



February 22, 2021

House Committee on Behavioral Health
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill 2417 Requires Department of Human Services to administer program to provide matching grants to cities or counties to operate mobile crisis intervention teams

Dear Chair Sanchez, Vice-Chair Moore-Green, Vice Chair Rob Nosse and Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health,

I am writing to share Beaverton's support for House Bill 2417. Like many cities across Oregon and the United States, the national events over the past year, specifically the killing of George Floyd, the summer-long protests and police brutality forced us to examine and address the community concerns in new and innovative ways. The Human Rights Advisory Commission in Beaverton took up that call and started a seven-month process, working with the Beaverton Police Department, equity experts and policy consultants, to develop a comprehensive list of recommendations.

One of those recommendations is to prioritize funding for mental health support, addiction treatment, and community-based social workers. The ability to have funding matched by the Department of Human Services places this vital proposal within reach. Currently, the Washington County Sheriff's Office utilizes a Mental Health Response Team. In 2019 that team responded to over 4,800 calls for service. The need in our community is clear. But in Beaverton, we are not able to develop and support an independent Mental Health Response Team. That is why it is important to have this funding work effectively with many mobile crisis models, including those like Washington County's that do not triage through 911.

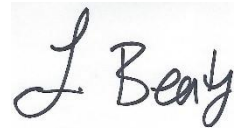
In Portland, the pilot program of the Street Response is estimated to cost almost \$2 million just to operate from February to June within a single neighborhood. The costs associated with running an intervention team are very high. But with the support of matching funds from the Department of Human Services helps alleviate the burden from cities, like ours and allows us the flexibility of developing a responsive team.

As we begin the process of implementing and navigating the recommendations from the Human Rights Advisory Commission, we face tough choices on funding, priorities, balancing the budget, and providing adequate respite to our business and rental communities as the COVID-19 pandemic continues.

House Bill 2417 provides some much-needed relief to us as we listen to the calls for change and reform within our community, while maintaining fiscal responsibility and transparency. We are very excited by the possibilities that HB 2417 creates and for these reasons we strongly support this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L Beaty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lacey Beaty
Mayor