



Lane County Board of Commissioners

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Rob Handy
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added to
Consent Calendar
W.S.C.B.

June 8, 2010
WD bc/bf/10030/T

The Honorable Theodore Kulongoski
160 State Capitol
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Dear Governor Kulongoski:

On behalf of the Lane County Board of Commissioners, I would like to ask you to continue to hold off on initiating the appointment process for the upcoming vacancy in the Central Lane Justice Court.

As you know, the current Justice of the Peace, Cynthia Sinclair, has submitted a letter of resignation effective July 1, 2010. With this resignation, the Board of County Commissioners has the opportunity to explore what the best configuration of justice courts is to both best serve the citizens of our county and to continue to remain economically viable in these trying times.

Lane County's justice courts have seen a decline in revenue in recent years, and with the cuts the Sheriff's Office has incurred in traffic team and patrol deputies, it appears that this trend will continue for the foreseeable future. There is the distinct possibility that in the next year or two, the justice courts will no longer be bringing in revenue for Lane County and instead will need to be backfilled with general fund money. Such a situation cannot be allowed to occur. Therefore the Board of Commissioners has been aggressively and systematically exploring several different options in regards to redistricting or restructuring the three justice court districts in Lane County in order to continue having a functional and economically viable justice court system.

We have asked staff to provide the Board with more fiscal analysis in regards to the options available to the Board. In order for that work to occur and allow us to fully evaluate the information, we are asking for a postponement of the process until mid-October. We have sufficient coverage for the court to ensure there is no additional workload being placed on the Circuit Court during this timeframe and we have been informed by the remaining Justices our citizens are being adequately served.

Sincerely,

William Fleenor, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners