

Josephine (JO) County (CO) Justice System (JS) & Public Safety Services (PSS)

JO CO Justice System & Public Safety Services

The 2012 expiration of federal funding for services resulted in two JO CO proposed levies as a solution. We believe an informed public will consider the question behind the 2013 Measure 17 - 49, the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Three Year Local Option Tax: "Is JO CO providing a minimally adequate level of public safety services?"¹⁻²

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

http://www.oregon.gov/CJC/Pages/about_us.aspx

OCJC Summer 2010 Newsletter³ "It's not denial. I'm just selective about the reality I accept." This quote from Bill Watterson, creator of the "Calvin and Hobbes" comic strip, resonates with the human



capacity for denial about a reality we do not want to face. **A 2.5 Billion dollar reduction in funds to provide for education, human services, and a statewide public system in Oregon is a reality I would**

rather not accept. I would rather selectively focus on the fact that Oregonians are safer today, less likely to be a victim of violent crime or property crime, than they have been since the 60s. I would rather hope we can "do nothing" and ask the legislature to make cuts elsewhere and not touch spending on public safety.

1. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (HNA&HS). July 9, 2013. *Justice System Exploratory Committee*. Hugo, OR.

2. HNA&HS. July 24, 2013. *Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society's Mission*. Hugo, OR.

OR CJC's (OCJC) Public Safety Subcommittee Report

But I realize that **hoping we can get through this by "doing nothing" to reduce the cost of our system is a form of denial**: it fails to acknowledge the criminal

*"It's not denial.
I'm just selective about the reality I accept."*

justice system will get a hard look from the legislature in light of the magnitude of these reductions. To fail to plan for reduced budgets for public safety would be a form of denial in this environment.

A 2.5 Billion dollar reduction in funds to provide for education, human services, and a statewide public system in Oregon is a reality I would rather not accept.

I would rather selectively focus on the fact that Oregonians are safer today, less likely to be a victim of violent crime or property crime, than they have been since the 60s.

Governor Kulongoski asked his Reset Committee to **move from denial to planning for a "decade of deficits" if we make no changes**. During that time, Oregon will require 2,000 additional prison beds to carry out the sentencing policies we have put in place over the last 20 years. Adding that many beds in light of the magnitude of the budget cuts seems like an impossibility.

Oregon (OR) Criminal Justice Commission (CJC)

How would we add 2,000 beds while subtracting hundreds of millions of dollars from the public safety budget? Whether you think adding those beds is a good or bad idea in this budget season becomes moot: **it looks like a financial impossibility.**

All of us are committed to public safety. None of us want to make cuts to the system that has been in place while crime in Oregon has dropped to historically low levels, but I am glad Governor Kulongoski asked his Reset Cabinet to **accept the reality of fewer resources and plan for the future**. If we plan wisely and face reality, Oregon will continue to enjoy safe communities. The public safety subcommittee report to Governor Kulongoski's Reset Cabinet, which accompanies this newsletter, lays out the reality and provides options for a new legislature and new Governor to consider in planning for Oregon's future.

All of us are committed to public safety. None of us want to make cuts to the system that has been in place while crime in Oregon has dropped to historically low levels.

Want more information? Contact a member of the *Exploratory Committee*.

3. Oregon Criminal Justice Commission. Summer 2010. *Executive Director's Column - Craig Prins*. OCJC Summer 2010 Newsletter. Page 1. Salem, OR.

Exploratory Committee's Mission

Mission An independent Justice System and Public Safety Services Exploratory Committee (*Exploratory Committee*) to investigate the JO CO Justice System & Public Safety Services (JS&PSS) issue was formed under the leadership of the Hugo Neighborhood Association and Historical Society (HNA&HS).

Big picture ideas for the exploratory effort include the following.

1. Identifying the JS&PSS issue.
2. Identifying the JS&PSS sub-issues for research and analysis.
3. Identifying a range in level of services
4. Identifying a range of cost for services.
5. Identifying revenues for services.

The ultimate goal is an adequate justice system and public safety services. Is it possible to have a higher level of service for a lower cost? The purpose of the *Exploratory Committee* is to gather information adequate enough to understand the JS&PSS issues. This includes educational outreach efforts.

The *Exploratory Committee's* purpose is limited to investigating and researching the JS&PSS issues. It will not make evaluations of right or wrong, nor make recommendations on how to vote.

The contents of this brochure are expressions of the opinions and beliefs of those that contribute based on their thoughts and experiences. Hopefully, their efforts will assist the public toward informed decision-making.

- Donations Are Not Tax Deductible -

Edited by Mike Walker, Member, Exploratory Committee

HNA&HS Officers

Wayne McKy, Chair
Lis Butowitsch, Treasurer
Mike Walker, Education Chair



Exploratory Committee Members

Mike Walker, Chair
3388B Merlin Road # 195
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526
541-471-8271
Email: hugo@jeffnet.org

Wayne McKy, Member
Karen Rose, Web Master
Jon Whalen, Member

Justice System Exploratory Committee

<http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/justicesystemexploratorycommittee.htm>

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society

<http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/>

OR CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION'S PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Brochure III.E.1.6.3.2
Justice System & Public Safety Services Series

Standards & Authorities



Very Draft August 16, 2013

Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee