



POLK COUNTY

850 MAIN STREET * DALLAS, OREGON 97338-3185 * 503-623-9251 / FAX 503-623-2060

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Mark Garton

Oregon State Legislature
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety
Co-chair: Senator Chris Gorsek
Co-chair: Representative Janeen Sollman

April 5, 2021

Co-chairs,

I am writing to urge your support for funding for Oregon's Watch Center and the analytical services provided by the Oregon Department of Justice. For over 30 years, the Oregon Watch Center has worked behind the scenes to enhance public safety across the state, often providing the critical link that helps solve a case or find a missing person. The Watch Center has supported law enforcement by:

- Conducting Investigative Research on a Broad Range of Criminal Suspects and Organizations,
- Assisting with Locating Missing and Endangered Individuals,
- Coordinating Information Sharing among State, Federal, Tribal, and Local Law Enforcement,
- De-Conflicting Law Enforcement Operations,
- Providing Training on Investigative Tactics and Sources

Being among the states with the lowest number of law enforcement officers per capita in the country means that Oregon law enforcement must be efficient to be effective in serving the public; the services provided by the watch center have proven to be a vital part of that effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for the Watch Center and the analytical services at the Oregon DOJ.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Garton".

Sheriff Mark Garton
Polk County Sheriff's Office

UMATILLA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"Conservators of the Peace"

Sheriff Terry L. Rowan



Undersheriff Jim Littlefield

Oregon State Legislature
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Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Terry L. Rowan".

Sheriff Terry L. Rowan



SHERIFF'S OFFICE

511 Washington St., Ste.102 • The Dalles, OR 97058
p: [541] 506-2580 • f: [541] 506-2581 • www.co.wasco.or.us

Pioneering pathways to prosperity.

Oregon State Legislature
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety
Co-chair: Senator Chris Gorsek
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Respectfully,

Sincerely,
Lane Magill
Wasco County Sheriff



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CONSERVING THE PEACE THROUGH VALUES DRIVEN SERVICE / SHERIFF PAT GARRETT

April 2, 2021

Oregon State Legislature
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety
Co-chair: Senator Chris Gorsek
Co-chair: Representative Janeen Sollman

Dear Co-Chairs,

I am writing to urge your support to continue funding for Oregon's Watch Center and the analytical services provided by the Oregon Department of Justice. Washington County Sheriff's Office investigators, multiple interagency response teams, sheriff's deputies and municipal police officers use the de-confliction services on a regular basis. WCSO considers the Watch Center to be a true *partner* in community safety and not just an information source. We rely on critical de-confliction in our efforts to increase operational knowledge and safety. The Watch Center efforts connect local and federal agencies in situations that would otherwise be missed. A reduction or loss of this service could well reduce safety in our communities and for our public safety professionals.

For over 30 years across Oregon, the Watch Center has worked behind the scenes to enhance public safety, often providing the critical link that helps solve a case or find a missing person. Below are a few examples of how the Watch Center supports public safety:

- Conduct Investigative Research on a Broad Range of Criminal Suspects and Organizations,
- Assist with Locating Missing and Endangered Individuals,
- Coordinate Information Sharing among State, Federal, Tribal, and Local Law Enforcement,
- De-Conflict Law Enforcement Operations,
- Provide Training on Investigative Tactics and Sources.

Being one of the states with the lowest number of law enforcement officers per capita in the country means that Oregon law enforcement must be efficient to be effective in serving the public. Services provided by the Watch Center have proven to be a vital part of that effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for the Watch Center and the analytical services at the Oregon Department of Justice.

Respectfully,

Sheriff Pat Garrett
Washington County



Yamhill County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Tim Svenson

535 NE 5th Street, Room 143, McMinnville, Oregon 97128-4595
Business Office: (503) 434-7506 • Fax: (503) 472-5330
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"Excellence In Service"

Oregon State Legislature
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety
Co-chair: Senator Chris Gorsek
Co-chair: Representative Janeen Sollman

April 5, 2021

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Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for the Watch Center and the analytical services at the Oregon DOJ.

Respectfully,

Tim Svenson
Yamhill County Sheriff

My name is Charles Tilby. I am submitting testimony in support of the Oregon DOJ Watch Center. I served as a police officer for 38 years, retiring as a Captain from the Eugene Police Department. After retirement, I worked in the private sector for 6 years then I was honored to be selected to work cold homicide cases for the Lane County Sheriff's Office. As a police investigator, Sergeant and Manager, I utilized the research and analytical services of the Watch Center for many complex investigations including terrorism and homicide cases. The Eugene Police Department is large enough to have analysts on board, but the capabilities of the Watch Center far exceeded our local resources. Most law enforcement agencies in the state lack any substantial research and analytical resources. Such is the case with Lane County Sheriff's Office.

Cold homicide cases are generally cold because they lack physical evidence directly pointing to a suspect, are complex or there are tenuous connections between the victim and the perpetrator. One factor contributing to the difficulty of such investigations is the length of time since the crime. During that time evidence deteriorates, memories fade or witnesses are difficult to locate or they die. While there have been significant advances in scientific evidence such as DNA, the positive results of a forensic DNA process often only provides a strong lead pointing to a suspect, as opposed to a scientific certainty placing the suspect at the scene of the crime. Interestingly, now that we have experience with forensic DNA investigations, we are finding that many of the perpetrators did not have a significant criminal history. All of these factors heighten the need for extensive research and analysis of records and data to reconstruct a profile of the suspect, often as much as 40 years prior. This requires an analytical tool box which provides numerous areas of inquiry and a greater emphasis on human evaluation of records since there is very little testimonial evidence of facts, situations and relationships. This is where the Watch Center excels. The process is much more complex than just pulling available records, and relies on a collaboration between the investigator and analyst to understand the data and look for relationships that will be significant. I have experience in accessing similar services on a national and regional level and have found that the investigator's ability to work extensively with analysts is very limited as they are responsible for large jurisdictions and huge caseloads. Additionally, in order to adequately analyze complex records, an analyst must possess an understanding of the geography, political structure and culture of the area in order to attach significance to certain data. I can testify first hand that analysts in California or Washington DC, do not have that level of understanding of Oregon and the quality of their analysis suffers. I believe that it is critical to have a robust analytical capability that the ODOJ Watch Center provides to adequately serve Oregon law enforcement agencies as well as the citizens and crime victims in Oregon.

Thank you for your time and your service to the citizens of Oregon. I am more than happy to be available and/or answer questions in the future.