provide handouts.

The damage to the community is too expensive to continue to allow. By providing shelter and resources, that is exactly what is happening. This is expensive in cost (I can think of a million other ways to spend tax payer money), it's expensive in the damage these people cause to the grounds they camp on, it is expensive in the lasting effect it has on our children, and it is expensive in the image that this lifestyle projects. It's dangerous, it's ugly, and it cannot continue to be allowed.

The residents and communities are speaking, and it's time for the committees, councils, and governments to start listening.

Thank you,
Shelly Abbs

From: [Eric Vermillion](#)
To: [Roberta Pitman](#)
Cc: [Christie Teets](#)
Subject: Re: Molalla Hope Inc
Date: Thursday, May 4, 2023 3:21:56 PM

Ms. Roberta Pitman,

Thank you so much for sending us your concerns. We appreciate all the public input we can get. And please thank your family for continuing their business in our beautiful city.

I understand and hear your concerns and solution. We are working hard on our end to resolve this as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Eric Vermillion
City Councilor
City of Molalla
(503) 309-1586



From: Roberta Pitman <bertpitman@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 4:18:50 PM
To: Scott Keyser; Terry Shankle; Jody Newland; crobles@molalla.com; Eric Vermillion; Rae-Lynn Botsford
Subject: Molalla Hope Inc

Councilors,

First of all I would like to thank all of you for stepping up and serving our city. I have lived in Molalla all of my life but do not live within the city limits, so I hope it is ok to share my concerns regarding the warming center. My brother in law and sister built and own the blue building (Molalla Machine Shop) next to the warming center. The quality of the neighborhood has really deteriorated the last several years and I feel that is the direct result of the activities at the warming center. I am a senior citizen and have not felt safe when in that area. That feeling of being unsafe definitely escalated over the last 6 months. There have been people loitering and littering in the shop parking lot as well as apparently living in the bus shelter near the civic center. My sister and I stopped going to the shop after dark or early in the mornings. We have called non emergency on several occasions to have people removed from the property. I can not tell you how many times I have personally picked up trash, clothing, food, tarps, and drug paraphernalia from the parking lot. All of this ended recently within a week of the warming center being closed. The whole environment of that

neighborhood changed and I now see people outside with their families. People should be able to use the city parks and skate park without being afraid. People should not be afraid to be in the parking lot of the business they own. People should not be afraid to let their kids play outside.

I am asking you to terminate the lease with Molalla Hope and find another use for that building that brings something positive to Molalla.

Roberta Pitman

From: [Christie Teets](#)
To: ams.shopping77
Subject: RE: Homeless in Molalla.
Date: Thursday, May 4, 2023 3:15:16 PM

Good Afternoon Anna,

I am preparing the packet for next week's Council meeting. Would you like this message included as Public Comment?

Kind Regards,

Christie Teets, CMC

City Recorder

117 N Molalla Ave. | PO Box 248 | Molalla, OR 97038

Phone: 503.829.6855 | Direct Line: 503.759.0285

Fax: 503.829.3676



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From: ams.shopping77 <ams.shopping77@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 2, 2023 7:52 AM
To: City Recorder <recorder@cityofmolalla.com>
Subject: Homeless in Molalla.

I propose the warming shelter lease not be continued. Mostly due to investigation.

Use the grounds as the overnight camping site.

Our local population of homeless are already familiar with the area.

It is fenced-in.

Also the idea of our local police department using the building is a good one.

They can help protect the vulnerable homeless as well as the community from the not so honorable homeless.

I work next to the building now.

It needs better oversight. Shady activities go on all the time.

Thank you,
Anna Skaggs

From: [Christie Teets](#)
To: peek.yantra_0j@icloud.com
Subject: RE: Next council meeting
Date: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 9:52:00 AM

Good Morning,

I am in receipt of your message and will submit it into next weeks City Council meeting.

Kind Regards,

Christie Teets, CMC
City Recorder
117 N Molalla Ave. | PO Box 248 | Molalla, OR 97038
Phone: 503.829.6855 | Direct Line: 503.759.0285
Fax: 503.829.3676

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

From: peek.yantra_0j@icloud.com <peek.yantra_0j@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 9:45 AM
To: City Recorder <recorder@cityofmolalla.com>
Subject: Next council meeting

As a community we have the responsibility to protect our children. Oregon has been supporting the enabling of drug addicts over the safety of children for quite some time now. As a small town we have the power to say “no! That’s not okay. “ because it isn’t!

On Tuesday May 2, between 2:45-3:00pm I took my 8 year old daughter to the park next to the fire station in the middle of town.

There were 3 police parked at the station parking lot and about half a dozen of what appeared to be homeless people sitting around a couple of the picnic tables in the park.

My mothers instinct was to leave due to the past interactions I’ve had with homeless and the fact I am a young woman with a small child, but I am sick and tired of leaving.

Due to the close presence of the police and fact it was broad daylight, I allowed my child to play in the park. Roughly 5 min after we arrived 2 of the men had some kind of argument and one started hitting the other multiple times with a piece of wood. Not a small stick, mind you, a large piece of wood that was about 2 ft long and 3-5 inch in diameter.

At first it appeared to be a game because no one else at the table reacted, but it was quickly made apparent that it wasn’t a game and the man being hit was in distress. They separated around the bathrooms, I got my child off the swing and we slowly walked toward the fire station as not to draw attention to ourselves.

