

## **Mayor's 6.16.2025 Statement – Transit and Public Safety Concerns**

**I WANT TO TAKE A MOMENT TO DIRECTLY ADDRESS THE CONCERNS SOME RESIDENTS HAVE RAISED ABOUT PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE PROPOSED BUS LINE EXTENSION TO CLACKAMAS TOWN CENTER — A TOPIC THAT HAS COME UP DURING OUR CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS REGARDING THE CITY BUDGET WE JUST ADOPTED.**

**LET ME BE CLEAR: PUBLIC SAFETY IS — AND WILL ALWAYS BE — A TOP PRIORITY. I TAKE THAT SERIOUSLY, NOT JUST AS YOUR MAYOR, BUT AS A NEIGHBOR, A PARENT, AND SOMEONE WHO HAS CALLED WILSONVILLE HOME FOR NEARLY TWO DECADES.**

**WHEN I CONSIDER ISSUES LIKE THIS, I BRING MY PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE TO THE TABLE — AND I DO MY BEST TO FOCUS ON FACTS, NOT FEAR. I'VE SPOKEN WITH OUR POLICE CHIEF, AND I'VE LOOKED CLOSELY AT THE DATA. WHAT WE'RE SEEING — BOTH LOCALLY AND NATIONALLY — DOES NOT SUPPORT THE IDEA THAT A LOCAL BUS ROUTE TO A HIGHER-DENSITY AREA LIKE CLACKAMAS TOWN CENTER WOULD LEAD TO A RISE IN CRIME HERE IN WILSONVILLE.**

**IN FACT, WE ALREADY HAVE SHUTTLE SERVICE FROM SALEM AND WOODBURN. WE HAVE THE WES TRAIN. ACCORDING TO CHIEF WURPES, THOSE EXISTING**

**CONNECTIONS HAVE NOT RESULTED IN ANY MEASURABLE INCREASE IN CRIME IN OUR CITY. THOSE CITIES LIKELY HAVE HIGHER CRIME STATICS THAN OURS.**

**THAT DOESN'T MEAN THE CONCERNS BEING VOICED AREN'T SINCERELY FELT — THEY ARE. AND I WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW I'M LISTENING. BUT IT ALSO MEANS WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE DECISIONS BASED ON CREDIBLE INFORMATION AND REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE.**

**EXPANDING TRANSIT IN A WAY THAT CONNECTS OUR RESIDENTS TO JOBS, EDUCATION, AND HEALTH CARE — WHILE MAINTAINING OUR STRONG PUBLIC SAFETY STANDARDS — IS NOT ONLY POSSIBLE, IT'S RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE.**

**WE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR CRIME TRENDS AND ADJUST IF NEEDED. BUT AT THIS MOMENT, THERE IS NO FACTUAL BASIS TO DENY THIS ROUTE OUT OF FEAR. I'M COMMITTED TO MAKING SURE WILSONVILLE REMAINS A SAFE, CONNECTED, AND FORWARD-LOOKING COMMUNITY.**

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS SPOKEN UP. YOUR INPUT MATTERS, AND IS APPRECIATED**