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## 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. “Is JO CO providing a minimally adequate level of public safety services?”<sup>1-2</sup>

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

[http://www.oregon.gov/CJC/Pages/about\\_us.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/CJC/Pages/about_us.aspx)

### OCJC Summer 2010 Newsletter<sup>3</sup> Chair’s Column

– **Judge Darryl Larson** It may be summer but the OCJC is definitely not on vacation. One of the most difficult jobs being undertaken by the OCJC is how to adequately, fairly and successfully accomplish the task put before it by the Legislature in the form of **Senate Bill (SB) 77 concerning county public safety “emergencies.”**

There is a justifiable and very real concern that after 2012, the U.S. Congress may no longer authorize funding of what used to be called the O&C timber payments but are now commonly known as the Safe and Secure Rural Schools (SSR) funds. Twenty four of Oregon’s 36 counties receive some of this funding. However, **some counties are particularly at risk from a cessation of the SSR funding.**

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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.  
3. Oregon Criminal Justice Commission. Summer 2010. *Executive Director’s Column – Craig Prins*. OCJC Summer 2010 Newsletter. Salem, OR.

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## OR CJC & OR Senate Bill 77

**These counties suffer from a multiplier effect of structural features which could negatively affect public safety in these counties if that funding ends:**

(1) they have substantial percentages of their general funds dependent on the SSR funds (40-70%), (2) most of their general funds are dedicated to public safety, (3) they have relatively low property tax rates and/or receive a small percentage of the property taxes levied in that county with little legal room, or political opportunity, to increase those rates, and (4) substantial fractions of these counties are federally owned, not subject to taxation.

*What services should be taken into account, what are the key data elements in measuring a particular public safety service and how should they be measured?*

The last Legislature, concerned about the looming potential loss of SSR funding, enacted SB 77 relating to the declaration of a “public safety services emergency.” **In the face of such a declaration, the OCJC would be required to “review and analyze public safety services provided by the county” to determine whether the county is providing a “minimally adequate level of public safety services.”** There are substantial differences between counties in terms of, among other things, their geographic and demographic characteristics, historic crime rates and their willingness to tolerate certain levels of crime and their past and present funding of various public safety services.

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## Oregon (OR) Criminal Justice Commission (CJC)

Given these, and other, substantial differences, writing rules for how to determine whether a particular county is providing “minimally adequate public safety services” is a difficult task indeed. **A committee of the OCJC is currently at work developing both a conceptual framework as well as draft rules to comply with the legislative directives laid out in SB 77.** The OCJC hopes to finalize the initial draft rule by the end of July, 2010.

**OAR 213-070-000** [2013 Note: The OCJC was successful and OAR 213-070-000 was finalized in 2011].

You are invited and encouraged to participate in this effort by making recommendations to the CJC concerning our efforts



to write the rules for determining “minimally adequate” public safety services in an affected county. **What services should be taken into account, what are the key data elements in measuring a particular public safety service and how should they be measured?** The current thought is that the rules should be such that, given the variability in counties, these rules must be flexible in application while being based on uniformity in the categories and data categories utilized for any given public safety service. We look forward to your input.

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

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## 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

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### *Justice System Exploratory Committee*

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

### Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society

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

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## OR CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION'S & OR SENATE BILL 77

Brochure III.E.1.6.3.3  
Justice System & Public Safety Services Series

### Standards & Authorities



**Very Draft August 16, 2013**

*Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee*