

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY

In the Matter of a Process to Determine )	RESOLUTION
Future Delivery of Law Enforcement )	91-118
Services in Multnomah County )	

WHEREAS, the passage of Measure 5 has created serious financial problems for the State of Oregon and for many local governments throughout the state.

WHEREAS, local governments in Multnomah County have experienced severe revenue shortfalls because of Measure 5 constraints.

WHEREAS, local governments in Multnomah County are looking for ways to eliminate duplication of services and provide more cost-effective services through consolidation and improved cooperation.

WHEREAS, the Citizen Committee on City/County Service Consolidation has suggested that the County and the Cities explore merging law enforcement operations.

WHEREAS, county officials, staff and citizens need to know if the consolidation of police services is feasible, would actually be cost-effective and would provide better service to all our citizens.

WHEREAS, Multnomah County Sheriff Bob Skipper and Portland Chief of Police Tom Potter have developed a draft "Concept Paper on Police Services Plan". (Exhibit A)

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board recommends formation of a Police Services Planning Group, as presented in the Skipper-Potter Concept Paper, to explore the various issues related to the future delivery of police services in Multnomah County.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that membership on the Planning Group should include the Sheriff of Multnomah County, the Police Chiefs of Gresham, Fairview, Portland, and Troutdale, the City Managers of Maywood Park and Wood Village, the District Attorney of Multnomah County, and one representative each from the Portland Chamber of Commerce's Multnomah County Task Force, the Citizen Committee on City/County Consolidation in Public Safety, the City/County Citizen Budget Committee and the Portland Citizens Crime Commission, and other appropriate agencies. The Auditors of Multnomah County, Gresham, and Portland may be requested to participate when deemed appropriate by the Police Services Planning Group.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in addition to issues presented in the Concept Paper, the Police Services Planning Group should also make recommendations on the following specific issues:

#### ADMINISTRATION

How law enforcement agencies could be combined into a consolidated or jointly operated unit.

What administrative and operational efficiencies are possible with such a consolidation.

#### SERVICES

What law 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 law enforcement should be provided in rural unincorporated Multnomah County.

#### POSSIBLE IMPEDIMENTS TO CONSOLIDATION

What legal problems or obstacles would be encountered.

How would concerns about loss of local control be addressed.

How would the issues of different salaries and benefits, including pension plans, be addressed.

How would the issue of seniority and retention of rank be addressed.

Would merger into an existing agency or into a new agency provide the most promise for success.

#### ALTERNATIVES TO CONSOLIDATION

If consolidation of police services is determined not to be feasible, or could not be implemented within a reasonable span of time, what improvements in cooperation between the various agencies promise the most cost-effective results.

Short of full consolidation, are there areas of partial consolidation which could be implemented.

What redeployment of existing police services promises more cost-effective or better services.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board requests  
a report from the Police Services Planning Group by November 1,



ADOPTED THIS 15 DAY OF AUGUST, 1991.

(SEAL)

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By

Gladys McCoy, Chair

REVIEWED

Laurence Kressel, County Counsel

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EXHIBIT "A"

CONCEPT PAPER ON POLICE SERVICES PLAN

This document is a proposal for realigning police patrol boundaries between the City and County, and for establishing a planning process through which the Portland Police Bureau, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, and other police agencies in the county work together to establish how police services will be provided over the next decade.

The current state of Portland's annexations has left many unincorporated islands, and meandering boundaries, thus causing confusion for officers and residents about where jurisdictional boundaries lie. To increase efficiency, we are proposing that patrol districts be traded so that the Portland Police Bureau patrols all areas west of 122nd Avenue, and the Sheriff's Office patrols all areas east. The change would benefit both agencies, and the public as well.

While we propose this action as a short-term solution to a current problem, we are aware of long-standing law enforcement issues between the City and County that need to be resolved. We propose a Planning Group be established to study crime, demographics, growth trends, and projected annexations. This and other information will be used to develop a proposed long range plan for providing police services in Multnomah County. This plan would be brought before the respective political bodies for approval.

This Planning Group would be made up of local police agencies in Multnomah County, as well as government, community, and business representatives. They would develop a planning process which would culminate in a 5-10 year plan for providing police services to the citizens of Multnomah County.

An appointment to this Task Force would not be a duty to be taken lightly. However, both the City and County would benefit greatly from a long range planning and problem solving approach to the provision of police services in this region.

Sheriff Bob Skipper and Chief Tom Potter support this proposal, and pledge to work together in a spirit of mutual cooperation and support. If approved, the other County police officials and their respective political bodies should be asked to join the discussion and planning process.