

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society

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October 8, 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:

Thank you for your agent's (i.e., name unknown, aka, Constituent Services Team, Office of Governor Kate Brown) September 10, 2015 response (Correspondence 1) to our September 2, 2015 letter/email to you (Correspondence 2), and the recommendation to contact The Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) for information. For us our letter had two main points.

Point No. 1. It shared a long-range planning attempt to understand Josephine County's (JO CO's) Justice System & Public Safety Services (JS&PSS) problem/issue, and in seeking solutions for it. We feel there are significant unique decision-maker differences between the proposed planning Study Design and the usual major impact study. For example, the end result would be credible information for informed public decision-making, not a decision by the government.

Point No. 2. It sought an understanding of the operational definition of a *Minimally Adequate Level of Public Safety Services* (MALPSS) that your office has a responsibility to determine (ORS 203.095(2)(b)) if a declaration of fiscal emergency is requested by JO CO (ORS 203.095(1)(a)). To quote our September 2, 2015 communication, "*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.*" Reasonable public involvement is fair procedures and notice of the rule of law written in advance, and not made up case by case without adequate public debate.

In conclusion, we felt abandoned by your office concerning any empathy for JO CO's JS&PSS Issue, and citizens' need to understand MALPSS standards. It appears to us that the Constituent Services Team is attempting to avoid the responsibility of MALPSS by directing citizens to a private organization which has no decision-making authority for implementing the applicable Oregon Revised Statutes (Appendix A).

In point of fact, we feel AOC's performance was outstanding in addressing the issue. For example, one of its strategies was funding several *termination of Secure Rural School payments to counties*' studies for the JO CO JS&PSS Issue, including other counties' interests, through OSU's Rural Studies Program. The AOC is on our list of stakeholders to contact at the same

level of interaction that we attempted to contact you, and we appreciate your agent's suggestion to a specific AOC contact, Paul Sieng, Public Safety Policy Manager.

Sincerely,

Mike & Jon :)

Mike Walker, Chair
JS&PSS Exploratory Committee
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Email copies:

- . Kate Brown, Governor of Oregon (email address not provided)
- . Keith Heck, Chair of Josephine County Board of County Commissioners (for information only)
- . Kevin Widdison, Editor, *The Grants Pass Daily Courier* (for information only)
- . Paul Sieng, Public Safety Policy Manager, The Association of Oregon Counties (for information only)
- . Constituent Services Team, Office of Governor Kate Brown (email address not provided)

Appendices:

- Appendix A. ORS 203.095; ORS 203.100; ORS 203.105; ORS 753, Sections 1 to 10; 14 to 15
- ORS 203.095 County fiscal emergency with respect to state-required services; establishment of fiscal assistance board; recovery plan.
- ORS 203.100 Fiscal assistance board for county fiscal emergency; membership; termination
- ORS 203.105 Program in Governor's office to assist counties in fiscal distress.
- ORS 753 Sections 1 to 10; 14 to 15. County Public Safety Fiscal Emergencies.

Correspondence:

- Correspondence: 1. September 10, 2015 Letter to Mike Walker, Chair of the JS&PSS Exploratory Committee, Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society, from Constituent Service Team, Office of Governor Kate Brown.
- Correspondence: 2. September 2, 2015 Letter/Email to Kate Brown, Oregon Governor, on the Josephine County's Justice System & Public Safety Services (JS&PSS) Problem/Issue from Mike Walker and Jon Whalen, Members of the JS&PSS Exploratory Committee, Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society.