The men started fighting again and a woman driving by screamed from her vehicle “stop fighting!” and laid on her horn as she approached, stopping in the middle of Molalla ave to get the attention of the police.

The man being hit fled to the fire station and crossed paths with us as an officer was coming over the check out what was happening.

It is disgusting to me that I have to make my child leave a swing and teach her how to not draw attention to herself as she gets to safety in her own community.

It is downright repulsive that we allow these people not only to invade our city, but allow them to dictate where we can go and how safe we may or may not feel.

As a mother, I want better for my children and it’s time to stop enabling drug addicts and welcoming them to Molalla. There is no room in our town for this nonsense!

While on the subject of nonsense - I feel it should be made clear- any member of council who benefits from the homeless and drug population being in our town in ANY way, shape or form, needs to resign IMMEDIATELY. Your role in leadership is not welcome here!

I've heard a lot of rumors about Leota Childress and seen with my own eyes her asking on Facebook for meal train donations for the warming center. If you look at her personal Facebook page, she's paid off her mortgage and done a little remodeling, all in the last year. While the cost of everything has gone up astronomically for us "normal taxpayers", the economy doesn't seem to have an impact on this public servant.

Bare minimum an audit should be done by an outside company and conducted immediately regarding her involvement with the warming center and rumored personal gain. All appearances of evil should be avoided and if Ms. Childress has nothing to hide, she should welcome this chance for vindication.

I would like this email to be read aloud and entered into record at the next council meeting Thank you A Molalla mother

CHARLEN PENNIE – 5/10/23 – CITY TESTIMONY

I'm personally disgusted that someone who wants respect for helping the unhoused just was paid an undisclosed salary, from what I understand was probably double of what most working people in Molalla make in a year. Why wasn't that money from Clackamas County used to house the unhoused. From what I keep hearing there are several people who live out on the streets that work for a living but don't have enough money to get into an apartment or house due to the amount of upfront money needed for the first, last and miscellaneous deposits. Why didn't Molalla Hope use that money to help these folks get into housing instead of paying herself?

She had the nerve to tell my husband and me that we had forgotten all the good things she had done with Molalla HOPE. All we really saw was that she had relied on the community to donate clothing, food and other goods to run the facility. Besides partnering with two non-profits in Oregon City that could now ship their unhoused over to Molalla under the guise of need for a warming or cooling shelter.

This story that ALL the unhoused here are long time Molalla residents is also a falsehood. This is the same story we heard in Portland and later found out that 62% were from other cities or other states. How many here are from somewhere else? Or does Molalla HOPE keep track of that number?

DAVID POTTS– 5/10/23 – CITY TESTIMONY

We have all seen in recent events at the State level what happens when an elected official uses their position for personal gain. The rules get bent and there are all kinds of rationalizations for the behavior. In the end it is the taxpaying public who pay and end up not trusting any elected official.

Molalla has a City Councilor who hid her income from the public view, rationalizing her behavior as doing great good for the homeless while personally enriching herself. What she refused to admit is that the majority of Molalla does not want an ever-larger houseless population living in tents reliant on the remainder of the community providing for their every need, rationalizing, and allowing their antisocial behavior.

This is the very model that has gotten other larger cities into the mess they currently face. Molalla lacks the resources and tax base that our larger more affluent neighbors use to finance their failing attempt to house people who are incapable or unwilling to follow basic rules that everyone else adheres to in order to remain housed.

The city sanctioned rent-free facility run by Molalla HOPE must be closed to protect the livability of Molalla. As a county recognized and funded shelter, it makes our city a destination for unhoused people from the rest of Clackamas County. Let the larger better funded cities run the shelters and social services programs to get the unhoused into transitional housing and with any luck, into permanent housing.

NO MORE TENTS IN MOLALLA!

CHARLEN PENNIE – 5/10/23 – CITY TESTIMONY

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NO MORE TENTS IN MOLALLA!

From: [Bill Roberts](#)
To: [City Recorder](#)
Subject: Homeless situation in Molalla
Date: Friday, May 5, 2023 9:16:46 PM

Dear Christie Teets, City Recorder

My wife and I have lived in Molalla for the past 40+ years and we have enjoyed living here in Molalla and felt safe and secure all of these years. .

However, now there is a homeless problem in Molalla that seems to escalate on a weekly basis.

The City of Molalla does not have the funds or resources to address the needs of the homeless people camped in our city so they should be moved to a city where services are provided to assist these homeless people.

We do not have a facility providing housing for the homeless. The warming center building was not designed for homeless camping.

We do not have any facility that provides medical or dental care for homeless people.

We do not have any mental health facilities in Molalla that could support homeless people.

We do not have any job skills programs nor trade school programs for future employment of these homeless folks.

Some of these homeless people bring their negative behaviors and drug use into our community and this puts a burden on our police department.

The homeless people seem to lack a means of self-support and seem to resort to any means including illegal activities to meet their basic human needs.

The homeless have no visible means to gain money for food.

Bad behavior and drug use are not healthy things to tolerate in Molalla.

I encourage the City of Molalla to enact a ban on overnight camping unless a homeowner desires to camp in their backyard on their own property.

I encourage the City of Molalla to relocate these homeless people to a city offering adequate resources to support these homeless people.

