

City of Salamanca: Addressing Community Safety and Stability
Proposed Plan of Action: Combating Homelessness, Drug-Related Activity, and Public Disorder

The City of Salamanca remains committed to restoring safety, dignity, and well-being for all residents. Below is our initial plan of action with detailed updates on the steps taken to achieve these goals.

This information is also available on our website: <https://www.salmun.com/>

1. Collaborate with the Seneca Nation

We will work closely with the Seneca Nation to resolve issues that fall within their legal jurisdiction and affect our community. This partnership will explore collaborative solutions to maintain safety and address shared concerns.

Progress:

- Mayor Magiera continues her effort to maintain contact between the Mayor's Office and counterparts within the Nation.

2. Strengthen Code Enforcement

We will intensify our enforcement of local code violations, focusing on illegal dumping, unkempt properties, and housing infractions. This will improve neighborhood safety by holding property owners accountable.

Progress:

The City's Code Enforcement team has taken a proactive approach to addressing violations. Key actions include:

- 7 new Building Safety Inspectors who can work directly under the Code Enforcement Officer. One new Code Enforcement Officer in training.
- Issued an "Order to Remedy" for properties housing unauthorized RVs and campers.
- Campers have been registered and/or removed from locations within the city
- A tree was removed on East State Street after complaints were filed with the Code Enforcement office
- Initiative planned for Spring 2025 for inspection and removal of campers/RVs
- There has been decrease in complaints due to actions taken by the city

These actions ensure that property owners are held responsible for maintaining community standards and improving overall neighborhood safety.

3. Demolish Problem Properties

The City and Seneca Nation will identify and demolish abandoned or unsafe homes that have become hotspots for illegal activity. This step will eliminate opportunities for crime and improve neighborhood appearance.

Progress:

We have recently completed demolition of 3 properties:

- 38 East
- 62 Maple
- 25 Seneca

We have signed the permit for the demolition of 81 Division. Will tear down when the weather breaks. Asbestos study has been done and all permits have been secured.

Planning meetings have resulted in the identification of multiple problem properties slated for demolition. Several structures have already been inspected and deemed unsafe. The City is actively pursuing funding to support these efforts, ensuring sufficient resources to remove blighted homes and improve the visual appeal and safety of neighborhoods.

4. Community Solidarity Events

We will encourage residents to organize events, vigils, and rallies to bring the community together, showing a united front against these challenges. These gatherings will build community strength and engagement.

We recognize the power of community engagement and the positive impact it can have. We are actively seeking input and volunteers to help us plan meaningful events that bring residents together and foster a sense of unity.

If you're interested in getting involved or have suggestions for events, please reach out to the City.

5. Launch a Community Neighborhood Watch Program

In coordination with the Salamanca Police Department, we will launch a Community Neighborhood Watch program. This initiative will empower residents to actively monitor and report suspicious activity.

Progress:

- The *NextDoor App* has been introduced, providing residents with a simple and anonymous way to report suspicious activity in real-time.
 - A community meeting was held on January 29th in the Court Room to discuss best practices and future application of neighborhood watch initiatives
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6. Youth Engagement and Activities

We will work with the Salamanca Youth Bureau and school district to expand opportunities for youth engagement by offering more activities that connect young people with positive community outlets, reducing the likelihood of exposure to illegal behavior.

Progress:

- **Youth Staff Workshop:**

On March 6th, the Director and Recreation Attendants will be attending a specialized workshop sponsored by the NYS Youth Bureau Association designed to provide essential skills and strategies for those working with youth, particularly focusing on those with disruptive and challenging behaviors.

The workshop supports our commitment to the personal and professional growth of our youth staff, helping them build skills that will benefit them in both their current roles and future career opportunities.

- **Summer Playground and Arts Alive Program Positions:**

In March, the Youth Center will begin advertising for positions in the Summer Playground Program and the Arts Alive Program. Staff hired for the Summer Playground Program this year will also receive Youth Mental Health First Aid training, which teaches staff to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health challenges in youth.

The Director has received several letters of interest from returning applicants eager to be part of the programs again this summer.

7. Increase Police Presence in Problem Areas

We will increase police patrols in known problem areas, such as Hogan's Alley, to deter crime and ensure quicker responses to incidents.

Progress:

The Salamanca Police Department has increased its presence in high-crime areas, leading to several notable achievements:

- Foot Patrols: Officers now conduct regular patrols in Hogan's Alley, deterring crime in this area
- Surveillance Cameras: Cameras are continuing to be moved to areas of concern
- Impact Patrols: In collaboration with the County Sheriff's Department, two-officer patrols have led to multiple narcotics arrests.

8. Encourage Private Property Protection

We will encourage residents to increase "No Trespassing" signs on their properties, helping to deter unlawful entry and assist law enforcement in taking swift action.

