

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY

In the Matter of the Sheriff's)
Countywide role in law)
enforcement)

RESOLUTION 91-119

WHEREAS, in the fall of 1990, the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office developed a position paper, "A View to the Future", describing its vision of the future of the Sheriff's Office in law enforcement.

WHEREAS, on March 15, 1983, Multnomah County issued a resolution which states in part, "Therefore, be it resolved, that County services generally described as 'municipal services' at a level considered 'urban' rather than 'rural' shall be proportionately reduced starting FY 1983-84 through FY 1986-87 to establish a minimal and essentially rural level of municipal services throughout Multnomah County".

WHEREAS, this proclamation resulted in a reduction of the Sheriff's Office law enforcement from two hundred-twenty sworn positions to eighty-seven sworn positions; reduced patrol ratio* strength from 1.09 deputies per 1,000 population in 1982 to 0.70 deputies per 1,000 in 1990, and the direct service ratio* in urban mid-county from 0.76 deputies per 1,000 to 0.50 deputies per 1,000.

* "direct service ratio" refers to the number of sworn officers per 1,000 population assigned to street or neighborhood patrol (also known as "pure patrol"); "patrol ratio" refers to the number of direct service officers, plus any sworn support personnel such as detectives.

WHEREAS, the City of Portland has experienced difficulty in providing an urban level of police services in the annexed urban areas of mid-county, anticipates the replacement of 50 sworn officers per year for the next five years and, due to the impacts of Measure 5, at least in the near future, may be unable to fund the additional 200 sworn positions believed to be needed to meet public safety requirements and a citywide transition to community based policing.

WHEREAS, County officials, staff and citizens need to know the future direction of the Sheriff's Office law enforcement services and the future direction of the City/County policy on annexation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Multnomah County Board and the Sheriff will explore implementing the position paper, "A View to the Future", in order to transition the Sheriff's Office into a service provider of countywide law enforcement services to citizens.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners endorses the following policies concerning the Sheriff's Office in Law Enforcement:

1. As an interim measure to provide better service to all County and City residents in a cost and time-efficient manner, implementation of the proposal presented by Sheriff Bob Skipper and Chief Tom Potter, to exchange police service responsibilities in the territories east and west of NE/SE 122nd Avenue.
2. The Cities of Portland and Gresham are requested to determine and announce their future annexation policies, particularly as they relate to the urban mid-county area, and to implement a process which will assure the delivery of an adequate and equitable level of municipal services, including direct police services, in any annexed urban area they intend to serve.
3. In order to ensure life safety issues to both the citizens of unincorporated Multnomah County and Sheriff's Office patrol deputies, as annexations continue or resume in urban mid-county, no redeployment will be made in the Sheriff's Office eastside patrol strength, until the reduction of the size and population in its eastside service area produces a direct service ratio above 0.55 deputies per 1,000 population.
4. The County and City Auditors are requested to issue a joint report, on August 1 of each year, affirming the number of annexations by Portland and Gresham during the previous fiscal year, and the direct service ratios of the Multnomah County, Portland and Gresham law enforcement agencies in the annexed and unincorporated service areas, as of July 1 of each year.
5. A matrix based upon annexation rates will be developed by the Sheriff's Office which will define an orderly transition of patrol into countywide law enforcement services.
6. As transition takes place, the existing sworn law enforcement positions will be considered the minimum number of sworn positions for reallocation to other law enforcement activities.
7. The Sheriff and Board will encourage responsible annexation to residents of unincorporated Multnomah County.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sheriff and County Board focus countywide law enforcement efforts on functions that address a countywide law enforcement activity which crosses jurisdictional boundaries and can most efficiently be provided by a single agency.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Chair request the Sheriff to make recommendations on the following issues after consultation with other county law enforcement agencies:

- What enforcement services should be offered countywide.
- What level of countywide service should be offered given the Sheriff's current resources. How would questions of staffing and deployment be handled.

- How and at what level should law enforcement be provided in rural unincorporated Multnomah County.

Also special attention is requested for the following issue:

How the various law enforcement agencies, working together, may best provide child abuse response and investigation, with the goal of investigating every reported case of child abuse in Multnomah County.

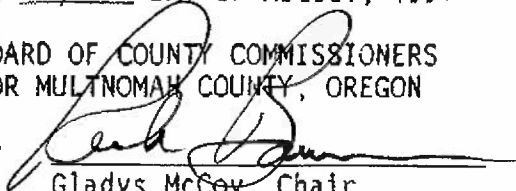
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sheriff should report to the Board by November 1, 1991.

ADOPTED THIS 15th DAY OF AUGUST, 1991

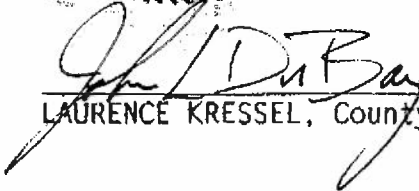
(SEAL)

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By


Gladys McCoy, Chair




LAURENCE KRESSEL, County Counsel

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