



Mayor
Timothy Clark

Council President
Scott Harden

Councilors
Patricia Smith

Bruce Nissen

Mark Clark

March 17, 2017

Senator Sara Gelser, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services
Senator Olsen, Senator Dembrow, Senator Kruse, Senator Monnes Anderson
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Delivered Via E-mail

SUBJECT: Support for SB 140; Funding the East Multnomah County Gang Enforcement Team

Dear Chair Gelser and Committee Members;

The City of Wood Village receives law enforcement services through a contract with Multnomah County. A critical element of that service is the ability for the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office to rely on the East Multnomah County Gang Enforcement Team. From early intervention and engagement to active enforcement actions, the team comprised of officers from the Sheriff's Office, City of Gresham and the City of Fairview have been able to provide critical services in our community.

Wood Village is the Metro region's most diverse community. This is a social blessing for our community, and a major challenge for integrating diverse populations, particularly populations with incomes significantly below the medians of the Portland Metropolitan Area. The gang enforcement team is a key resource to assist us in keeping regional frictions from rising, and in helping with interventions when gang related activities begin to escalate.

The East Multnomah County Gang Enforcement Team is the backbone of our gang enforcement efforts in the region. This collaboration is critical to a small community like ours that simply could not deal with the breadth or depth of the gang enforcement issues with our limited contracted resource. Not only does our community benefit, but the intervention in gang activities in East Multnomah County impact Portland and the region, the I-5 corridor both north and south, and the I-84 corridor. Your historic investment in this resource has had impact throughout Oregon.

We urge your support for SB140 to provide funding for this critical resource.

Sincerely;

Tim Clark, Mayor
City of Wood Village