Thank you,

Bill Roberts
509 Kennel Ave.
Molalla, OR 97038

From: [mike corso](#)
To: [City Recorder](#)
Subject: Please read during council meeting
Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 6:55:15 PM

I strongly urge the council to terminate the lease that was given to molalla hope to operate the warming shelter. I believe that while compassion for the less fortunate is extremely important, and one of the best attributes the people who have made molalla their home display, it is coming with a price tag I feel the vast majority of our city does not want to pay. The safety of our children should be paramount, our property has been obtained from hard work and dedication, our values and ethics guide us in the uncertain times we find ourselves in, all of which are worth fighting for, and will be vehemently defended. I also strongly urge councilor childress to resign from her position on the council, as the trust she once had has been sadly compromised. Thank you for your time,

M.c

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Randy Johnson](#)
To: [City Recorder](#)
Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 6:47:53 PM

To whom it may concern,

My name is Randy Johnson , I am a 36 year old single father to a young lady. I work , pay taxes and am a contributing member of my community, A year ago and some change due to covid shutdown and a mistake in the unemployment system I ended up too far behind on bills and had to abandon my apartment .

forced into homelessness , on street with nothing but my car, Zero resources, zero safe space to stay and temperatures were dropping. After many terrible sleepless nights in a frozen box I found the warming center in molalla, there. I met 3 amazing, kind,caring and tremendous human beings who do so much good that most of the world does not see , I am aware that some people abuse that help and can be troublesome but please do not let that outweigh the good that the facility does on a daily for multiple people who are trying for a better life.

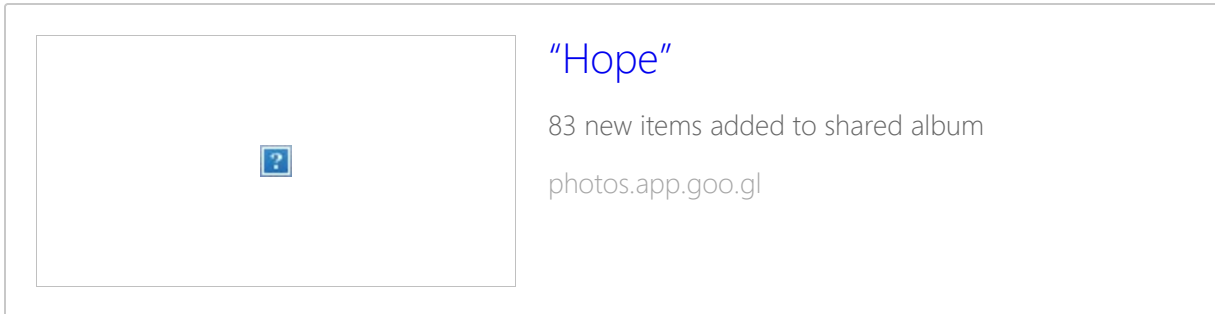
Without the aid of the molalla warming shelter I would not have the life I have today, it was a vital crutch in the success of my families financial climb back

The nights in a warm bed provide help to get rest so you can actually work well and make the money to get off the street. Homelessness is a vicious cycle and programs like this one help end that cycle. Please do the right thing and do not let a few bad apples ruin it for others in need. (The people who work in that facility truly are angels from God)

-randy w Johnson
971 864 8282

From: [Jacqueline McCoy](#)
To: [Scott Keyser](#); [Jody Newland](#); [Leota Childress](#); [Crystal Robles](#); [Terry Shankle](#); [Eric Vermillion](#); [Rae-Lynn Botsford](#); [Dan Huff](#); [City Recorder](#)
Subject: For your preview prior to 5/10 council meeting
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 9:23:51 PM

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/WmPT8S3qQ2U9zpuH6>



To Molalla City Council, Staff & Mayor receiving this email,

Hello! I plan to speak at the upcoming meeting 5/10. I wanted to send you these photos/videos to preview prior to the meeting. I feel they are an important component of my public comment. I've included comment on each photo for context, however, the dates may be a little off due to when they were downloaded from different devices. Essentially, they have been taken over the last 18 months.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or otherwise ask when we see each other at the meeting!

PLEASE do not "reply all".

Sincerely,
Jackie Sue McCoy
971-645-3730

From: [Connard Rasmussen](#)
To: [Christie Teets](#)
Subject: Greetings Ms. Christie Teets:
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 10:26:32 PM

Please encourage Molalla City Mayor and City Council Members to renew the lease for the Molalla Hope Center to care for the needy of our community. Let us live up to the lawn signs around town that say "Molalla Cares". Furthermore, after renewing the lease, help to find a larger facility to provide a warming center during cold weather and cooling during hot days. I have lived in this area since 2014 and recognize the same homeless persons walking the streets and living in the woods around Molalla. Please get the local churches involved and go for county, state and federal funds to create a larger facility with services in the future.

Many thanks for your help!

Sincerely,

Connard Rasmussen
Healthcare professional retired
15940 S Forest Haven Rd, Molalla, OR 97038
connard.rasmussen@gmail.com
(C) 541-297-7540

From: [Christie Teets](#)
To: "Tara Martin"
Bcc: "cteets@cityofmolalla.com"
Subject: RE: Homelessness problems
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 3:18:00 PM

Good Afternoon Tara,

I am in receipt of your message and will include it in Public Comment for the May 10th meeting.

