

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society

P.O. Box 1318
Merlin, Oregon 97532
541-471-8271
Email: hugo@jeffnet.org

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

September 2, 2015 Letter/Email

Kate Brown, Oregon Governor
Office of the Governor
160 State Capitol
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301-4047
503-378-4582



Dear Kate:

We contact you as Oregon's stakeholder representative in defining Josephine County's (JO CO's) Justice System & Public Safety Services (JS&PSS) problem/issue, and in seeking solutions for it (Appendix A1 - *Oregon's Counties: 2012 & 2014 Financial Condition Reviews*). We also continue to seek an understanding of the operational definition of a *Minimally Adequate Level of Public Safety Services* (MALPSS; Appendix A2 - August 5, 2013 Letter to Governor John A. Kitzhaber). We believe there is a real value to the citizens of JO CO, Oregon to understand MALPSS, perhaps a study identifying a range of alternative definitions for determining whether JO CO is providing the MALPSS per House Bill 3453.

The Hugo JS&PSS Exploratory Committee has no short-term solutions, and we have been trying to understand the JS&PSS Issue since 2013 in search of potential long-term solutions. To that end we would like to get together and brainstorm ideas. For example, some of the Exploratory Committee's core beliefs are that *all citizens, voters, and votes are legitimate*. Our 2015 JS&PSS Study Design project flows from this center (Appendix B - web page for the Study Design). 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 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 resulted 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 considered 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 components include the following: 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.

As you know, *understanding the JS&PSS Issue and designing a solution are complicated tasks.* The Exploratory Committee's rationale for this position is that there are substantial differences between Oregon counties in terms of their geographic and demographic characteristics, historic crime rates, local priorities, 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 MALPSS? 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 (Appendix B Issues - web page on voting, writing letters to the editor and guest opinions in *The Grants Pass Daily Courier*, writing arguments in voters' pamphlets, etc.). 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 long-range planning 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 information with us one-on-one. As a follow-up we will contact you after we transmit this public communication.

Sincerely,

Mike & Jon :)

Mike Walker, Chair
JS&PSS Exploratory Committee
Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society
P.O. Box 1318
Merlin, Oregon 97532
541-471-8271
Email: hugo@jeffnet.org
Web Page: <http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/justicesystemexploratorycommittee.htm>



Jon Whalen, Member
JS&PSS Exploratory Committee
Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society
326 NE Josephine Street
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526
541-476-1595
Email: bear46@charter.net
Web Page: <http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/justicesystemexploratorycommittee.htm>



Email copy: Keith Heck, Chair of Josephine County Board of County Commissioners

Appendices

- Appendix A1. *Oregon's Counties: 2012 & 2014 Financial Condition Reviews*
- Appendix A2. Minimally Adequate Public Safety Standards (MALPSS)
- Appendix B. *Justice System & Public Safety Services Study Design: 2015*
- Appendix C. Why Support Another Safety Study?

APPENDIX A.

Appendix A1. *Oregon's Counties: 2012 & 2014 Financial Condition Reviews*

Oregon's Counties: 2012 Financial Condition Review

Oregon Secretary of State Audit Report. May 2012. *Oregon's Counties: 2012 Financial Condition Review*. Gary Blackmer, Director, Audits Division. Report Number 2012-17. Salem, OR.
<http://sos.oregon.gov/Documents/audits/full/2012/2012-17.pdf>.

The Hugo JS&PSS Exploratory Committee continued its research to understand the JS&PSS problem/issue after its August 5, 2013 letter to Governor Kitzhaber on MALPSS. It found useful a 2012 study by the Oregon Secretary of State: *Oregon's Counties: 2012 Financial Condition Review*. The following are eight educational brochures about that study the Committee developed, and web published in order to try and understand the issue, and share what it learned with the public. There were part of its 2013 Scope of Work.

Justice System & Public Safety Services Issue Scope Of Work: 2013

Justice System Exploratory Committee

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society

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

The first paragraph of *Oregon's Counties: 2012 Financial Condition Review* follows. "The objective of this report is to analyze the financial condition of county governments within the State of Oregon, and to identify general strategies of other states for addressing financial concerns. We also looked specifically at the federal timber payments to counties, which are scheduled to end, to identify the added financial strain. **We did not proposed specific solutions for counties because the decisions about county taxes and the level of services are based upon local priorities, within practical and legal requirements and limitations** (emphasis added)."

