



Josephine County, Oregon

Board of Commissioners: Jim Riddle, Dwight Ellis, Jim Raffenburg

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Stephen D. Campbell, District Attorney
Josephine County Courthouse, Dep't 16
500 NW 6th Street / Grants Pass, OR 97526
(541) 474-5200 / FAX (541) 474-5201
da@co.josephine.or.us

March 17, 2015

Duane A. Stark
State Representative – District 4
900 Court St. NE, H-372
Salem, OR 97301

Re: *Benefits of Sobering Center for Josephine County*

Dear Representative Stark:

The citizens of Josephine County would benefit from a local sobering center. Generally speaking Oregon Revised Statute 430.399 provides that law enforcement officers may take individuals deemed under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance to a sobering center for detoxification. Moreover, if a person is incapacitated and their health appears to be in immediate danger, or if they are a danger to themselves or others, law enforcement must take the person to a treatment facility/sobering center. In the absence of a sobering center law enforcement officers are forced take individuals deemed under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances, or incapacitated individuals to jail or a medical facility.

Josephine County does not currently have a sobering center. As a result law enforcement is forced to take intoxicated persons to jail, our local hospital, or leave them out in the community. Because of severe budget cuts Josephine County has very limited jail resources. Using the county jail to house intoxicated individuals is a poor use of our limited jail resources. Most times there simply is no jail space available to house an intoxicated person. Therefore the next option available to law enforcement is taking the intoxicated person to our local hospital's emergency room. Our local emergency room is not designed to provide detoxification facilities. The resources of our local emergency room are best utilized in providing services to those who are sick or injured, not to treat an intoxicated person.

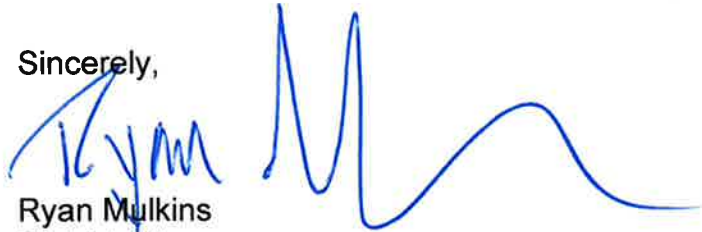
Individuals under the influence of alcohol or drugs may cause problems in the community. They can be disorderly and infringe on the rights and happiness of others. When such a situation occurs it is often law enforcement's task to deal with that problem. Often times law enforcement officers will have multiple contacts in a day with the same intoxicated individual. A sobering center would provide a resource to house the intoxicated person thereby eliminating the need for repeated law enforcement contacts.

March 17, 2015

Page 2 of 2

Finally, if you would like to speak with me personally about the benefits of a local sobering center I can be reached at either the Josephine County District Attorney's Office, (541) 474-5109, extension 3061, or on my cellular telephone, (503) 720-6312.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'R' followed by 'yan' and a large, sweeping flourish that extends to the right.

Ryan Mulkins
District Attorney