Kind Regards,

Christie Teets, CMC

City Recorder

117 N Molalla Ave. | PO Box 248 | Molalla, OR 97038

Phone: 503.829.6855 | Direct Line: 503.759.0285

Fax: 503.829.3676



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From: Tara Martin <nativewolf38@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 3:03 PM
To: City Recorder <recorder@cityofmolalla.com>
Subject: Homelessness problems

Yes, You can read out loud in the May 10th Meeting

I am here to write about the Homeless population. I have lived in this town for 30 years. I moved here in 1993 and I did not see the town as a run down dump and now I see everything in this town run down by the homeless. I see trash and fecal matter everywhere and they don't clean up after themselves. Why should we ask a community to clean up after their messes, have them do it. It is discussing cleaning up after them. I am getting scared to be out and about with them walking around like Zombies in our streets. I am afraid to be out at night or coming home from my night classes. Also, coming home from my mothers house or church activity. I am a disabled female in an electric wheelchair and this is the only way for me to get around this town. It is my car LOL! I am also tired of them coming close to me and asking for money or food. I say No and then they yell at me for saying NO! I am sick and tired of them going through the dumpsters in my Apartments when I am taking out my trash or rolling by and they yell at me. I know they are in my dumpster for cans, food, and prescription drugs and I have been recycling and shredding all my information NOW. I

am sick of it. I want them and the joke of the warming center so called Molalla Hope out of Molalla, Oregon. This town was peaceful without all the homeless ruining our little town and I do not want any camping around this town especially Clark Park. Think about the revenue that the Buckaroo brings in this town each and every year and with the homeless running around Clark Park will be not good for the people that come to ride the rides and eat the wonderful food and watch the Buckaroo go on.

I am also tired of them coming into the Molalla Adult Community Center looking for handouts and abusing the drinks that are provided to our seniors and disabled that pay/donate for these drinks and food. Also, they graciously donate to our center out of their own pocket. They come into the Molalla all hung over or Zombies like and asking for food and drinks from the seniors and when we say no they get aggressively loud. They also make the Seniors feel uncomfortable and then our seniors get up and leave and don't come back sometimes. It's got to stop.

--

Tara Martin

From: [Tracey Saenz](#)
To: [City Recorder](#)
Subject: Molalla Emergency Weather Center
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 10:05:57 AM

Good morning members of the Molalla City Council. My name is Tracey Saenz. I wanted to tell you how much help that the Molalla Emergency Weather Center helped my husband and me. My husband is a 72 year old Vietnam Veteran with lots of health issues. We were sleeping in our car for several days until we went to Molalla Christian Church and was told about the Molalla Emergency Weather Center. We stayed for two nights when the weather was freezing and iced our car windows. The staff helped us with a warm meal in the evening and the morning. They connected us with veterans services that my husband and I didn't know was available. They connected us also more with the Molalla Christian Church. Since then we were Baptist at Molalla Christian Church the weekend after Thanksgiving and renewed our wedding vows on Dec 31. We were connected with The Fathers Heart Street Ministry Hotel Program and received a housing voucher. On May 4th we received our keys to our new apartment. But had it not been for the staff of Molalla Emergency Weather Center being opened I could have lost my husband sleeping in our car in the cold. Please don't take the Molalla Emergency Weather Center. They are needed to help out other homeless people have their dreams come true like my husband and mine did.

Tracey Saenz

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: krisbeautyfit@gmail.com
To: [City Recorder](#)
Subject: Public comment
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 1:00:21 PM

Please read aloud at city council committee meeting tonight 5/10/23

A few years ago on a police ride-a-long, I witnessed a fatal drug overdose of a boy just a few years out of high school.

It was on the Fourth of July; a day when the whole community was coming together, this young man died of a heroin overdose, in a parking lot. Alone.

As a mother, my heart broke for him and his family.

I think about that kid every year!

We live 3 houses down from a very active drug house. Blatant drug distribution happening steps away from our front door.

Whether we have a warming center or not, an encampment or not, or whether Leota steps down or not...none of that solves the underlying issue which is drug addiction and its suppliers.

Oregon ranked third in the nation for the highest use of teenage drug users, and second highest for adult users. Since measure 110 went into affect drug use is no longer a punishable crime but drug distribution still is!

Molalla NEEDS a drug prevention task force that can work side by side with Clackamas County Interagency Task Force (ITF) to locate and convict drug suppliers.

Molalla's police force is currently understaffed and they need more manpower at a city level!

Drug addiction afflicts MANY people in our community, not just the homeless individuals.

The "warming center" and an encampment does and will drive more drug addicted people to our community. Along with more suppliers!

That IS A FACT and it's already growing at an alarming rate!

Enough is ENOUGH! We need an aggressive "all hands on deck" approach!

Expanding the Molalla Police department agency would give our community the safety it needs and would send a clear message to the dealers that their business is not welcome or tolerated here!

Thank you Mayor Keyser and members of city council for your time!

~Kristina Christopherson

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jill Soli](#)
To: [City Recorder](#)
Subject: Molalla City Council Meeting 5/10 public comment | Regulating and Prohibiting Public Property Camping
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 2:05:05 PM

I look forward to learning the direction and thoughts that will come to light during the May 10 meeting. This testimony is a response to the packet materials in advance of information that will newly arrive.

In regards whatever the fine-tuned details of the "Regulating and Prohibiting Public Property Camping" happen to finalize into, two items appear vulnerable to illegality in the current draft. Obviously your legal council should be your reliant resource on the matter. My wants are strictly that (a) the general spirit of the HB3115 statutory requirements can achieve a balanced response to all persons where compromise will be spread around and (b) that it serves the interest of Molalla to not be tied into costly litigation by giving a judge power over deciding Molalla's fate if that can be avoided.

