



RESOLUTION NO. 2024-03

A Resolution Declaring Support for the Washington County Justice System; A Commitment to Partner with the State and County in Securing Funding and Build Support; Requesting the State Fully Fund Court System

WHEREAS: We recognize that access to justice is a fundamental right of every community member and a core function of government. A right without a remedy is no right at all.

WHEREAS: We recognize that a well working justice system requires services that are provided and funded by cities, counties, and the state.

WHEREAS: We are currently experiencing a critical loss of capacity in our justice system in Washington County leading to a system where our city's residents are not receiving adequate services or justice.

WHEREAS: The data shows that Washington County has experienced a massive growth in population over the past three decades and the state has not allocated a like amount of increase in judicial resources, staffing and court facilities to our county.

WHEREAS: State Court studies have shown that in comparison to other Oregon counties, Washington County needs four more judicial positions to provide services to our community commensurate to other Oregon counties.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: We pledge the city will support our part of the county justice system by continuing to adequately fund and support our law enforcement agency, our municipal court, and any other service that is part of our county justice system and which for which our city is responsible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: We call upon State Legislators representing Washington County to obtain adequate state funding for the Washington County Circuit Court, including but not limited to; four more Judges, staffing to support those judicial offices and adequate courthouse facilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: As part of our recognition that the county justice system requires a partnership between courts, cities, the county, and the state, we will build a better dialogue between all of the justice system partners.

Adopted and approved this 13th day of February 2024. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Stephanie Jones, Mayor

Attest:

Angie Lanter, MMC

City Recorder/Assistant City Manager