

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society

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April 4, 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
541-474-5221



Subject: Important Oregon Policy Research Project: Minimally Acceptable Level Of Public Safety Services (MALPSS)

Dear Cherryl, Keith, & Simon:

Your leadership has elevated the idea of a MALPSS analysis to an important level of public awareness through the county's tornado politics. Promoting and following through with this idea took courage with political capital spent in the streets (Appendix A). Thank you.

Our particular interest, and first priority, is securing an independent non-government MALPSS analysis. Second and third choices are an analysis by the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission and the Josephine County (JO CO) Local Public Safety Coordinating Council. An analysis by the Oregon Governor without the step of an intergovernmental agreement would be our last priority option.

Benefits of the public understanding a MALPSS analysis and standards is the simple belief that seeking accurate facts to better explain the public safety issue is worth the effort. Strategies to combat misinformation are worth trying, within the framework that all citizens, voters, and votes are legitimate. Legitimacy has powerful hopes

The MALPSS analysis concept is sound as an educational methodology tool to assist counties in fiscal distress, regardless whether a decision is actually implemented, or not (i.e., educational tool for public to have the opportunity to understand in a scientific documented way versus relying on professional opinions alone). For example, the simple potential to provide a framework of understanding is significant in realizing where JO CO's public safety program is in the scheme of things. Are we above an emergency level of PSS, or below? Are the JO CO's PSS adequate, or less than adequate? And, just as important, where is the science and/or facts supporting the professional opinions of adequacy? For example, see Lane County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council's 2011 *Status of the Public Safety System in Lane County as per Senate Bill 77*; Appendix A). Why not have the public debate vetted facts versus professional and/or political government opinions which many voters do not trust?

We will be sharing research opportunities with academia once again, first with the Oregon State University (OSU) Rural Studies Program (RSP) and the Oregon Policy Analysis Laboratory (OPAL), School Of Public Policy. The audience includes economic, political science, and sociology students and faculty. The idea is to promote student and faculty opportunities to engage with local citizens in studying and identifying public policy options for the county's justice system and public safety services problem/issue (i.e., public safety issue).

This approach had success in researching public opinion. During the winter of 2015 Nathan Davis, a 2nd year graduate student at OSU, formally settled on tiering his Master's of Public Policy (MPP) Essay research paper to the county's public safety issue. He is in the OSU School of Public Policy which is part of the OSU RSP. The Exploratory Committee is pleased to announce Davis is nearing completion of his research paper which addresses the question: *What Do Josephine County Citizens Really Think About Public Safety?*, by analyzing public opinions. The MPP addresses what the citizens think about public safety, by relying on citizens to identify problems, and formulate their own goals and solutions for the future. His database for the research paper is the voting history of the last five levies from 2012 - 2015, over 800 letters-to-the-editor (LTTE) and 10 guest opinions in The Grants Pass Daily Courier, for those same years, and the arguments, pro and con in the five voters pamphlets. The Committee's opinion is that LTTE, guest opinions, and pamphlet arguments are not intended to be representative measures of public opinion; rather, they are public opinion.

In summary, we will again propose research projects (e.g., public opinion, mandated PSS, MALPSS standards, vetted public inventories, zero based budgeting, law enforcement staffing standards, etc.) to academia. The MALPSS opportunity will be stressed as this is a statewide issue where many counties could request a MALPSS, and the solutions from MALPSS analyses and decisions involve all Oregon taxpayers paying half the bill. Significant is the history of the RSP and OPAL having a strong record of involvement in important Oregon policy issues.

Sincerely,

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p.s., We doubt that the House Bill 3453 process is dead as a potential public safety alternative solution, regardless of the political opinions of Representative Duane Stark, Representative Carl Wilson, and Senator Herman Baertschiger Jr.

Our rationale for this position is that it is difficult for us to understand our local legislators' positions after the Oregon Legislature used forward thinking to address potential public safety fiscal emergencies by passing the 2009 legislation on the MALPSS planning and decision-making process. We don't know that its not a good plan per Representative Wilson's comments. We do know that the Oregon Legislature aggressively acted in anticipation of the loss of federal payments and continued to refine its technical planning concept through 2013: Oregon Senate Bill 77 (2009), Oregon House Bill 4176 (2012), and Oregon House Bill 3453 (2013). We also know that House Bill 3453 is one possible solution, in a range of publically identified alternative solutions to the county's public safety issue. We wonder if the county commissioners could ask for only a MALPSS analysis from the Oregon Governor?

Appendix A. Minimally Acceptable Level Of Pubic Safety Services

Status of the Public Safety System in Lane County as per Senate Bill 77

- Lane County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council. December 1, 2011. *Status of the Public Safety System in Lane County as per Senate Bill 77*. Report to the Board of County Commissioners. Eugene, OR. http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/JSPSS_Studies.htm

Minimally Acceptable Level Of Pubic Safety Services

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

Outreach 5.5. Summary Highlights: JO CO's MALPSS Research Project Independent Of Government: 2015 - 2016

http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/JSPSS_Outreach.htm

- Mike Walker & Jon Whalen, Members JS&PSS Exploratory Committee, Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. December 15, 2015. *Summary Highlights: JO CO's Minimally Adequate Level Of Public Safety Services (MALPSS) Research Project (Public Outreach 5.5)*. Hugo, OR.

