

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society

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September 1, 2015 Letter/Email

Safety Stakeholders
Citizens Of Josephine County, Oregon



Subject: Aspirations For Josephine County's (JO CO's) Justice System & Public Safety Services (JS&PSS) Problem/Issue

Dear JO CO Concerned Citizen:

We reach out to you as a stakeholder with an interest or concern in defining the JO CO's JS&PSS problem/safety issue, and in seeking solutions for it. For us stakeholders are neighbors with a wide range of abilities, and a common thread that we are all individuals with hopes and dreams we struggle to fulfill. We all have the right to live, work, play, recreate, worship, and enjoy the community we live in.

Understanding the JS&PSS Issue has been our goal since 2013. Our aspiration is a public forum for our community to get together and brainstorm ideas toward the goal of informed public decision-making. Part of this hope, or ambition, is neighbors achieving an acknowledgment of their range of publicly identified values and solutions. Yes, the power of desires, hopes, dreams, wishing, longing, and yearning (Appendix A).

As background we share our core belief that *all citizens, voters, and votes are legitimate*. Our 2015 JS&PSS Study Design project flows from this center (Appendix B). The results are a study to be researched and written from a neutral point of view, meaning representing fairly, proportionately, and, as far as possible, without bias, all public views that have been published by reliable sources on the safety topic.

- *You can't find solutions that last if you don't know the specific problems.*
- *Share consensus by breaking bread together over a common goal of being for something.*

An issue is that Congress had repeatedly sent messages that federal timber payments would be phased out, and this was intended to give counties *time to plan for the change*. The payments had been to eligible counties for 1. loss of property tax revenue, which results from an inability to impose taxes on federally owned forest lands, and 2. reduction in the amount of logging planned on federal forest lands. Our aspiration is that the final Study product of the Study Design project be part of this needed planning. It will document a comparison of the publicly identified range of alternative solutions for the JS&PSS Issue. The Study will be accomplished by documenting: 1. the publicly identified issues, range of alternative solutions, and affected conditions; and 2. analyzing the impacts of each alternative evaluated by condition indicators and standards through a combination of citizen input and professional expert investigations.

Understanding the JS&PSS Issue and designing a solution are complicated tasks. Our rationale for this position is that there are substantial differences between Oregon counties in terms of their geographic and demographic characteristics, historic crime rates, willingness to tolerate certain levels of crime, and past and present funding of various public safety services. For example, given these, and other, substantial differences, how would the Governor of Oregon proclaim a public safety fiscal emergency where fiscal conditions compromise a county's ability to provide a minimally adequate level of public safety services (2013 Oregon House Bill 3453)? Locally we have practical hope that the standards for determining whether JO CO is providing the "minimally adequate public safety services" will be shared.

Another important issue is *how to demonstrate trust and enhance communication between some of our neighbors and JO CO government.* The Study Design approach primarily relies on citizens to provide insight about how to identify and manage problems, and formulate their own goals and solutions for the future (e.g., web page on voting, writing letters to the editor and guest opinions in *The Grants Pass Daily Courier*, writing arguments in voters' pamphlets, etc.; Appendix B - Issues). It aspires to emphasize the importance to citizens of knowing they are being heard, of being the decision-makers that decide their future. As active participants, neighbors at the grassroots level can gain ownership of Study Design information processes and become "stakeholder" decision-makers in the range of potential solutions they, as a group, identified.

In conclusion, we feel there are significant unique decision-maker differences between our proposed Study Design and the usual major impact study. For example, the end result of the Study is information for informed public decision-making, not a decision by the government (Appendix C). We hope you will be interested in sharing this information with your neighbors.

Sincerely,

Mike & Jon :)

Mike Walker, Chair

JS&PSS Exploratory Committee
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Appendices

- Appendix A. Be an Individual, Be Unique, Stand Out, Make Noise, That's the Power of Individuals
Appendix B. Justice System & Public Safety Services Study Design: 2015
Appendix C. Why Support Another Safety Study?

APPENDIX A. BE AN INDIVIDUAL, BE UNIQUE, STAND OUT, MAKE NOISE, THAT'S THE POWER OF INDIVIDUALS

Aspiration means hope and working together toward life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It values the capacity, skills, knowledge, connections and potential in individuals and communities. However, focusing on strengths does not mean ignoring challenges, or spinning struggles into strengths. Working in collaboration is powerful - assisting citizens to do things for themselves. In this way, people can become co-producers, not passive consumers.

