

Facts Should Support How Safety Dollars Spent

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In my opinion, our modus operandi appears to be driven by the sensationalism of the opinion rather than the facts. I believe we need recommendations supported by facts for how to best use our tax dollars to give Josephine County residents what they want the most: the best public safety system our tax dollars can buy.

There is a written history of addressing the issue of whether the county is providing a minimally adequate level of public safety services in the 2009 Oregon Senate Bill 77, including its 2011 companion OAR 213-070-0000; Oregon House Bill 4176 (2012); and Oregon House Bill 3453 (2013). Is it? I don't know. For example, I have never seen any information in the Courier about the standards for public safety services, or any factual analysis that the services will meet or will not meet the standards.

I believe the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission was on the right track under former OAR 213-070-0000. I have to admit it is not a simple task. For example, the July 23, 2012, Capital Insider asked a fundamental question for Josephine County: Is a county required to maintain some minimal level of service regardless of funding constraints? I do not believe the question was ever answered.

Based on my involvement with the Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee I have numerous questions about the safety issue as I believe it is not well understood by most of us. Visit www.hugoneighborhood.org/justicesystemexploratorycommittee.htm.

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