

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

ORDINANCE NO. 516

An ordinance establishing the nature of operation of the  
Juvenile Detention Home.

Multnomah County ordains as follows:

SECTION I. FINDINGS

1. Following passage of a bond measure, the Juvenile Detention Home was established in 1950 to provide programs and detention for juvenile offenders. The Home was expanded in 1963 with the addition of two wings onto the 1950 structure. These units were used by the Juvenile Court until 1972. In 1976, the Board authorized funding to use these two wings to house women prisoners on a temporary basis. While used for that purpose, the added wings, separated from the rest of the Home by a door, were called the "Claire Argow Center." These wings were closed when the Justice Center was opened in 1983. The Board has not reopened them.

2. In the 1984 session, the State Legislature adopted HB 2045, the MacLaren downsizing bill. In March, 1986, the Board of County Commissioners decided that Multnomah County should not directly participate in the plan. However, the plan is continuing with Children's Services Division doing the planning. The downsizing will affect the County by reducing the number of youth that Multnomah County can send to the state training schools from 124 to 82 by July, 1987. This downsizing will allow youth formerly in secure detention at MacLaren to be involved in non-secure programs. The success of these programs is dependent in part of the availability of secure detention in the community.

3. Children's Services Division has requested the use of two wings at the Home for this secure community backup beginning July 1, 1986. They would prefer the "Claire Argow" wings and believe the capacity provided by these wings will increase the effectiveness of their program. If other units at the Juvenile Home are provided instead of the "Argow" units, current programming at the Juvenile Detention Home will be adversely affected. In addition, the need for community backup will grow over the next two years as the downsizing plan is fully implemented.

4. The Multnomah County Downsizing Task Force did a study of 161 of the 183 Multnomah County youth committed to State training schools between January 1, 1984, and May 30, 1985.

The study found that:

- a. the average age of youth committed was 15.4 years.
- b. almost 3/4 of the youth had 11 or more court referrals at the time of their commitment. The average number of court referrals for all youth was 15.
- c. the most serious offenses of these youth at time of commitment were:
  - 1). property crimes (burglary I, robbery II, and theft I - total of 74 or 46%);
  - 2). crimes against a person (robbery I, assault I or II, and murder - total of 33 or 20%);
  - 3) sex offenses (rape, sexual abuse, sodomy - total of 21 or 13%)

In addition, the percentage of burglaries committed by juveniles in Multnomah County has been conservatively estimated at 40% to 50%.

Based on this information, the Board believes that the youth who will be a part of the downsizing plan pose a potentially greater community public safety threat than the women who would be housed there if the wings were operated as an adult correctional facility.

5. In adopting budget priorities for 1986-87, the Board placed priorities on funding prevention programs for youth. In April, 1986, the Board increased the County's business income tax in part to provide \$1 million for prevention programs for youth. To increase the effectiveness of these programs and to minimize the risk to the community of the downsizing program, the community requires adequate community detention backup.

6. In adopting budget priorities for 1986-87, the Board passed a resolution which states the Board's preference for "prevention and treatment programs over purely custodial programs in [adult] justice services". Furthermore, the Board decided that "treatment and custodial facilities should serve a maximum number of offenders at the minimum cost needed to treat or punish each offender".

7. From the 1985-86 and 1986-87 budgets, the Board has authorized expenditures for operating the Courthouse Jail and for acquiring and operating a program center facility. When open, these facilities will result in an increase of 150 jail beds for adults. Less costly programs and approaches that reduce the need for additional jail space without posing an increased risk to public safety are available. Operating "Claire Argow" as an adult facility would limit, if not preclude, funding such alternatives.

8. The Board in its 1986-7 budget did not include money to operate the "Claire Argow Center" for adult offenders. The County will receive revenue from the State of Oregon for leasing these wings for use for juveniles.

SECTION II. POLICY

The Juvenile Detention Home is a juvenile facility for the use of juvenile offender programs. The two wings referred to as the "Claire Argow Center" are part of the Juvenile Detention Home. Pursuant to this policy, the Board authorizes negotiations for a lease with the State of Oregon for the use of these two wings.

ADOPTED this 12th day of June, 1986, being the date of its second reading before the Board of County Commissioners of Multnomah County.

(SEAL)

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By Gretchen Kafoury  
Gretchen Kafoury  
Presiding Officer

AUTHENTICATED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1986.

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Dennis Buchanan  
County Executive

(See Veto Message dated June 12, 1986)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

JOHN B. LEAHY, COUNTY COUNSEL  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

BY John B. Leahy

June 17, 1986 - Board of Commissioners overrode County Executive Veto, with Commissioners Miller, Anderson, Morris and Kafoury voting Aye, and Commissioner Shadburne voting No.



# MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON

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DENNIS BUCHANAN  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

## MEMORANDUM

BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
1986 JUN 13 PM 4:05  
MULTNOMAH COUNTY  
OREGON

TO: The Board of County Commissioners  
Clerk of the Board

FROM: Dennis Buchanan, County Executive

DATE: June 12, 1986

SUBJECT: VETO AND STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO ORDINANCE NO. 516

I hereby veto Ordinance Number 516, adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on June 12, 1986, on the grounds that it gives away the only remaining jail space in the county at a time when the citizens of the county are faced with unprecedented jail overcrowding. My statement of objections follows.

The Board's action yesterday permitting the lease of the Claire Argow Center to the State Children's Services Division was pure folly bordering on the irresponsible. The 60 jail beds at Claire Argow are the last we have. There are no more. And right now Sheriff Fred Pearce is forced to use every one of them in his attempt to deal with the severe jail overcrowding. Sixty women inmates are now being housed at Claire Argow regularly in order that 60 beds may be opened up for male inmates in the Justice Center downtown. In fact, six extra beds have been moved in to deal with the overflow.

The opening date of the proposed Restitution Center in the Rajneesh Hotel is still uncertain. No one can forecast when that facility may become available. Yet, even with the additional 80 beds in the Restitution Center, there is still a long range need for the 60 beds for adult offenders at Claire Argow.

Moreover, and this is probably the most important point, the county is required by law to provide jail space for certain sentenced and pre-sentenced offenders. It's a state mandate. We have no choice in the matter.

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On the other hand, the county has no mandate to provide jail beds for juveniles released from the state-operated Maclaren Home. The county has not done so in the past and should not do so in the future. We are, in fact, taking on a state problem at a time when we can't even deal with the overcrowding of our county-owned jails. That's the folly in the Board's decision.

I find the Board's action particularly irrational because there are now two wings in the Donald E. Long Home which could be used by the State's Children's Services Division should that be necessary after juveniles from the MacLaren Center are returned to this community. There is absolutely no reason for the Board to declare that the juveniles can be jailed only in the Claire Argow wings of this building.

I call on the Board of Commissioners to reconsider its action and allow my veto of the ordinance to stand.

DATED this 13th day of June, 1986

  
Dennis Buchanan  
County Executive