The first legality concern is likely to be resolved with a map of the current plan, so that I won't address. I will compound this concern, though, in that positive handling of people resting, sleeping and camping in conjunction is where your legal exposure arises.

The second legality concern is regarding resting (that means sitting) in public spaces and the prohibition of action to stay warm and dry. The Blake v Grants Pass decision makes a narrow conclusion about this item. I think legality would favor that every person is entitled to take necessary minimal measures to keep themselves warm and dry while outside on public property which may coincide with the lawful act of sitting / resting. A law removing that entitlement or more severely isolating that only someone homeless is denied this basic entitlement looks like it invites legal action to me.

I ask that this not be confused with the proposed HB3501 language of this year. None of this is inspired by that now defunct bill of no current concern. My references of consideration are from what is behind us in the legal history and HB3115.

From: [Alexandra Garren-Miller](#)
To: [City Recorder](#)
Subject: Public Statement for council meeting 5/10
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 2:23:01 PM

My name is Ali, I'm the Operations Director at the Molalla Emergency Weather Center and on the board of Molalla Hope. My husband and I purchased our home here in 2016. We started volunteering at what was then the Molalla Warming Center in 2017. The Molalla Emergency Weather Center just ended its 10th season, in which all ten years it has been contracted and funded by Clackamas county. We are one of three emergency centers in Clackamas county and our presence is very necessary in such a rural and isolated community. Over the last six years I have cultivated relationships and a knowledge and understanding of most of the folks in our community who are experiencing homelessness. Let me also say, when I say community, I mean that what we have seen is that 90% of the guests that walk through our doors are born and raised or have strong family ties to Molalla. They have parents, siblings, kids and even grandkids kids that live here. They are daughters, sons, mothers and fathers to those in our community. This year specifically we saw a considerable increase in single, often elderly women, coming in. We saw an increase of folks who lost affordable housing and are now living in their cars. We had a family living in a motel, access our services. These are folks that struggle themselves with the idea of going to Portland, Clackamas or Oregon City for resources because that would mean leaving their community, their home and sometimes all they have ever really known.

We as a center have advocated and will continue to, that rural communities need more funding and more resources. We need help and we need real solutions. We need Clackamas County resources to meet our community where they are. Including those experiencing homelessness, addiction and mental health issues. Every person in our community has a right to these resources and fair access. As a contracted Emergency Weather Center we operate to save those in our community from dying due to extreme weather events or incidents. As Molalla Hope, a non profit, we hope to be a source of good in, as well as for all of our community. We will continue to advocate for funding and resources and to be a middle man to help those in need of resources. Our voice is integral to remind those in Metro, our County and our State, that we are here. We deserve the same help and resources available to those in Metro areas.

While I have been unable to attend the council meetings because I recently had a baby; I have been watching them live. I have heard our city and more specifically our neighbor's concerns, frustrations and fears. I hear you and we at Molalla Hope hear you. We have never wanted to be a burden on the city we all call home. We have also seen an increase in our numbers at the shelter and are deeply concerned. We are devastated about the impact the opioid epidemic has had on our city. The opioid epidemic, affordable housing, mental health and homelessness, are issues that we cannot solve on our own. However we are committed to continuing to advocate for our community and chip away in every possible way we can.

Just to touch briefly on some of the positive strides we have been able to make; we have been able to assist upwards of 16 people get into housing in the last three years. We had three people get into sober living this winter after staying short term at the shelter. We helped find housing for a 70 year old, disabled Vietnam Veteran and his wife. They were living in their car when they came to us. We fund a shower program, where anyone in our community can take a shower for free. We provide basic hygiene supplies and clean clothes, assistance in replacing IDs and obtaining cell phones, which are all needed for securing a job. We have partnered with a recovery program to come to our weekly laundry events in hopes of fostering relationships and trust, with those in need of treatment and recovery. We provide internet and assistance with job applications, snap benefits, computer access and help navigating applications and paperwork. We have bought AC units and space heaters for elderly citizens in our community during major weather events. We provide meals to anyone who needs one when they come in.

Our guests and those experiencing homelessness in our community are unique and the solution for each individual will not be the same. I believe to truly make a change we need to understand and build relationships with people. Foster trust and reliability on our parts. This comes with time and commitment. We at Molalla Hope have been continuing to educate ourselves, to get more tools under our belts, to make more connections with other nonprofits, shelters, recovery programs, churches and the county who are also working towards the same goal. We all have the same goal. To end homelessness in our communities.

I strongly believe that voting to terminate the lease with Molalla Hope would prove to be a great setback in the work that we are trying to accomplish and the goal that we ultimately all have, to get the people of our community the help that they need. We cannot do this alone. We need to come together as a Community to take care of our own. We have done this during the fires, the ice storm and countless other times. We have proven time and again that we can come together and help one another during times of crisis. We are called upon once again to do what we as Mollalans do best, come together and find solutions during a time of crisis and take care of those in our community that are in need.