Justice System Exploratory Committee Brochures On 2012 Financial Condition Review

- Br. III.H.4 Oregon Secretary Of State Financial Condition Review For OR Counties: 2012
- Br. III.H.4.1 Oregon's Counties: 2012 Financial Condition Review
- Br. III.H.4.2 OR Counties: 2012 Financial Indicators 1 & 2
- Br. III.H.4.3 OR Counties: 2012 Financial Indicators 3 & 4
- Br. III.H.4.4 OR Counties: 2012 Financial Indicators 5 & 6
- Br. III.H.4.5 OR Counties: 2012 Financial Indicators 7 & 8
- Br. III.H.4.6 OR Counties: 2012 Financial Indicators 9 & 10
- Br. III.H.4.7 Josephine County: 2012 Financial Condition Review

Oregon's Counties: 2014 Financial Condition Review

Oregon Secretary of State Audit Report. September 2014. *Oregon's Counties: 2014 Financial Condition Review*. Gary Blackmer, Director, Audits Division. Report Number 2014-19 Salem, OR.
<http://sos.oregon.gov/audits/Documents/2014-19.pdf>.

Appendix A2. Minimally Adequate Level of Public Safety Services (MALPSS)

The following are the highlights of the JSEC's 2013 efforts to understand MALPSS through the State of Oregon.

- August 5, 2013. Letter to Governor John A. Kitzhaber from Mike Walker, Chair Justice System Exploratory Committee (JSEC), Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (HNA&HS). Main topic: MALPSS.
- August 13, 2013. Email to Mike Walker, Chair JSEC, HNA&HS, from Nathan Rix, Strategic Initiatives Project (SIP) Manager, Office of the Chief Operating Officer (OCOO), Department of Administrative Services (Dept AS), State of Oregon. Main topic: Offering assistance.
- August 16, 2013. Email/Letter to Nathan Rix, SIP Manager, OCOO, Dept AS, OR from Mike Walker, Chair JSEC, HNA&HS. Main topic MALPSS.
- August 16, 2013. Email to Mike Walker, Chair JSEC, HNA&HS, from Nathan Rix, SIP Manager, OCOO, Dept AS, OR. Main topic MALPSS.
- August 24, 2013. Email to Nathan Rix, SIP Manager, OCOO, Dept AS, OR from Mike Walker, Chair JSEC, HNA&HS. Main topic MALPSS.

The following is a list of seventeen educational brochures about MALPSS that the JSEC developed and web published in order to try and understand the JO CO's JS&PSS issue and MALPSS, including sharing its research with the public. The JSEC learned many questions, and some answers. It continues to research an understanding of MALPSS.

Justice System Exploratory Committee Brochures On MALPSS

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

- Br. III.E.1.6.3 Oregon Criminal Justice Commission
- Br. III.E.1.6.3.1 OR Criminal Justice Commission & 2009 OR Governor's Reset Cabinet
- Br. III.E.1.6.3.2 OR Criminal Justice Commission's Public Safety Subcommittee Report
- Br. III.E.1.6.3.3 OR Criminal Justice Commission's & OR Senate Bill 77
- Br. III.E.1.7 OR'S Minimally Adequate Public Safety Services Standards
- Br. III.E.1.7.1 Oregon Senate Bill (SB) 77: 2009
- Br. III.E.1.7.2 Oregon House Bill 4176 (2012)
- Br. III.E.1.7.3.1 Enrolled Oregon House Bill 3453: 2013 (1 of 2)
- Br. III.E.1.7.3.2 Oregon House Bill 3453 (2 of 2)
- Br. III.E.1.8.1 Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 213-070-000: 2011
- Br. III.E.1.8.2 Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 213-070-000: 2013
- Br. III.E.2.1 Standards: JS&PSS Historical Costs
- Br. III.E.2.2 Standards: JS&PSS Comparison Costs
- Br. III.E.2.3 Actual or Average Costs
- Br. III.E.3.1 Defining JO CO's Public Safety System Taxpayer Driver
- Br. III.E.3.2 CO Required to Maintain Some Minimal Level of PSS Regardless of Funding Constrains?
- Br. III.E.3.3 OR Governor's Reset Cabinet

All of us are committed to public safety. None of us want to make cuts to the system that has been in place while crime in Oregon has dropped to historically low levels, but I am glad Governor Kulongoski asked his Reset Cabinet to accept the reality of fewer resources and plan for the future. **If we plan wisely and face reality, Oregon will continue to enjoy safe communities** (emphasis added - Br. III.E.1.6.3.2).

APPENDIX B. Hugo JS&PSS STUDY DESIGN: 2015

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 long-range planning 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. We 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.

C:\Users\Mike\Documents\AAA Applications\Hugo_Neighborhood_Association\Community_Issues\JO CO Public Safety Services 2015\Communications\StakeholderLettersOnStudyDesign\8_ORGovernorInWalker_090215_Letterhead.wpd