

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society

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August 24, 2015 Letter/Email

Dave Daniel, Sheriff
Josephine County Sheriff's Office
1901 NE F Street
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526
541-474-5123 #3
Email: jocosherriff@co.josephine.or.us



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

Dear Dave:

We contact you as a stakeholder in defining the JO CO's JS&PSS problem/issue, and in seeking solutions for it. The JO CO Sheriff's website is a reflection of your values: 1. provide the highest level of service through core values of service, professionalism and fiscal responsibility, 2. commitment to excellence in service, 3. accountable for actions, and 4. striving to work within our community to solve problems of mutual concern. It was reported that about 115 attended your August 18, 2015 North Valley Community Watch (NVCW) meeting in Hugo, and that your "state of the Union" address was well received (Appendix A). One topic was the current policy of response. Is the policy documented and available to the public?

The Hugo JS&PSS Exploratory Committee has been trying to understand the JS&PSS Issue since 2013, and 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). 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 payments would be phased out, and this was intended to give counties *time to plan for the change*. The final Study product of the Study Design project could 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 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.

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, 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 are waiting to have explained the standards for determining whether JO CO is providing the "minimally adequate public safety services." Determining this base services level is a difficult task.

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., 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 emphasizes 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 information or impact study (Appendix C). We hope you will be interested in sharing information with us one-on-one. As a follow-up we will attempt to contact you after we transmit this public communication.

Sincerely,

Mike & Jon :)

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

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Appendices

Appendix A. Josephine County Sheriff's Office Website
Appendix B. *Justice System & Public Safety Services Study Design: 2015*
Appendix C. Why Support Another Safety Study?

APPENDIX A. Josephine County Sheriff's Office Website

<http://www.co.josephine.or.us/SectionIndex.asp?SectionID=180>

- I am Sheriff Daniel and it is my honor to be your Sheriff. This site is developed to keep the public informed on what is going on in your Sheriff's Office.
- Our commitment is to provide the highest level of service. The Sheriff's Office belongs to you and we believe in our core values of Service, Professionalism and Fiscal Responsibility.
- We are utilizing a new communications service, which allows us to send important, valuable community information directly to residents via cell phone text messages and/or e-mail. Register here to begin receiving these updates.
- I'm exceptionally proud of the deputies and staff as they frequently exceed my high standards for service to you. We are committed to "Excellence in Service." This office will be held accountable for our actions and will strive to work within our community to solve problems of mutual concern.
- If you would like information on Neighborhood Watch send me an e-mail to:
jocosheriff@co.josephine.or.us
- In an effort to serve you better, please use the online crime reporting tool for non-emergency crimes.
- It's an honor to serve you – Josephine County Sheriff, Dave Daniel

Subdivisions:

Civil Division
Jail
Patrol Division
Search and Rescue

Resources:

Records Division Fees
Report a Non-Emergency Incident
View a Criminal History
Request a Copy of a Report

Documents:

Records Request Form

North Valley Community Watch Meeting With Sheriff Daniel: Tuesday, August 18, 2015

By Charlyn Dickerson Witcher. GREAT MEETING TONIGHT (Tuesday, 8/18) About 115 people were present, all county folk...most North Valley area residents. This is the largest group we've had to date. Ken Selig asked me to highlight the information Dave Daniel shared in his "state of the Union" address, so to speak. Sadly, I didn't take notes. But basically, he brought the crowd up to date on progress that HAS been made, despite skimpy operating funds. One of those is in the area of needed training, which is important to the safety of the officers as well as the public. Dave has applied for funds (in the way of grants, etc.) and has been successful in obtaining some funds for the most urgent needs. He mentioned, when asked why no one can call and get an answer, that he simply does NOT have the staff to monitor phone calls. He said volunteers are welcome and needed in many areas, but answering phones is not something they are set up for volunteers to do, other than at the substations. But he did say that volunteers, both men and women, ARE needed in various areas (courthouse monitoring was one) and I believe he said volunteer applications are available on line. He devoted most of the time to answering questions, which was appreciated. We had some great questions, answered honestly and frankly, about a myriad of subjects. One suggestion that stands out in my mind was from a lady who is part of a smaller neighborhood watch group. She talked about the commissioners giving a \$50,000 to Rogue Coffee Roasters, which seems rather odd when our Sheriff's Department is "starving." Her suggestion was that Sheriff Daniel let the COMMUNITY KNOW when he is going before the Board of County Commissioners to ask for monetary support for his department. And then, WE,

THE COMMUNITY, need to attend the BCC meeting IN FORCE! PACK THE MEETING till there's no more room, and voice your support for Daniel's request for available funds!

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
- **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.