

January 24, 2016

What's the deal?

c/o Daily Courier

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Dear What's the deal?

We have always enjoyed the "*What's the deal?*" articles, never believing we would have a need to use the process as a research tool. Here goes.

As members of the Hugo Justice System & Public Safety Service (JS&PSS) Exploratory Committee, we have been trying to understand the 2013 Oregon House Bill 3453 since 2013. Simply stated the law provides that the Governor of Oregon may proclaim a public safety fiscal emergency for a county (i.e., one or more counties) where fiscal conditions compromise the county's ability to provide a minimally adequate level of public safety services (MALPSS). Our big *What's the deal?* questions follow.

What is a MALPSS? How do you conduct a legal MALPSS analysis (i.e., what is the MALPSS methodology and what are the public safety services' standards to conduct a MALPSS analysis)? Who conducts a MALPSS analysis? We assume both the applicable county and the Oregon governor. True? Has a MALPSS analysis, or any element of a MALPSS analysis, been addressed, considered, researched, and/or documented for Josephine County?

We believe understanding MALPSS would help the voters of Josephine County address PSS in the county. What is the PSS problem? Or, is there a problem, and, either way, judged by what standards and criteria? A scientific study to determine whether JO CO is providing a *minimally adequate level of public safety services* (MALPSS) would help answer the question, "*Is there a problem?*" Answering this question is not about implementing the 2013 House Bill 3453 by turning over PSS to the State. It is about the MALPSS concept as a sound educational analysis tool to assist understanding in a scientific documented way . . . versus relying on professional opinions.

We have sent numerous letters to Josephine County representatives, including the Josephine County Board of County Commissioners, Josephine County Management Team and the Josephine County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council, about MALPSS, and had meetings with many of them without being able to answer our MALPASS questions. We wrote the Governor of Oregon three times in 2013 and two times in 2015 without gaining any answers.

August 5, 2013 Letter to Oregon Governor John A. Kitzhaber. Subject: Questions about the 2013 Enrolled Oregon House Bill 3453.

August 16, 2013 Letter to Oregon Governor John A. Kitzhaber Representative, Nathan Rix, Strategic Initiatives Project Manager, Office of the Chief Operating

August 24, 2013 Officer. Subject: HB 3453 Inquiry.
 Letter to Oregon Governor John A. Kitzhaber Representative, Nathan Rix,
 Strategic Initiatives Project Manager, Office of the Chief Operating
 Officer. Subject: Oregon House Bill (HB) 3453 (2013) Clarification
 Questions.

September 2, 2015 Letter/Email to Oregon Governor Kate Brown. Subject: Understanding
 Operational Definition of a *Minimally Adequate Level of Public Safety
 Services*.

October 8, 2015 Letter/Email to Oregon Governor Kate Brown. Subject: Understanding
 Operational Definition of a *Minimally Adequate Level of Public Safety
 Services*.

There have been many articles in *The Grants Pass Daily Courier's* about Oregon House Bill 3453. However, they are all about the controversy of the potential for the State to take over the county and provide PSS. None answered our questions. For example, there have been three articles in the paper that addressed HB 3453, including the potential for a May 2016 advisory question to the public on HB 3453. None answered our questions.

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. 7, 2016. Eder Campuzano. Reporter Article, p. 3A. TGPDC. *State of the County
 Address, Some improvements, but trouble ahead*

From an educational point of view, the potential county advisory question to the voters would have significant value for an informed public, if citizens understood the CO's proposed MALPSS declaration/analysis before the advisory question was put to a vote. For example, how do the different PSS elements work together as a system? Otherwise, in the Committee's opinion, the people will not really understand some significant points on what they are voting for, except yes or no, nor whether there was a PSS problem, or not, and by what standards.

We are appreciative in advance of any answers reporters from *The Grants Pass Daily Courier's* may be able to discover.

Sincerely,

Mike & Jon

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