

# Save money, lives with better plan for police facility

Salem Can Do Better PAC opposes the \$82 million police facility bond on the November ballot, Measure 24-399.

Understand: We like Salem's police department. They deserve a modern headquarters. But we don't like Measure 24-399. There's a better way to get the police department into a new building that doesn't threaten the lives of Salem's citizens.

This sounds shocking, yet it is true.

People need to vote "no" on Measure 24-399 because lives are at stake: the lives of everybody who works at or visits City Hall and the library, including children at story time. The reason is because earthquake preparedness is being ignored.

The super-sized 148,000-square foot police facility has squeezed out funds for making critical seismic upgrades to the Civic Center that previously were part of a public safety project which included money for a new 75,000-square foot police facility.

So plans have been shelved to save lives at City Hall and the library when the Big One (subduction zone earthquake) hits, even though a main reason for a new police facility is because City Hall is expected to collapse in the Big One.

It's crazy that city officials want to move police department staff out of City Hall so they won't be crushed to death in the next big earthquake, while moving other city employees into the same space so they will be the ones who are killed.

Instead, let's save the lives of everybody who works at or visits City Hall and

the library.

Here are three other reasons to vote “no” on Measure 24-399:

First, the cost is too high. The \$555 development cost per square foot is more than double the cost of facilities built recently by the Canby police, Eugene police and state police.

Second, the size is too large. In 2014, Salem’s mayor and police chief told citizens that a 75,000-square foot facility was right for this town.

In 2015, the mayor’s police facility task force got expert advice and concluded that a 75,000- to 106,000-square foot facility was the right size. But in 2016, the facility got super-sized to 148,000-square feet after Chicago consultants were hired.

The 75,000- to 106,000-square foot proposal is best for Salem since it was recommended by a broad-based local committee.

Third, a new 911 center isn’t necessary. There’s no need to use 25,000 square feet and \$11 million for a new 911 center when the current one is fine where it is for at least another 10 years, and over the next 30 years it costs less to lease than build.

Voters need to say “no” to Measure 24-399. Then city officials can work with citizens on a better plan that gives the police department a perfectly adequate new police facility for about \$30 million and saves lives by making the library and City Hall earthquake safe for about another \$30 million. Sixty million dollars to do both, saving more than \$20 million to meet other needs in Salem.

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