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| 3/5/2025 16:52 | Wendy Garvin | Officers with repeated use of force complaints | <p>Welcome, Mr. Redd, I will be someone you hear from frequently, I advocate on behalf of the homeless community, and run two code blue shelters out of churches downtown. I hope we can address some systemic issues together. The council and mayor are very familiar with me. Attached is my writeup of officers with a systemic history of abuse specifically against the homeless population. I hope steps will be taken to prevent any repeated complaints. I will be making a comment tonight at the public council meeting, but wanted to send evidence and background on my concerns ahead of time. Wendy Garvin Executive Director</p> |
| 3/5/2025 16:54 | Bernie Hart | The Dance We Do | <p>Hi All, Last night was interesting. I sat behind the new Chief's family and was embarrassed. What I saw made me very uncomfortable and I could not help but believe what I felt was caused by seeing more of the same old, all over again. What I heard was people and institutions, both taking credit for all the good they did, and at the same time blaming each other because we did not do enough good or help enough people to change the conversation. More of the same old... all over again. The same old dance. I talked with several City employees before the meeting and some knew and some were unbelieving when the discussion focused on what was not helping the homeless in our community. The folks who wanted to believe programs were working, could not believe it when SLCPD officers said that they were arresting the same folks over and over again ... and they struggled when the officers said the homeless folks being arrested had been in a number of programs and were still sleeping on the street. I'll be talking with a local high school today, not only about our program but about what they can really do "to help" the mentally ill and addicted living on our streets. And that is to ask better questions. I will ask them to not believe their professors, elected officials or pastors when they tell them how to do this or that or what is effective or is not effective. Because what the tellers "think works" and teach has created what we have today. I will ask them to ask their professors and anyone who claims something "works" for the data they don't have. I want to encourage them to doubt and become part of a force that brings real change to a system that seems unwilling to acknowledge its shortcomings. The Parking Group said they follow your lead. You tell them what to do. I am suggesting that The City Council take the lead when funding any city department working with the homeless. Start asking funded programs to gather information on how effective a program is before and after they are funded. Help SLCPD and the youth in our community by making sure what we say is working is working. The officers are frustrated. I know, I talked with them not only before and after the meeting last night but have talked with them for years. I am working with high school and college students and I am asking them to doubt, not only what they believe, but what the "experts" tell them. And they are starting to listen. The City Council can play a major role, no not major, but be the force that makes the change we need happen just by walking the talk and holding programs and departments that are funded accountable by ensuring they do "walk the talk". And just something I need to say. I did not know the person who called in and asked for support for our program. And Polly asked her Mom if she could do what she did last night. No one encouraged her... she was just being herself. We all can do better, nope... we have to do better. Let's find some new music to dance to, Bernie</p> |
| 3/7/2025 13:36 | Alan Sernholt | (EXTERNAL) Homeless/Vagrants @ 400 S 900 E. | <p>Dear Councilwoman Lopez/Chavez, The now closed "Village Inn Restaurant" @ 400 S 900 E is being used by homeless/vagrants and they are littering the property. By driving to the intersection, it appears a window has been broken and I'm worried the homeless will eventually burn down the building. With your support, can the city require the property owner to fence off the entrances so the homeless cannot enter the building entrances?</p> <p>Regards,</p> |

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| 3/7/2025 16:30 | Bernie Hart | Over the last three days... | Fun stuff, 1... Polly standing tall at the City Council Meeting. 2 ... Marita and I joining the 8 super fun ladies in the kitchen today at First UU to make burritos. 3... The 5 leaders on the walkway in front of Salt Lake City Hall this morning were all campers. That only happens in what could be the "Greatest Mental Health and Addiction Program on The Planet". 4... The first 7 program members I approached this morning agreed to be part of a cutting edge already funded IRB study that could set a new standard for measuring the efficacy of almost any mental health program on the Planet. 5... Carrie, a new First UU coffee volunteer, had fun doing Tai Chi with us. 6... 3 new street folks joined us in the rain this morning. 7... David. a program member, reminded me that he is waiting for the ballets. He wants to get the "Bernie for Ombudsman" campaign started. 8... Just being part of something really fun. Bernie |