--

Alexandra Garren-Miller
Broker/Associate to Bernie Britz-Erdmann
503-927-2322
Ali@BBEproperties.com
BBE Properties

From: [Joni Laver](#)
To: [City Recorder](#)
Subject: City Council meeting tonight
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 3:17:22 PM

My name is Joni Laver and I am Pastor Bob Laver's wife and Secretary at the church. We have served at the Molalla Christian Church for 20 years and we were on the committee to first get a Warming Center open in Molalla. We volunteered on the steering committee from the time the Center was at the Catholic Church, at the PAL building, and at the Nazarene Church. I coordinated the meals every night it was open for many years.

Many homeless folks would stop by our office for coffee, to talk and I had a supply of toiletries, hand warmers, Subway gift cards, bus passes on Tri-Met and SCTD to help with transportation to get out of Molalla. Bob and I knew these folks and had a connection with them. I still have Tri-Met passes that we get from a grant we receive, and I have a few of the SCTD passes to help people out.

We need to have this building and services for those in our community who need it. Many of them have grown up here, have family that maybe help a little and this is home to them. We can't just tell them again that they are not welcome in Molalla. That is callous and hard when life is already hard for them.

Please do not cancel the lease that the Warming Center has with the City. Those who work and volunteer at the Warming Center do it out of compassion. We need this in Molalla!

Thank you,
Joni Laver
Pastor Bob Laver's wife

From: [Jill Soli](#)
To: [City Recorder](#)
Subject: Public comment on ending Lease of Molalla HOPE
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 2:51:43 PM

Thank you Mayor Keyser, Council President Newland and Councilors for your hearing.

Among other things, I am a member of a Clackamas cohort of many different faith communities interested in joining together to address land and housing concerns. This cohort is the Clackamas branch of the many locations that comprise the metro region into a larger coalition. Faith communities are faced with the pains and challenges of their congregations and their neighborhoods and join to work by their faithful commitment to Jesus's ministry however they might express that. For one example, this work has brought community food gardens into being. Your Molalla churches have community ministries in the same vein.

What your churches already know is that they are not capable of standing up a solution for everything. Each ministry takes a little slice of a thing and focuses in hopes a web of community becomes knitted together. Community partner organizations (CPOs), Molalla HOPE being one of them, play a major part in weaving together healthier community. The CPOs are typically funded by grants and contracts that can relieve City residents of bearing that expense.

Everyone is in a position of rebound from the difficulties of 2020 and forward. What that rebound looks like does not have identical timelines and certainly doesn't have identical impediments. Many of the Molalla neighbors are back to work in stable business ventures and the inflation experiences now are but a minor irritant.

But a city government never faces a single strange downfall and once confronted the rest can just coast along. That will always contain massive infrastructure problems like an insufficient water treatment plant and enjoyable problems like attracting more food choices to town.

Clackamas County is in rebound mode as well. And it is making promising strides in H3S (health, housing and human services). In 2019, if 10 people that were caught in unrelenting vulnerability by their experience of homelessness and were then housed, Clackamas would be operating at pace. Just now it has moved that impact up to something like a ten-fold increase.

Clackamas services is just coming on into realization. More programs are being stood up, like safety off the street which catches people exiting hospitals and the like. The hotel/motel program. The coordinated housing access program. A new 23-hour de-escalation center to support the behavioral health teams joining police and sheriff. It does take time to right-size and smooth out the rocky starts into built, community-provider networks partnered, staffed and funded and durable contracts

set into place to occur. But fruits of that work are already showing and trending positively.

In protecting the safety of your elderly and your vulnerable population, which is a hallmark of Molalla's stated intent, it tends to mean safety of your housed elderly and housed vulnerable. If that elderly and vulnerable becomes houseless, they are then combined with the people who leaves needles. They are not distinguished any longer for community safety. They are all the same by the anti-camping ordinance or ending the lease of an extreme weather center.

I will stand as a Clackamas county land and housing cohort member on real direct solutions to some of your precisely identified issues. But you need local community members to join and develop specific, realizable vision. For example, I heard of 2 instances in a year of 2 locations bringing a homeless person to Molalla. If those 2 instances were exclusively and only due to a warming shelter, I would stand with pressing upon a county ordinance that comes up with a different solution. If that transport was for the express purpose of wanting to go to Molalla, that should be allowable. If the express purpose was to send someone because a community didn't want to deal with it, that should not be allowable. That I would stand up for as it is addressing a real thing in a specific, direct manner.

And here I tip my hand directly. Clackamas county will not assist Molalla to put its problems onto the streets of another location. The person that was going through a trash bin in Molalla should not be dropped onto another community's streets to go through the trash bins of Oregon City residents. You won't get help with that by getting another community's voting population to thank Clackamas County Commissioners with re-election. Only a backlash comes from such a move and every elected person knows it.

Being just a small part of weaving community solutions for Molalla is what the voice of outcry is turning away. Clackamas County is just coming online with stronger supports that are already making a difference but they're far from done. Ben West has just been elected. He has ideas but they're not implemented for your Molalla neighbors or anyone in Clackamas as of yet. Get to know what service providing into Molalla can and cannot do alone, demand Clackamas strengthening of your community needs as a partner rather than an accomplice, and reach out for the unfortunate problem of patience and how to stem that. Because rebounding from 2020+ and rentals that are more expensive than most of Molalla homeowner's mortgages will keep generating homelessness. The only solution to the homeless crisis comes when new homeless people are fewer than the rehomed people.