The Exploratory Committee has been proposing a Josephine County MALPSS Research Project since 2015. It believes the MALPSS concept is sound as an educational methodology tool to assist counties in fiscal distress, whether it is actually implemented, or not (i.e., educational tool for public to have the opportunity to understand in a scientific documented way versus relying on professional opinions alone). For example, the simple potential to provide a framework of understanding is significant in realizing where JO CO's public safety program is in the scheme of things. Are we above an emergency level of PSS, or below? Are the JO CO's PSS adequate, or less than adequate? And, just as important, where is the science and/or facts supporting the professional opinions of adequacy?

Guest Opinions

http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/JSPSS_Guest_Opinions.htm

- March 27, 2016. by Mike Walker. Analysis needed for budget solution
- March 17, 2016, by Kevin Widdison. Editor's Opinion. Unintended consequences could accompany state money
- March 8, 2016. by Jon Whalen. A Search For Public Safety Answers
- March 4, 2016. Mike Walker. House Bill 3453/MALPSS
- Jan. 18, 2016. Jon Whalen & Mike Walker. Public Safety Study Design Idea

Reporter Articles On Minimally Acceptable Levels of Public Safety Services (2013 House Bill 3453) http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/JSPSS_Guest_Opinions.htm

- March 31, 2016. Shaun Hall. Front Page Reporter Article, TGPDC. Emergency aid from the state? Forget about it.
- March 31, 2016. Shaun Hall. Front Page Reporter Article, TGPDC. Public safety officials paint bleak picture
- March 29, 2016. Shaun Hall. Front Page Reporter Article, TGPDC. Lawmakers to discuss public safety concerns at meeting
- Mar. 17, 2016. Shaun Hall. Front Page Reporter Article, TGPDC. Officials say county is facing public safety fiscal emergency.
- Mar. 15, 2016. Shaun Hall. Front Page Reporter Article, TGPDC. Public Safety Council meets Wednesday to consider lowest acceptable law enforcement services for county.
- March 11, 2016. Shaun Hall. Front Page Reporter Article. TGPDC. Hare doesn't think new taxes, fees needed to match state aid
- March 10, 2016. Shaun Hall. Front Page Reporter Article. TGPDC. Critics, supporters weigh in on public safety bailout issue.
- March 9, 2016. Shaun Hall. Front Page Reporter Article. TGPDC. Walker drops out of race: Announcement reduces county commissioner races to 18 hopeful.
- March 6, 2016. Shaun Hall. Front Page Reporter Article. TGPDC. Is crime up in Josephine County?
- Mar. 3, 2016. Shaun Hall. Front Page Reporter Article. TGPDC. Walker defends public safety proposal as meeting heats up.
- Feb. 25, 2016. Jeff Duewel. Front Page Reporter Article. TGPDC. State bailout question get tabled.
- Jan. 15, 2016. Eder Campuzano. Front Page Reporter Article. TGPDC. Walker's 'a la carte' tax levy idea strikes out.
- Jan. 14, 2016. Eder Campuzano. Front Page Reporter Article. TGPDC. Board will not turn over public safety operations to the state without a vote.
- Jan. 12, 2016. Mike Walker. Presentation at Public Meeting. JO CO's Minimally Adequate Levels of Public Safety Services (MALPSS) Research Project.
- Jan. 7, 2016. Eder Campuzano. Reporter Article, p. 3A. TGPDC. State of the County Address, Some improvements, but trouble ahead.

Appendix B. What do Josephine County Citizens Really Think About Public Safety?

- What do Josephine County Citizens Really Think About Public Safety? (JS&PSS Press Release 2015-1). http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/JSPSS_Press_Releases.htm.
- Summary Highlights: Study Design Research Projects Prior To Phase 3 Contracted Study (Public Outreach 5.3). http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/JSPSS_Outreach.htm.
- Summary Highlights: Using Content Analysis To Identify JO CO Citizens' Public Safety Values: 2012 - 2015 (Public Outreach 5.4). http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/JSPSS_Outreach.htm.
- Justice System & Public Safety Services Study Design: 2015 Public Outreach 9.1. http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/JSPSS_Outreach.htm.

Email copies:

- Officers, Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society.
- Nathan Davis, Master's of Public Policy Program, School of Public Policy, Oregon State University.
- Henry Wisniewski, Faculty, Social Science & Human Services Department, Rogue Community College.
- Dave Daniel, Josephine County Sheriff.
- Ryan Mulkins, Josephine County District Attorney.
- Jim Goodwin, Director of Josephine County Juvenile Justice.
- Diane Hoover, Chair, Josephine County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council.
- Jay Meredith, President of Securing Our Safety, Inc.
- Damon Mancuso, Chapter Leader, Grants Pass Chapter of John Birch Society.
- Oregon Criminal Justice Commission.
- Duane Stark, Oregon Representative.
- Carl Wilson, Oregon Representative.
- Herman Baertschiger Jr., Oregon Senator.
- Kate Brown, Oregon Governor, Hard-copy.