| 3/10/2025 12:22 | Walt Booker | (EXTERNAL) Foothill Fire Prevention | Hello Dan, > > Hope the council is aware of and planning to do some serious work on preventing fires in our foothills. I've not noticed anything yet in the proceedings but I may for sure have missed them. > I'm really serious and so are my neighbors as to what is being done to or discussed to be done. Are the fire hydrants and the water system being checked and upgraded so if there is a fire they are ready with the correct equipment to put it out. Will they be spraying fire retardant in the high risk, high vegetation areas this early spring which is almost here. Will the fire department be out to audit homes who need to get rid of dead trees, piles of dead foliage etc. > I don't want to go on and on but I sure would like to know if the city officials are going to act on doing fire prevention. > > Thank you for your time as you always care about your district and I'm so glad you are there. > > Walt Booker |
| 3/10/2025 16:26 | Phil H | LGBTQ XYZ | THE CITY BUILDING IS MINE ALSO AND I AM OFFENDED TO FLY OR COLOR ANYTHING OTHER THAN AN AMERICAN FLAG ON IT. WE'RE AMERICANS AND BY DOING WHAT YOU'RE DOING DEVIDES US RATHER THAN BRINGS US TOGETHER. FLY OR COLOR THE AMERICAN FLAG AND STAY OUT OF THE DEVISION GAME!! PHIL HANSEN SLC RESIDENT 84106 |

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| 3/11/2025 16:30 | Bernie Hart | It's Tuesday | <p>Hi All, Two things. One: I understand the Legislature passed SB 0078. The bill creates a much-needed Ombudsman for the homeless. The homeless desperately need an independent voice advocating for them in a system that routinely puts its own needs before the needs of those it serves. History does not speak well for what will happen. The Legislature recently commissioned two audits, one focused on homeless services and the other on our court system. The audits found neither the courts or homeless services were meeting the needs of the homeless. The audits were great. The problem is no one has read them, and the problems they pointed out are still major problems. HB 298 was passed last year and it intended to address the same problems, but since being passed, it has been collecting dust in someone's closet. And now we have the new position of Ombudsman. Will whoever is appointed read the audits and address the fact that no one is being held accountable for anything? Our jails are full, the number of homeless is increasing, and everyone is still getting more and more funding and nothing is changing. Or will the Ombudsman's desk be put in the same closet as those audits and copies of HB 298? Two: We have moved back to the library.. with a twist. We are now on both sides of 200E and we will start reaching out to a really troubling segment of the homeless population. Those audited mental health and addiction services and courts are the same institutions school kids are in when they first get into trouble. When Foster Care and Special Ed programs fail to meet their needs, many end up in trouble and eventually in jail and on the street. A number of these no longer young folks are in our program. We will reach out to any adult on the street who first entered the system while still in school and ask them to join us. We will start documenting their experiences. When city staffers look out the window in the morning... I hope they wonder how young some of the people they see were when they first entered the publicly funded "we can help you" system. The folks they see once lived in a home and were cared about.. and they asked for help... they needed help... and ... just look out the window and you will not have to read the audits to know how well the current "we can help you" system works.</p> <p>Bernie</p> |
| 3/12/2025 12:08 | Lisa M Christensen | Fluoride Ban - D2 | <p>Dear Councilman Puy, I am dismayed to see that Gov. Cox signed HB81, prohibiting the addition of fluoride into municipal water sources, into law. Given that Salt Lake City residents voted to add fluoride into our water, is this a law the city could bring a lawsuit against? I understand there are some health risks in higher concentrations, and I am aware of the 2019 incident in Sandy. But I am also familiar with the science that strongly suggests far more benefits than risks, and I have noticed a real improvement in my own dental health since moving here ten years ago. Anything that we can do to push back against this legislative overreach would be appreciated. If it would be helpful, I would also be willing to come to a city council meeting to express my concerns (though I'm definitely not an expert, just a concerned and well-informed citizen). Thank you, Lisa Christensen</p> |

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| 3/13/2025 15:48 | Kat Fuentes | April 15th Public Hearing (Item B1) Public Comment | <p>Dear City Council Members, Local West Jordan childcare providers are writing to express their strong support for the Boost Program in Salt Lake City and to urge you to approve funding to expand this vital initiative to their fellow childcare owners in SLC. The Boost Program has been instrumental in providing essential resources and support to daycare providers, enabling them to enhance their operations and better serve families in our community. We ask that this public comment be added to the record during the 30-day comment period. Many childcare providers have shared their experiences, highlighting the significant impact the program has had on their businesses and the children they care for. Here are just a few testimonials from those who have directly benefited from Boost and its affiliated services: Sandrine Ingabire, Cozy Nest Childcare (West Jordan, UT) “Starlynn is truly God-sent! She makes sure I have everything I need, responds quickly, and continues to make my job so much easier. Upwards has been an amazing support for my daycare.” Veronica Jones, Twine Early Learning