Progress:

Police patrols have actively engaged with residents to address trespassing concerns. While efforts to encourage homeowners to press charges have faced challenges, the City remains committed to finding effective solutions. Ongoing communication with residents aims to improve cooperation and deter future incidents.

9. Monitor and Enforce Electric Bike Regulations

We will monitor and enforce local ordinances regarding electric bike use, issuing tickets for violations to curb improper use linked to criminal activities.

Progress:

The enforcement of electric bike ordinances has resulted in several tickets, targeting individuals involved in drug-related activities. Although some cases have faced prosecutorial resistance, the City continues to explore additional measures, including potentially designating the Pennsy Trail as a city park to expand enforceable regulations.

10. Expand the Police Force

We have/will hire more police officers to enhance our ability to address crime and maintain public safety more effectively, dependent on funding.

Progress:

- Joined with Ellicottville PD on a recently awarded violent crime reduction grant. Last month we started extra patrols 4-8 hours a week with the goal of reducing violent crime.
- Hiring an officer with 4 years of experience and will send him to Drug Recognition Training to combat DWI drug offenses.
- We will also increase narcotic traffic stops and contact/property checks on marijuana shops in the city
- A recent budget approval will allow us to hire 4 new candidates and send them to the Academy.

11. Public Safety Notifications

The City will publish more frequent public safety notifications to keep residents informed about ongoing issues and the steps being taken to address them.

Progress:

The City has increased its use of the website to ensure timely updates on public safety and community events. Improved tagging of profiles has also broadened the reach of these posts, increasing community engagement.

12. Child Protective Services Involvement

We will collaborate closely with Child Protective Services to ensure the safety of children involved or impacted by drug abuse.

Progress:

The Youth Center continues its 20-year collaboration with CPS, bolstered by the involvement of retired CPS workers on the Youth Board. All staff members are mandated reporters, ensuring a safe environment for vulnerable children.

13. Advocate for Bail Reform Changes

We will advocate for changes to NYS Bail Reform laws by working with state politicians to implement reforms that better protect our community.

Progress:

- The City has launched a *Change.Org* petition to gather community support for bail reform, sending a strong message to state officials about the urgent need for change. However, we still need more signatures to make an even greater impact. If you haven't signed yet, please visit [Petition to Revise NYS Bail Reform Laws](#) or scan the QR code located on the petition flyer.
- To make it easier for residents to get involved, we've also created a letter template that can be personalized and sent to state representatives. This is a simple yet powerful way to ensure your concerns are heard by those in a position to make legislative changes.
- Both the petition link and letter template will be shared on our website, social media, and through local distribution.
- Let us know if you need assistance with accessing the petition or sending letters to your representatives.

14. Anonymous Reporting Hotline

We will explore the possibility of establishing an anonymous hotline for residents to report violators without fear of retaliation.

Progress:

The anonymous reporting initiative is being integrated into the NextDoor App to provide residents with a convenient and secure method of reporting.

15. Establish New City Ordinances

We will evaluate and establish new ordinances to give law enforcement more tools to address the specific problems facing our community.

Progress:

Discussions are ongoing to identify ordinances that will best address the City's current challenges and provide law enforcement with the necessary tools. Suggestions are encouraged at all future Common Council meetings.

16. Ongoing Problem-Solving Meetings

We will continue to hold regular community meetings focused on problem-solving and working together to create meaningful change.

Progress:

The Mayor and newly elected Council look to lead problem-solving meetings with City departments and stakeholders. A public forum will be held soon. Time and place will be announced prior to the meeting.

Addressing Homelessness

Homelessness is a complex issue that the City is actively working to address. Efforts include identifying potential collaborations with community organizations, exploring funding opportunities, and formulating targeted strategies. Updates will be shared as these plans are finalized.

Looking Ahead

We know that the challenges facing Salamanca—homelessness, drug-related activity, and public safety concerns—can feel overwhelming at times. These are big, complicated issues, and we want to acknowledge the frustration and uncertainty they can bring to our community. That's why we're committed to doing everything we can to address them. This plan is just the beginning—a roadmap that will grow and evolve as we learn what works and what doesn't.

We're putting in the work now, but we also know that change doesn't happen overnight. This plan is a living document, and we're constantly looking for ways to improve it and expand our efforts. We want you to know that we're not stopping here. Whether it's building stronger partnerships, finding new resources, or trying fresh approaches, we are determined to make real, lasting progress.

To keep everyone informed and involved, we'll be holding a public feedback meeting in the near future. We know it's not easy to be patient when you see problems in your neighborhood or hear stories that hit close to home. But we're asking for your understanding and your trust as we take on these tough issues. Salamanca is a strong, resilient community, and we believe that by working together, we can overcome these challenges and build a safer, healthier future for everyone.

Thank you for sticking with us as we navigate this journey. Your support and involvement mean more than we can say.

In the future we will post information to the website regarding the next planning meeting.