

Hernandez Maria I

From: Bill Peterson <billp@ci.wood-village.or.us>
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2015 3:48 PM
To: Sen MonnesAnderson
Cc: Rep Gorsek; Rep Piluso; Rep Fagan; Rep Johnson; Ross Cheyenne; Hernandez Maria I; Tim Clark; Scott Harden; Bruce Nissen; Jimmy Frank; Chambers, Eric; Kvarsten, Erik; Samantha Nelson; Craig Ward; Patricia Smith (patricia.s@lovettservices.com); jason.gates@mcso.us; Daniel Staton
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB 501; East Metro Gang Enforcement Team

The Honorable Senator Monnes Anderson;

Tuesday, March 10, 2015, the Senate Human Services and Early Childhood Committee will hear testimony on SB 501, the legislation you are cosponsoring with Representative Gorsek. This vital bill will provide the funding for the East Metro Gang Enforcement Team for the biennium ahead. We have spoken with you many times on this topic, and we know you are very aware of the vital role this direct state funding plays in allowing this team to function. With representatives from the police agencies for Fairview, Troutdale, Wood Village and Gresham, the EMGAT has been an effective tool to intervene in the gang related activities that have shifted easterly from the Portland urban core.

Wood Village is the smallest of the jurisdictions in the east metro area. Our demographics boast a wonderful diversity in our population, however, we have among Oregon's lowest per capita and median incomes. The EMGET team, and the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, are critical to keeping our community a safe and harmonious place for diverse populations to prosper.

As you know, we not only utilize the state funding, but provide additional resources to this team. They function to intervene in formation of gangs, allow enforcement when criminal activities may be gang related, and are an important resource for not only our communities, but the Oregon State Police, Portland Police and federal agencies.

Through this program, we strengthen Oregon and work to limit the impact gang formation has throughout the state. We want to thank you for sponsoring this measure, and urge the committee to take favorable action on the bill.

On behalf of our City Council and our citizens, I urge you and the committee to support SB 501.

Mayor
Patricia Smith