Center (West Jordan, UT) “The services provided have significantly enhanced our operations, allowing us to streamline processes and improve customer satisfaction. The TA reimbursement has been invaluable, as it has enabled us to build employee morale.” Jessica Sheffield, Bright Start Preschool (West Jordan, UT) “As a busy mom and childcare in-home business owner, I can confirm that having Upwards has made a huge impact on my life. Upwards has helped me keep track of a lot of the business aspects that, frankly, I didn’t go into business for. Money is an essential part of owning a business, working, and raising a family, but my heart is really in teaching and being with the kids. Upwards has saved me time so I can focus more on what I love while still making it possible to provide this service to families. I have appreciated this program a lot, and it has taken one stress off my plate as a mom and childcare owner.” Erandiny Martinez, Diny’s Munchkins Bilingual Daycare (West Jordan, UT) “I’ve had a really good experience with Upwards! Alex Estrada has helped me navigate through the app and its awesome features, especially the activity planning, which has been such a big help. I know life as a daycare provider gets busy, but Alex continues to check up on me, sending me helpful resources. I truly appreciate her and the Upwards team!” Veronica Jones, Twine Early Learning Center (West Jordan, UT) “Upwards has tremendously helped my program. From the engaging activities provided to the monthly check-ins from the Upwards staff, I feel fully supported. As a small provider, it’s incredibly reassuring to know I have the help I need in connecting with families, all while keeping the kids busy and entertained. I am truly lucky to have this app—it’s been a game-changer for my program!” These testimonials demonstrate the essential role the Boost program plays in strengthening childcare businesses, supporting early childhood education, and ensuring that children receive the best care possible. Funding this program will allow SLC providers to access these critical resources, ultimately benefiting local families and children in the community. I urge you to prioritize the needs of childcare providers and families by approving funding for the Boost Program. Thank you for your time and consideration. Katherine “Kat” Fuentes Director of Government Partnerships kat@upwards.com Solving care for good in all 50 states!</p> |
| 3/13/2025 16:03 | Richard Hendron | Sizzler Site Hotel | <p>Dear Ms. Young- We are facing a proposal for new hotel on the former Sizzler site, at 2100 South and 1300 East. The site currently has a beautiful view of our mountains and Sugarhouse Park. If the need for more hotel space is real, I'm sure there are other locations nearby, that can fulfill those needs without impinging on our scenery. More development in the Ballpark Neighborhood and the Power District might benefit those districts, if those citizens wanted those benefits. The proposed structure does not benefit our neighborhood. Rather, it is detrimental to the ambiance we cherish. Please vote 'No' on the issuance any permits or zoning changes that would allow a building - larger - in any dimension - than the former Sizzler. Thank you very much for your service to our community! Sincerely- Richrd Hendron</p> |

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| 3/13/2025 16:34 | Pamela King | Memory Grove Bathroom | Hi my name is Pamela King and I live in the avenue and I know that nobody is really care about what I think because of the Ivory home thing. but I'm calling about something else. There's no water or bathroom down in memory grove anymore, That's a public park and they closed all the bathroom and I have a daughter with the baby and there's nowhere to go to the bathroom and there's nowhere to drink the water from or even wash her hand anymore and now there's no place to go to the bathroom besides one of the disgusting honey pot. I mean that's wrong and we're the taxes payer, we're not totally invisible aren't we? it's frustrating. Thank you, Goodbye |
| 3/13/2025 16:38 | Alyshia Klein | Water & Sewer Resources | Thank you Council Members for your hard work. Question: There are so many apartment buildings going up, especially downtown. Prior to approving the permits, was there any research conducted on SLC that we are able to sustain water and sewer resources? Any information would be helpful. Thanks |
| 3/14/2025 14:53 | Sergey Krasovskiy 1/2 | Homeless Issues | My name is Sergey Krasovskiy, and I am the co-owner of Forest Rentals, LLC, which is located in the District 5 area of SLC. I am writing to bring your attention to the increasing issue of homelessness and trespassing in the Liberty Wells neighborhood, specifically at our property located at REDACTED. Over the past couple of years, we have observed a significant decline in the safety and security of the area. Previously, these issues were far less frequent, but recently, they have escalated, creating ongoing challenges for property owners and residents. Just recently, our property manager encountered unauthorized individuals trespassing on our private property and unlawfully occupying our vacant units. While police were called and removed them, this has become a recurring issue that is affecting the overall safety and desirability of our community. The persistent presence of homeless individuals in and around our property has led to heightened safety concerns for tenants and residents. This issue has resulted in declining occupancy rates, as potential tenants are deterred by the risks associated with trespassing and unauthorized encampments. Beyond personal safety concerns, the deteriorating security of the area negatively impacts property values, making it more difficult for landlords to maintain and invest in their properties. If this trend continues, the long-term economic impact will extend beyond property owners—declining property values result in lower tax revenues for the city and state, ultimately affecting funding for essential public services. Despite our best efforts to secure our property and work with local law enforcement, addressing the issue has been challenging. The current enforcement mechanisms are not sufficient to prevent repeated incidents of trespassing, and property owners lack adequate support in dealing with these situations effectively. Even when trespassers are taken into custody, they are released almost immediately, allowing them to return and continue their unlawful activities without consequence. This lack of accountability sends the message that trespassing and related offenses carry no real repercussions, further exacerbating the problem. We understand that homelessness is a complex issue that requires compassionate and sustainable solutions. However, it is also essential to ensure that property owners and residents feel safe in their homes and that property values are not eroded due to ongoing trespassing and security concerns. We urge you to consider measures that will: 1. Improve enforcement protocols for preventing and addressing trespassing on private property. 2. Increase police presence and intervention in areas affected by trespassing and related criminal activities. 3. Develop programs that offer effective support and housing solutions for homeless individuals, reducing the need for them to seek shelter on private property. 4. Implement policies that protect property owners from financial losses due to declining occupancy rates caused by persistent homelessness issues, such as financial reimbursements or tax incentives for affected landlords. |

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| 3/14/2025 14:53 | Sergey Krasovskiy 2/2 | CONTINUED! Homeless issues | 5. Strengthen community safety initiatives to ensure that residents feel secure in their neighborhoods and public spaces. 6. Reform current laws to impose actual consequences on those who trespass and engage in unlawful activities, rather than allowing them to be immediately released without any accountability. We believe that a collaborative approach involving local government, law enforcement, and property owners is necessary to find an effective resolution. We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this matter further and explore potential legislative or policy changes that could help address this growing concern. If no action is taken and the situation continues to worsen, we will have no choice but to escalate this issue to local and state media to expose the ongoing inaction that is negatively affecting law-abiding property owners and residents. This is not an issue that can be ignored any longer. Please let us know a convenient time when we might be able to meet or speak with you and your team. We are also in discussions with other landlords and residents in the area who share these concerns and are prepared to collectively advocate for necessary changes. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to your response and to working together on solutions that benefit both the community and property owners alike. Sincerely, Sergey Krasovskiy, Forest Rentals, LLC |
| 3/15/2025 14:43 | Mateo Gaczewski | Police harassment and racism | Highway patrol officer carpenter told me he was surprised I knew Jimmy Buffett and that he was white so of course he knew Tim McGraw while booking me in jail. Secondly I want to report that I was followed home by a cop that the proceeded to stalk my house for 3 minutes. When I reported this to the police station, he made up a lie saying he was watching my neighbor even though he followed me from a different area then my house. Please bring back the America I wanted to be apart of |
| 3/17/2025 16:34 | Bernie Hart | An informative day.. Numbers are the story | Wayne and Andrew, A trial survey showed that 90% of the people in our program were raised as Catholics or as members of the LDS community. 65-70% were or are LDS. 70% were born in Utah. 66% of those who moved here from another state were LDS. Almost 70% know how to swim. 30% of those surveyed were non-white and 30% were female between the ages of 25 and 50. 3 of our folks recently started jobs. For the first time ever a client's caseworker joined us. She was surprised by the lack of the drug activity other homeless service providers said existed around our program. 12 years and 1 case worker. Our program takes place 4 blocks from both St Joseph's and the LDS Temple At one point during Tai Chi there were 5 police vehicles with lights on monitoring the activity at the back entrance to the library, 3 SLC security officers watched. At the same time, at least 3 SLC security people and an additional 5 police officers were in City Hall protecting the Mayor and staff. 4 Library security staff were also on duty inside the library. Arrests 0. Individuals briefly talked to: 1 Approximate cost to the taxpayers for this approximately 1 hour period: \$9,500.00 The cost of working with 25-30 homeless folks in our program for the same time period: \$100.00 All this police activity took place less than 1/2 block from and in sight of, SLCPD Headquarters and the Mayor's Office. 70% of the people in our program have thought about or attempted suicide. To our knowledge, no one (0) in our program has ever committed suicide. The suicide rate for the rest of Utah has always been high nationally (top 5) and has increased by at least 10% over the past year. The average number of times people in our program have been arrested is 10. The number of times we've had to reach out to SLCPD in 12 years: 0 Numbers not only tell a story... they are the story. I wonder if a wider study will confirm what we found. Who is homeless in Salt Lake City and why are they staying homeless? Bernie |

