

**CITY OF HERMISTON
RESOLUTION NO. 2054**

**A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED ELIMINATION OF THE
OREGON STATE POLICE DRUG ENFORCEMENT SECTION AND THE PENDLETON FORENSICS
LABORATORY**

WHEREAS, Governor Kate Brown has released the proposed 2017-19 Governor's Budget for the State of Oregon; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Budget for the Oregon State Police (OSP) entail reduction(s), which have caused OSP to communicate and plan for the elimination of the Drug Enforcement Section and the closure of the Pendleton Forensic Lab; and

WHEREAS, three of the identified 19 positions are currently assigned to the Blue Mountain Enforcement Narcotics Team (BENT) in Umatilla and Morrow Counties; and

WHEREAS, the Pendleton Lab is one of only five in the State of Oregon and the only one in Eastern Oregon with the next closest lab being located more than 200 miles away; and

WHEREAS, Umatilla County was designated as a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) in 2005; BENT has enjoyed annual federal funding ranging from \$110,000 to \$135,000 as an Oregon/Idaho HIDTA initiative with the mission of identifying, disrupting and/or dismantling Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTO); and

WHEREAS, in the first 11 months of 2016, BENT seized in excess of 68.23 pounds of methamphetamine, 8.6 pounds of cocaine, 1 pound of heroin, 424.607 pounds of marijuana, dismantled and/or disrupted four (4) major DTO's, generated 186 HIDTA cases, arrested 53 narcotic fugitives along with 109 other offenders and seized 28 firearms; and

WHEREAS, the Pendleton Forensic Lab provides scientific, technical and investigative support through forensic analysis to the Hermiston Police Department and includes the analysis of evidence and expert testimony; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Hermiston City Council for the City of Hermiston hereby opposes the elimination of the Oregon State Police Drug Enforcement Section and the closure of the Pendleton Crime Lab as proposed in the Governor's 2017-2019 budget.

PASSED by the Common Council this 27th day of February, 2017.

Signed by the Mayor this 27th day of February, 2017.



MAYOR

ATTEST:



ASSISTANT CITY RECORDER