

# Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society

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PSS Archives Index #3

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

May 26, 2016 Letter/Email

Josephine County Board of County Commissioners

Cherryl Walker, Chair

Keith Heck, Vice Chair

Simon Hare, Commissioner

Josephine County Courthouse

500 NW 6th Street

Grants Pass, OR 97526



Subj: Share Information About Josephine County's (JO CO's) Justice System & Public Safety Services (JS&PSS) Problem/Issue (i.e., public safety issue) In Citizen's Guides To The Budget

Dear Cherryl, Keith, & Simon:

We contact you as stakeholders in defining the JO CO public safety issue, and in seeking solutions for it. We thank you for your previous assistance. This communication is a specific response to the opportunity for public comments on the JO CO budget.

As you know, our focus is trying to shed some light on the public safety issue by providing grass roots educational opportunities which we feel will contribute to active JO CO citizen involvement in better understanding the JS&PSS issue. Accessibility to information leads to informed citizens and informed voters. The following specific educational opportunity recommendations are a result of exchanging information on the public safety issue with Jim Goodwin, Director, JO CO Juvenile Justice (JJ) Department, and our independent studies of the JO CO public safety services (PSS) office and department budgets for FY 2015-16. This collaboration framed the Committee's JO CO JJ study project, and the development of four JJ study documents, which are the Committee's independent analysis and opinions (Appendix A). They resulted in, among other conclusions, six JO CO JJ recommendations. However, all the recommendations have merit for, and are equally applicable to all JO CO PSS offices and departments, specifically including the 1. adult jail, 2. juvenile justice department, 3. district attorney's office, 4. rural patrol deputies, 5. criminal investigations & related sheriff's office support services, and 6. animal protection (Appendix A - MALPSS).

1. Understanding Staffing Analysis
2. Office & Department Descriptions & Relationships
3. Supplemental Web Pages
4. Use Of References & Web Links
5. Flow Charts of PSS Work Units
6. Citizen's Guide To The Budget

The last recommendation, a “*Citizen’s Guide To The Budget*” is the one we focus on as JO CO is currently in its budget process. Beyond budget educational opportunities for citizens, “Recommendation #6” attempts to address JO CO government’s issue of being plagued by a lack of trust by a majority of county voters, and by ineffective voter outreach, especially educational PSS program descriptions and their value. The Committee believes that being an informed voter is tough. To put it bluntly, most voters are assisted in being better informed when as many as possible low-growing fruits of information formats are available.

We believe a *Citizen’s Guide To The Budget* can help citizens become informed voters, "For in the end, a budget is more than simply numbers on a page. It is a measure of how well we are living up to our obligations to ourselves and one another." Some examples of a guide’s purpose follow (Appendix A).

- A guide provides a single place where the public can learn about the main features of the budget and gain access to more detailed reference sources. It also helps citizens to assess the impact on their own circumstances and on specific groups in society, including the effects on the burden of taxation, service provision and employment prospects.
- Broadening understanding of the country’s public finances can help to frame more realistic citizen expectations, and to build support for difficult policy choices. It can also help to offset the influence of narrow special interest groups and to avoid public debates being conducted in jargon by those “in the know.”

In summary, we recommend that the JO CO Board of County Commissioners develop a *Citizen’s Guide To The Budget* for PSS as a companion to the county’s budget document, and/or encourage JO CO PSS offices and departments to consider developing them for their work units.

Sincerely,

Mike & Jon :)

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Appendix A. Josephine County Juvenile Justice Public Safety Services & Justice System & Public Safety Services Study Design: 2015  
Email copies: HNAHS Officers; JO CO PSS Offices & Departments; Kevin Widdison, Editor, *The Grants Pass Daily Courier*

## **Appendix A. Josephine County Juvenile Justice Public Safety Services & Justice System & Public Safety Services Study Design: 2015**

### **Josephine County Juvenile Justice Public Safety Services**

Hugo JS&PSS Exploratory Committee

Web Page: <http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/juvenile.htm>

### **Justice System & Public Safety Services Study Design: 2015**

Hugo JS&PSS Exploratory Committee

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

## **Josephine County Juvenile Justice Public Safety Services**

- Whalen, Jon & Walker, Mike, Members, JS&PSS Exploratory Committee. First Draft - April 27, 2016. *Josephine County Juvenile Justice Public Safety Services*. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. Hugo, OR.

## **Understanding The Juvenile Justice Josephine County Budget: FY 2015-16**

- Whalen, Jon & Walker, Mike, Members, JS&PSS Exploratory Committee. First Draft - April 27, 2016. *Understanding The Juvenile Justice Josephine County Budget: FY 2015-16*. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. Hugo, OR.

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| Recommendation 1. | Understanding Staffing Analysis                            |
| Recommendation 2. | Department Descriptions & Relationships                    |
| Recommendation 3. | Supplemental Web Page for JO CO JJ Department              |
| Recommendation 4. | Use Of References & Links                                  |
| Recommendation 5. | Flow Chart of Josephine County Juvenile Justice Department |
| Recommendation 6. | Citizen's Guide To The Budget                              |

## **Purpose, Conceptual Prototype, Chapter VI Recommendations, Part of "Understanding The Juvenile Justice Josephine County Budget: FY 2015-16" (Conceptual Prototype)**

- Whalen, Jon & Walker, Mike, Members, JS&PSS Exploratory Committee. First Draft - April 27, 2016. *Purpose, Conceptual Prototype, Chapter VI Recommendations*, Part of *Understanding The Juvenile Justice Josephine County Budget: FY 2015-16*. Conceptual Prototype. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. Hugo, OR.

## **Josephine County Juvenile Justice Standards: FY 2015-16 (May 9, 2016 - A Work In Progress)**

- Whalen, Jon & Walker, Mike, Members, JS&PSS Exploratory Committee. First Draft - May 9, 2016. *Josephine County Juvenile Justice Standards: FY 2015-16*. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. Hugo, OR.

## **Appendix B4. JO CO's Minimally Adequate Level of Public Safety Services (MALPSS) Standards, Including Law Enforcement Staffing & Deployment (PSS - Section I.C)**

- Walker, Mike & Whalen, Jon, Members of JS&PSS Exploratory Committee. Very Draft December 15, 2015. *Appendix B4. JO CO's Minimally Adequate Level of Public Safety Services (MALPSS) Standards, Including Law Enforcement Staffing & Deployment*. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. Hugo, OR.

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