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| 3/17/2025 16:35 | Lexey Payne | FY2025-2026 Federal Funding Public Comment - Ruff Haven Crisis Sheltering | <p>Hello! My name is Lexey Payne, I am writing today to make a public comment on potential funding for Ruff Haven Crisis Sheltering for the 2025-2026 period. I have been a board member with Ruff Haven since 2021. My involvement with the board came after I was one of the clients served in Ruff Haven's first year as an organization. I am writing today to make clear the importance of Ruff Haven and the support that it offers to our community. I personally experienced a traumatic ending to an abusive relationship and ended up with nowhere to live. I found somewhere to stay temporarily while I found a new lease and got back on my feet but I was unable to take my two cats with me to stay there. My abusive ex had already left with our dog who I still have never seen again to this day, the thought of losing my cats as well was enough to tear me apart entirely. I searched for a week trying to find someone who could take care of my cats for just a little while so that I could find somewhere to live. I was completely out of luck until the last minute when I found Ruff Haven online. I sent in a request form and they took my cats into their facility the next business day. They were matched with a foster home that took extremely good care of them, I received pictures and updates regularly, and kept in touch about my ability for reunification. Knowing my cats were being taken care of as well as they would be with me brought so much peace to my worry and allowed me to focus on getting back on my feet. My cats stayed with Ruff Haven for one month until I found a new apartment. Shortly after reunification I joined the board in order to bring real life client experience to our lens. In the time since Ruff Haven assisted me I am now no longer homeless (I actually own a house now!), have finished my Bachelor's degree and begun a Master's program, become an advocate for human and animal services, and have Ruff Haven to thank for all of it. The assistance that Ruff Haven was able to offer me saved my life. I was at a critical turning point where my life could have turned into a constant road of uphill battles but instead turned into something so gratifying and beautiful. Ruff Haven doesn't just work to rehome pets to keep them off of the street, they do everything they can to assist with the core issues as to why people surrender their pets to shelters. Homelessness is one of the biggest reasons why people need Ruff Haven's services, we all know how much of an issue of homelessness we experience in Salt Lake. Ruff Haven helps people in our community to get back on their feet after something traumatic which helps to prevent people from getting trapped in the life-long cycle of homelessness that normally occurs after the first instance. I know this message is a little long so I will end with this, Ruff Haven is essential to making Salt Lake City a place where people can come together and discover the true meaning of community. I urge you to include Ruff Haven in the federal funding disbursements for this period. I don't think you will regret the good that can be done with the funding when placed in the hands of an organization that prioritizes our community so deeply. Thank you, Lexey Payne Board Member Former Client</p> <p>Salt Lake City Resident</p> |
| 3/17/2025 16:37 | Bernie Hart | It must be costing taxpayers a fortune | <p>Good Morning, There are more police cars around Library Square and City Hall than patrons. They are everywhere. Once again how much is this repeat of Op Rio Grande costing us? And how many people are you all helping? We all know the answer to that question, Bernie</p> |
| 3/17/2025 16:40 | Bernie Hart | A suggestion | <p>Mayor Mendenhall, Maybe you could convince Pres Trump to lend you a dozen ICE people to ride along with SLCPD. They and SLCPD and The Mayor's Office might be able to figure out how to deport a large number of the mentally ill and addicted homeless in our community. Beats jailing them over and over and over again... just deport them. End of problem... maybe, or until.. Bernie</p> |

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| 3/18/2025 10:00 | Bernie Hart | It's Tuesday | <p>Mayor Mendenhall, My best guess is that the new intense policing effort costs Salt Lake City taxpayers more than \$1,500,000 per day. When higher-ranking police officers are doing drive-bys at the library, the number of officers bullying and harassing the mentally ill and addicted in our city must be over the top. This would be a great time to divert people needing help to The Otherside Village. Or use the \$1,500.000 to finance 7 affordable homes... a day.</p> <p>Housing 50 campers a week over the next 6 months seems like a better long-term solution than the campers being constantly harassed ... then ending up in jail... and eventually returning to the streets.... and then more costly policing and harassing .. and then back to jail... at a cost of ... Circles are costly and ineffective... but today is Tuesday... and no one listens on Tuesday. Bernie</p> |