



**PSCC OFFICERS**

**CHAIR, PAUL SOLOMON**  
Citizen Member

February 13, 2017

**VICE CHAIR, PETE KERNS**  
Chief of Police

Senator Jackie Winters  
900 Court St. NE, S-301  
Salem, OR 97301

**VOTING MEMBERS**

**DOUGLAS BAKKE**  
Citizen Member

Representative Duane Stark  
900 Court St. NE, S-372  
Salem, OR 97301

**JAY BOZIEVICH**  
County Commissioner

**STEPHEN DAVIS**  
Citizen Member

**DONOVAN DUMIRE**  
Community Corrections Manager

**TOM ENGLISH**  
Citizen Member

**GREG EVANS**  
Eugene City Councillor

**NATHALINE FRENER**  
Youth Services Division Manager

**KAREN GAFFNEY**  
Health & Human Services  
Assistant Director (Public Health)

**LOUIS GOMEZ**  
Oakridge City Manager

**SUSAN LOPEZ**  
Victim Services Representative

**LISA NICHOLS**  
Health & Human Services  
Assistant Director (Mental Health)

**PATTY PERLOW**  
District Attorney

**KARSTEN RASMUSSEN**  
Circuit Court Presiding Judge

**BROOK REINHARD**  
Public Defender

**BYRON TRAPP**  
Sheriff

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS**

**JASON JONES**  
Oregon Youth Authority Supervisor

**STEVE MOKROHISKY**  
County Administrator

**VONN SCHLEICHER**  
Oregon State Police  
Representative

Dear Senator Winters and Representative Stark:

The Lane County Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC) supports fully funding the projected savings amount of \$52.7 million for continued implementation of the Justice Reinvestment Act. We are very concerned about the reduction included in the Governor's Recommended Budget for these funds. In Lane County we are utilizing Justice Reinvestment Grant Program from CJC to support evidence-based programming in the following areas: Reentry, Community-Based Treatment for Reentry, Evidence-Based Supervision, Prison Use Reduction, Sherman Center Education Program (jail based), Batterer Intervention, Victim Services, and a strong, collaborative, data driven PSCC.

Any reductions at this time will have a catastrophic impact on Lane County's efforts to reduce prison bed use and the recidivism rate. When the Justice Reinvestment Act (HB 3194), was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor in 2013, it declared "that future savings resulting from the passage of this 2013 Act must continue to be invested in our local public safety systems". We took that commitment to heart. The savings of not opening new prisons, unfortunately, has only partially been invested in the Justice Reinvestment Grant Program which was created by HB 3194 to provide funding to counties.

The Justice Reinvestment Act is effective and is meeting its goals:

- Reduce prison populations and avert future growth.
- Reduce recidivism through evidence-based practices and data-driven research.
- Increase public safety through local and regional collaboration.

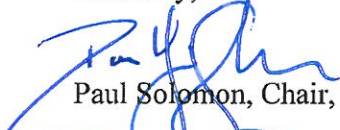
When HB 3194 was adopted, Lane County was one of the highest users of prison beds in the state. Recognizing the challenge, our PSCC engaged in a strategic planning process to reduce our dependence on prison beds and our recidivism rates. We made targeted investments using Justice Reinvestment funds that have resulted in remarkable results. Since implementation coupled with a concerted effort by

member agencies of the PSCC, Lane County's prison use and recidivism rates have dropped markedly. Lane County District Attorney Patty Perlow, in collaboration with other local partners, implemented new prison diversion strategies which place people on intensive supervision in the community while providing services designed to change their behavior by addressing specific criminogenic risk factors through treatment and cognitive based interventions. Similar strategies that include transitional housing, treatment and targeted interventions have been implemented to address the recidivism rates of the post-prison population releasing to Lane County. In both cases, our efforts have borne fruit resulting in significant reductions in prison use and recidivism.

The new initiatives we have funded with Justice Reinvestment dollars are completely dependent on these funds to continue operating. Any reduction from the current service level would be devastating. As a Federal Timber Tax Lane County that has experienced huge reductions in funding for public safety over the past decade, Lane does not have additional resources to backfill any loss of Justice Reinvestment funds. Furthermore, our continued success should be rewarded, as promised, by allocating all of the projected savings to the Justice Reinvestment Grant Program. The Legislature's actions will dictate one of two outcomes: a healthy, robust local public safety system that prioritizes accountability and intervention over prison and saves the state precious tax dollars or a return to the growth of Oregon's state prison system at much greater taxpayer expense. There is no other choice.

Please help us continue our successful efforts by allocating the full projected savings of \$52.7 million to the Criminal Justice Commission for Justice Reinvestment. Our community is counting on it.

Sincerely,



Paul Solomon, Chair, Lane County Public Safety Coordinating Council



Patty Perlow, Lane County District Attorney