



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

## Criminal Justice Commission

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\*Non-Voting

3 February 2023

Dear Co-Chair Evans, Co-Chair Sollman, and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means on Public Safety:

During the informational hearing that occurred on 25 January 2023, a question was posed to me regarding the extent to which the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) possesses (or could acquire) data and information from 911 emergency calls for service. I am providing additional information via this letter to better inform you and the members of the committee as to the feasibility of acquiring those data.

The Oregon Criminal Justice Commission has access to arrest data via the Law Enforcement Data System (LEDS), which includes information on each arrest that resulted in a fingerprint within the State of Oregon. Unfortunately, LEDS does not contain information on arrests that did not result in a fingerprint, which means that other types of police-citizen interactions, such as instances where an individual is cited in lieu of arrest, are not recorded in this system. This is concerning because this means that LEDS provides an incomplete picture of law enforcement apprehension data, particularly for lower-level crimes. To remedy this gap in the data, the CJC could utilize data on calls for service received by local 911 systems. As of this time, however, the CJC lacks this data.

The Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) funds the call delivery infrastructure for each of Oregon's 43 Public Safety Answer Points (PSAPs), which operate local 911 systems. Through this relationship with the PSAPs, OEM could provide CJC with statewide aggregate data pertaining to 911 call volume (either statewide or by jurisdiction), call duration, call answer times, and concurrent agents being used at any given peak point in time based on busy hours. OEM, however, would be unable to provide Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) information regarding the classification or nature of each call, as this information is held at the local level within agency CAD systems. Therefore, to obtain data specifically related to criminal matters so that it could supplement and be correlated with other criminal justice system data, it would be necessary to connect with each of the 43 PSAPs individually.

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In the recent past, the CJC has obtained limited data from CAD systems pursuant to specific requests to individual law enforcement agencies. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, CJC analysts reached out informally to a handful of law enforcement partners to obtain aggregate counts of the number of domestic violence calls for service those agencies received both before and during the pandemic. These data were transferred to the CJC via email and in formats unique to each agency. Thus, while CJC has accessed this information in the past, it has only been on an ad hoc basis and was not in a form that could be analyzed statewide in a consistent way. In addition, the acquisition of this information largely rested on preexisting partnerships between the CJC and law enforcement. Unfortunately, while the CJC possesses these types of relationships with many law enforcement agencies, this is not universally the case statewide.

To acquire CAD calls for service data that could be useful in analyses of crime and crime trends, it would be necessary to have connections to each PSAP and/or each law enforcement agency so that detailed row level data could be submitted to the CJC according to a predictable schedule (e.g., monthly, quarterly). In many cases, there is overlap between local PCPSs and law enforcement, as some PCPSs are operated by local sheriffs or police agencies and other secondary PSAPs are operated by the Oregon State Police. In some instances, however, the local PSAP is an independent entity (e.g., Clackamas County Communications).

While the implementation of this type of data system would likely require resources from both the CJC and its law enforcement colleagues, there is preexisting infrastructure in place that could be utilized to facilitate the transfer of this data from the local jurisdictions to the state. Specifically, the Statistical Transparency of Policing Project (STOP) required the CJC to create and implement a data collection connection with each law enforcement agency in the state. Given that this connection has already been built, the investment from the state needed to create an additional flow within that system at CJC to facilitate the transfer of CAD calls for service data would be relatively small. What would be concerning, however, would be the impact on local PSAPs and local law enforcement from both a cost and workload perspective, as our law enforcement partners continue to face the implementation of new data reporting requirements and systems in addition to a litany of preexisting data reporting. In addition to the sheer volume of law enforcement data reporting that strains already limited local resources, if smaller agencies were required to report, this could put a strain on their limited capacity. Finally, while it could be possible to bypass many local agencies by working with PSAPs operated by the Oregon State Police, this would likely increase the state investment needed to create this system as the State Police would likely require resources to create the data exports for submission to the CJC.

In sum, presently there is a gap in the CJC's data systems as it lacks access to PSAP 911 calls for service data which could be combined with LEDS arrest data to provide a more complete picture of law enforcement activities in the state at a given time. Unfortunately, PSAP 911 calls for service data

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could not be obtained from OEM in a format and with the level of detail needed to bridge this gap, which means that any attempt to gather data of this type would have to come through a connection between the CJC and local law enforcement. While creating a connection of this type may be feasible due to the preexisting data connections CJC has with law enforcement agencies, there would be costs involved for the CJC and local law enforcement agencies, as well as potentially for OSP.

Please contact me directly if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth Sanchagrin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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