

Date/Time Opened	Popular Topic	Contact Name	Description
2/9/2022 14:53		Liesa Covey	<p>Hello, As a manager at a store in the Gateway mall, I have gotten very used to the homeless situation down in this area. I have been punched by them, yelled at by them on a daily basis, and I have our mall's security on speed dial so I can receive back up when dealing with homeless people at my store. More and more I am becoming a babysitter where I have to watch them come in and steal things. Depending on the size of them determines if I confront them or not. I am not about to go up against anybody on drugs who is bigger than me. Unfortunately the mall security really can't do much except kick them out after they've continuously stolen from us. And then they just disappear onto 500 W where they can't be touched by the security. And then they come back the next day, only to have the same situation happen. I live right above the Gateway mall at 55 S 500 W at the Altitude on Fifth. Despite our new locks on the front doors, I have run into a lot of homeless people in our apartment. Just this week I caught a homeless woman on drugs looking into my patio and my neighbors patios. After talking to my neighbor, my neighbor told me that she had caught her on camera going through her trash and had seen her hiding in the stairways. But, unfortunately the security can only kick them out and then the homeless find their way back in only hours later. Last night, not only did I see the same woman at my work, who I promptly kicked out, but then she was in the stairway again. Not only that, there was another homeless person sleeping on patios by our fire escape. If the homeless can't get in through the front door, I have seen them roll under the garage gate into the garage below. I have had my car broken into and I know quite a few people who have also had their cars broken into. I understand that this isn't an easy fix. But it's getting to the point where my neighbors and I are going to start calling the police - which I think they have bigger fish to fry than deal with homeless junkies who are trespassing and causing havoc at local businesses. We really don't want to call the police if we don't have to because they have other things they should be doing. But it's getting really bad here at the Gateway, and unfortunately we don't have the resources to do much to maintain our safety. I've told my coworkers to have the mall security walk them home if they need it, I never walk alone by myself here at night, and I always carry pepper spray throughout my apartment complex just in case I run into anyone who doesn't live here. It's very unsettling to have my patio and my apartment be open to anybody who can walk up. I will be passing along your email address to my neighbors and a few fellow business owners as we all have had our own accounts with the homeless and are getting to our wit's end.</p>
2/14/2022 16:29		Casey McDonough	<p>Everyone, I am writing to you regarding the attached article about the hesitancy for some to get vaccines. I found it not only very interesting, but one of the best in depth looks into the psychological and other reasons some are avoidant and anxious to get the COVID or other vaccines. I find a quote used in the article where Rishi Manchanda said that "...public health moves at the speed of trust..." I believe trust, especially in our representative form of government; is earned. Earned with transparency, openness, and a constant and never-ending willingness to speak with everyone on those terms. I have heard more than once from those who are for all vaccinations, that those who don't vaccinate or mask therefore deserve to die if they get COVID. I can't think of a more unempathetic and divisive view to hold than that and when I hear it I can't help but remember similar statements made during the AIDS epidemic. I do not believe we can continue to minimize or demonize those who take issue with vaccinations, mask mandates, or anything else regarding public health; regardless of which side of the argument they are on. Thank you for your time and consideration, and I have to say again, I can't encourage you enough to read this article. Article Online - Why Is There So Much Vaccine Hesitancy? - Tablet Magazine <https://www.tabletmag.com/sections/science/articles/needle-points-vaccinations-chapter-one> Author Reading Article - Needle Points Norman Doidge The Jordan B. Peterson Podcast S4: E79 - Bing video <https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=jordan+peterson+needlepoints+norman&docid=20696661644175&mid=05803210D0776DA0A02305803210D0776DA0A023&view=detail&FORM=VIRE> You can also listen to the author read the article on episode 79. of The Jordan B. Peterson Podcast. Casey O'Brien McDonough [REDACTED]</p>
[REDACTED] 2/14/2022 17:31		Robert Williams	<p>Constituent called in to express gratitude for the garden near Jordan River in the Fairpark neighborhood. They state that there are very diverse people there and that they have had the opportunity to volunteer there.</p>

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Michael Mejia

Dear Councilmember Valdemoros, My name is Michael Mejia and I serve on the Salt Lake Art + Design Board for District 4. I am writing you today to ask for your support of the Arts Council's request for additional staff positions in Budget Amendment 6. I understand that many Departments within Salt Lake City are struggling with needs for staffing support, and you have many staffing requests in this budget amendment for consideration. It is a challenging position to be in and I appreciate your consideration and service to our community. * Many of the Arts Council's programs have grown over the last few years including the creation of the Living Legacy Video Series and Finch Lane Flash Projects, maintenance responsibilities for the newly passed percent for art ordinance, new City Arts Grants categories and an ever increasing volume of requests and grants, participation in multiple City stakeholder and advisory groups and initiatives such as Fleet Block and Gentrification Mitigation, and increased efforts with equity, inclusion, and community outreach. More simply put, the Arts Council staff have been asked to do more with flat staffing since 2012. * In 2019 the Mayor's Advisor on Arts & Culture full-time position was eliminated with all of the project and policy responsibilities of this position being added to the responsibilities of the Arts Council's Executive Director as well as management of the Cultural Core project. * The Arts Council leverages City investment by raising 30-35% of all operating and programming expenses from sources outside of the City budget. * Additional staff would also serve the purpose of stabilizing qualifying expenditures of the organization to leverage critical grant funds from the prestigious Salt Lake County Zoo, Arts, and Parks grant program. * The Arts Council works diligently to continue to find additional funding opportunities through grant writing and development. One recent success is that the Arts Council is just one of 66 awardees nationally and the only awardee in the state of Utah to receive ARPA funding to sub-grant to our community from the National Endowment for the Arts. The \$500,000 in funding will go directly to our local artists and arts organizations aiding in a more swift and equitable economic recovery than what might have otherwise been possible. This increases the City's impact. As outlined in the Mayor's plan from 2020 to 2021, we have been strategically working on the "stabilization of the structure and funding of the Arts Council." Part of that work has included staff working diligently to increase the visibility and impact of the arts and culture sector of Salt Lake. I would appreciate your support for this critical public service that provides so many community benefits from a small and mighty team. Our city is a beacon for creative vitality, economic vibrancy, and inclusive communities. Arts Council programs represent the best of what our city has to offer residents and visitors alike. I am available should you have any questions about my comments above at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. All best and stay well— Michael Mejia Associate Professor Department of English University of Utah