From: [Steve Morgan](#)
To: [City Recorder](#)
Cc: [Steve Morgan](#)
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 3:14:04 PM

Dear Molalla City Council,

As one of the few shelters that operate in Clackamas County, Molalla Hope is exactly that, HOPE. Since we don't share names of clients and changes that have been made for the good in our guests lives, it may be hard to have you get to know the good that the shelters do. With out warming and cooling shelters, many of our guest would be dead. When its too cold or too warm to survive outside, the shelters invite folks in out of the severe weather. I really do understand that some guests may not be the kind of person you would invite in to your home, but as the sign says on our building All are Welcome and Molalla Hope invites guests in and helps to provide hope for a better life.

Are you sure that you know that the guests of Molalla hope are a safety risk?

At least here at Zoar Lutheran Church Shelter, the safety risk is making folks sleep in the cold or the heat when there is severe weather.

Having the Shelter available also allows for shelter when other events happen, like Forest fires or wind and ice storms.

Steve Morgan
Zoar Lutheran Church Shelter.
190 SW 3rd
Canby Or. 97013
office 503-266-8077 xt 101 or xt 109
fax__ 503-266-9859
Cell__ 503-539-8190
smorgan@DCS-Morgan.com
smorgan@canby.com
<http://www.dcs-morgan.com>

Letter in support of the Warming Center

It is impossible to live in our city without witnessing the pain of houselessness and hunger on our streets. Every day, residents go without enough money to pay for adequate food and other basic necessities. Fortunately, compassionate and informed citizens, such as the staff and volunteers at Molalla Hope Warming Center, understand the reality of these problems and feel compelled to contribute to the solution. They have taken a clear and honest look at the problems of houselessness and hunger in our city. They have provided a place where the houseless can get a warm meal, have access to laundry facilities and showers and have a warm, dry place to sleep for the night. While there are always ways to improve upon a program such as this, closing it down will not make the houseless problem go away. Let's work together to offer solutions to help and support this program to make it more effective in our community.

Sincerely,

Roxie Smith

Community member

From: [Joni Laver](#)
To: [City Recorder](#); [Leota Childress](#); [Alexandra Garren-Miller](#)
Subject: Comment in favor of the Molalla Hope Center
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 3:54:52 PM

Public Comment for the Molalla City Council Meeting, May 10, 2023

We began our ministry with the Molalla Christian Church 20 years ago. On my second day in the church office, I opened one of our doors to go outside and literally bumped into a gentleman sleeping in one of our entryways. His name was Mike and we did what we could to help him.

A few years later, my wife and I were at a community town hall meeting to address various problems in Molalla. It was there we met Leota Childress and after months of research, and thought and prayer, the Molalla Warming center was born in response to people in the community saying we need to act regarding our homeless population.

Over the years we have helped many people quite literally come in out of the cold. Each year we seem to hear of a homeless person freezing to death during one of our Oregon Winters. I'm sure others suffer from Heat Stroke or Heat Exhaustion during our recent brutal summer heat, prompting us to offer a cooling center. The center also helps provide clothing, toiletries, bus tickets and many other forms of help.

Molalla has a homeless problem. So does every other community in our state. I'm saddened to see us adopt Portland's philosophy of closing homeless camps and trying to get people to "move on." Sadly, with no other options, these folks have to seek help in other communities just like ours. If we force our homeless friends to find help elsewhere, they will end up back in Portland to navigate an understaffed and underfunded social system.

Instead of shutting down our Warming Center, why don't we live up to our new name, "Hope" and expand our services here. Perhaps social workers, job counselors, and other social services can open offices here and help provide lasting solutions to our homeless population instead of closing our doors. We have a loving and caring community. Let's work together to work toward solutions rather than pointing fingers and hoping the problem will go away..

Thanks You

Dr. Bob Laver
Pastor, Molalla Christian Church

From: [Crystal Robles](#)
To: [Christie Teets](#)
Cc: [Dan Huff](#)
Subject: Plaza los Robles - Comments regarding the Houseless - Comments (Fw: Junta 5/15 @ 6:00pm)
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 4:12:52 PM

Christie,

I have a comment from Santa, Manager at the Robles Apartments. I have translated the comments for you below:

"One of the main concerns that the residents have is that they cannot leave anything in their patios because everything they leave is stolen. They recently stole the tool from the construction company that is working in the apartments, it was at the time of their lunch, when several things were stolen, this happened at 12 noon, as well as people entering the property to leave garbage in the apartment bin."

Another resident (asked to remain anonymous) informed me of the following:

"The area next to the apartments where the train used to pass always has some people there. We see needles and trash and other things that's kids should not have to see or parents have to explain. I am afraid for our children since summer is coming and kids will always be outside. We do not need a shelter in this town! we need to go back to feeling like we can be outside with our kids and not have to worry about who is going to talk to them. I am not saying they don't deserve anything we all know what its like to struggle I am saying to have them go somewhere they can feel like they will get help"

I apologize for sending late in the day and I am happy to read aloud during our meeting this evening.

Best regards,

Crystal Robles
City Councilor
City of Molalla, Oregon
(818) 938-0643
crobles@cityofmolalla.com

From: Crystal Robles
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 4:01:00 PM
To: Santa Avila
Subject: Re: Junta 5/15 @ 6:00pm

No te preocupes, yo encontraré un lugar.