This alternative is self-management of problems/issues and long-term conditions by working together to achieve better outcomes. Citizens identify and build on their strengths and capacities as a means to help resolve problems and deliver their own solutions. This is a challenge from the traditional historical focus on deficiencies to a new focus on possibilities and solutions where citizens are the origins of strength and resilience. To be avoided is a traditional approach where the citizen is often no more than the repository of the problem or the holder of the issue. What are the possible personal individual decisions?

Hope is practical As such it is in the gut not deflected by anything, that our lives are not mere accident, that we are more than brute chips fallen off the conveyor-belt of chance, that we have individual significance and destiny, that every small act of conscience and fidelity has meaning within the scheme of things. This is hope, as we feel it practically because we are unique and irreplaceable as are all fellow humans. The importance of maintaining “practical hope” in the face of current circumstances assists in the solution of people building locally unique, sustainable communities.

We aspire for individuals to gather, share ideas and work together to make alternative community building more mainstream, even while it retains its “non-conformist” JO CO edge, that allows for a much freer and a more open citizenry to prosper even in the midst of an increasingly governed world.

Practical hope is a system of governance kept in check by citizens who will be directly impacted by the actions and decisions of the government. For example, if laws are written so that the “average citizen” does not understand them, who better to say so than the average citizen who will be directly impacted by them, and who better than the common individual to be the accountant? The goal is a citizenry that is self-governing to every extent possible within the confines of the very real world in which we live today

It can be done and I can do it. We have to do more to talk about the better solutions that will help the American people have a better shot at the American dream. It's important that we show we're not just the opposition force, we're actually the alternative ideas. Opposing only gets you half the way there; blocking an idea's forward motion is not the same as making forward motion yourself. So yes, opposing is fine—but winning is the goal. And winning, requires the power of superior ideas and alternatives.

Each one of you has something no one else has, or has ever had: your fingerprints, your brain, your heart. Be an individual. Be unique. Stand out. Make noise. Make someone notice. That's the power of individuals. Jon Bon Jovi

APPENDIX B. HUGO JS&PSS STUDY DESIGN: 2015 ON WEB

Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee, HNA&HS
Justice System & Public Safety Services Problem/Issue
<http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/justicesystemexploratorycommittee.htm>

- *Justice System & Public Safety Services Study Design: 2015*
 - Arguments For Supporting Study Design
 - Interested In Becoming Involved?
 - Publicly Identified Problems/Issues
 - Publicly Identified Range of Alternative Solutions
 - Aspiration Letter From Authors Of Study Design
- **Appendix A. Issues, Supporting Study Design: 2015**
- **Authority: 2013 Justice System & Public Safety Services Issue Scope Of Work**

APPENDIX C. WHY SUPPORT ANOTHER SAFETY STUDY?

Question Why support or sponsor another study that purports to represent the citizens of Josephine County, Oregon in their efforts to address the county’s Justice System & Public Safety Services (JS&PSS) problem/issue?

Answer In a nut shell the proposed study’s design basis is based on formal inventories and an impact methodology model which promotes informed decision-making through a unique decision process where the citizens are the decision-makers. The answer is based on several factors: 1. Authors’ Core Beliefs, 2. Purpose of Study, 3. Uniqueness of Study, and 4. Citizen Decision-Makers.

As an introduction we provide some rationale for the uniqueness of the Study Design (Appendix B - Arguments For Supporting Study Design). There are significant unique decision-maker differences between the proposed JS&PSS Study and the usual major information or impact study. The authors doubt that the proposed JS&PSS Study is the only one of its kind. However, it is distinctive and unlike anything in their knowledge base. They feel it is special and certainly unique in modern local JO CO politics.

- Study focuses on the human face of citizens in decision-making.
- Study is unique in not representing a singular point of view objective, and in representing strictly citizen values.
- Study flows from “public” identified issues, affected conditions, alternatives, and impact standards. It emphasizes the importance to citizens of knowing they are being heard, of being the decision-makers that decide their future.
- Study is not associated with any specific proposed levy, tax, etc.
- Study is limited to investigating, researching, and evaluating the JS&PSS Issue. Study will not make evaluations of proposals or alternatives as to right or wrong, nor make recommendations to the citizens on how to vote.
- Study is non-political; it will not be used in politics in the sense of lobbying for a particular outcome.
- Study is independent research and education of neighbors the best it can by sharing information publicly through web page publications.
- Study formally acknowledges the public as the designer of the Study and as the decision-maker.
- There will be no Analysis of Management Situation in the proposed JS&PSS Study process; there will be an Analysis of Public Situation.
- There will not be a formal government decision selecting a study alternative or some combination of alternatives as a part of Study Design.
- The end result of the Study is information for informed public decision-making, not a decision by the government.