Best regards,

Crystal Robles

City Councilor

City of Molalla, Oregon

(818) 938-0643

crobles@cityofmolalla.com

From: Santa Avila <savila@haciendacdc.org>

Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 2:05:52 PM

To: Crystal Robles

Subject: Re: Junta 5/15 @ 6:00pm

¿Crystal, la reunión del lunes donde será? En los departamentos tenemos la construcción y no hay estacionamiento, pero puedo buscar un lugar.

Obtener [Outlook para iOS](#)

De: Santa Avila <savila@haciendacdc.org>

Enviado: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 2:02:20 PM

Para: Crystal Robles <crobles@cityofmolalla.com>

Asunto: Re: Junta 5/15 @ 6:00pm

Gracias por ser el Puente para poder exponer, nuestras preocupaciones. Nos vemos el lunes.

Obtener [Outlook para iOS](#)

De: Santa Avila <savila@haciendacdc.org>

Enviado: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 2:01:14 PM

Para: Crystal Robles <crobles@cityofmolalla.com>

Asunto: Re: Junta 5/15 @ 6:00pm

Una de las principales preocupaciones que tiene los residentes, es que no pueden dejar nada en sus patios porque todo lo que dejen se los roban, hace poco robaron la herramienta de la compañía de construcción que está trabajando en los departamentos, fue a la hora de su almuerzo, cuando les robaron varias cosas, esto pasó a las 12 del medio día, así como personas entrando a la propiedad a dejar basura en bote de los departamentos.

Obtener [Outlook para iOS](#)

De: Santa Avila <savila@haciendacdc.org>

Enviado: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 1:03:27 PM

Para: Crystal Robles <crobles@cityofmolalla.com>

Asunto: Re: Junta 5/15 @ 6:00pm

Hola Crystal.

La fecha es perfecta.
Nos vemos el lunes 15 a las 6 pm. Gracias !!

Obtener [Outlook para iOS](#)

De: Crystal Robles <crobles@cityofmolalla.com>

Enviado: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 2:49:14 PM

Para: Santa Avila <savila@haciendacdc.org>

Asunto: Junta 5/15 @ 6:00pm

Santa,

Tiene tiempo el Lunes 15 de Mayo para una junta a las 6:00pm? Presente van a ser el Mayor y la Council President Newland. Si este dia no esta bien me puede mandar un dia que es mejor para ustedes y un horario?

Para hablar sobre cualquier preocupación que tengan los residentes de la plaza.

Si es posible puede mandarme unos comentarios o sugerencias sobre las personas sin hogar en la ciudad? Me gustaría tener algo para presentar de parte de los residentes este miércoles durante el Council Work Session. O si hay otros residentes que tienen otras preocupaciones de que usted me puede mandar puedo asistir a contestar preguntas.

¿Sus pensamientos?

Best regards,

Crystal Robles

City Councilor

City of Molalla, Oregon

(818) 938-0643

crobles@cityofmolalla.com

This email originated from outside Hacienda CDC

From: [Connard Rasmussen](#)
To: [City Recorder](#)
Subject: Please Renew Lease of Molalla Hope Center.
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 4:23:37 PM

It needs to continue to help it's clients while housing, counseling services etc. help the most disadvantaged among our community.

Yard signs declaring "Molalla Cares" should mean something. The Statue of Liberty offering help to the poor should inspire the current Molalla mayor and city council members.

Sincerely,

Connard Rasmussen
15940 S Forest Haven Rd, Molalla, OR 97038

From: [Pamela Lucht](#)
To: [City Recorder](#)
Subject: Warming Center Support
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 4:26:47 PM

Dear City of Molalla Mayor and Council Members,
Before closing the Molalla Hope Warming center please consider **ALL** of the facts. Don't let the recent comments from Mayor Keyser or Councilman Vermillion be the only deciding factor in closing the Center. Closing the Warming Center will not eliminate the houselessness challenges our City is facing. Our state and Country are facing this challenge with us. Please research solutions that might be more helpful and that will give a houseless person some dignity. What message does closing the Warming Center give to those Molalla Residents that might become houseless in the future?

Sincerely

Pamela Lucht

Molalla Community Resident

From: [Leota Childress](#)
To: [Christie Teets](#)
Subject: Cancellation of Molalla HOPE Lease (I HOPE it's not too late)
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 4:49:57 PM

Mayor, Council, and Staff,

I regret that I cannot be with you in person tonight. However, As Executive Director of Molalla HOPE I would like to comment on the matter before you.

The Molalla Warming Center was formed in 2011 and opened its doors in 2012. Since that time, no one has frozen to death in Molalla. We have contracted with Clackamas County every year that we've been open.

There has been an overwhelming growth of homelessness in these ten years. The COVID pandemic drastically increased the homeless population. It also drastically **reduced** volunteerism.

We have done our best to be good neighbors at 209 Kennel Avenue. However, this year, there are a few new people in town who have raised animosity through the roof. There are also numerous rumors and falsehoods that are being spread that have raised the ire of people regarding other Molalla HOPE Inc company business. I will address that at another time.

We realize that having the Extreme Weather Center in the heart of town is convenient for some and disturbing to others.

We are outgrowing the building, and it will be difficult to add planned services. These new services will be for all residents who need them, not just the homeless. We have qualified for two grant applications. We have not been approved but have gone through the assessment process to qualify to apply.

I respectfully request that you do not cancel the lease at this time. We will continue our work with Clackamas County to obtain a larger building that is more attuned to our needs.

Respectfully,

Leota R Childress
Executive Director
Molalla HOPE Inc