

CITY OF GEARHART

Staff Report

For City Council Meeting - 2/1/2023

Subject - Ordinances/Resolutions - Resolution #977 - A Request for Clatsop County to be Included in State Emergency Declaration Due to Homelessness

Synopsis: The City received the attached correspondence from County Manager Don Bohn. It indicated that the County Board of Commissioners would be resolving to request the Governor include Clatsop County in her recently issued Executive Order No. 23-02; Clatsop was excluded because we are located within the "Balance of State" (Rural) Continuum of Care. The Commission adopted the attached resolution in January. It has been adapted to show City support should the Council choose to adopt.

Council Options:

- Motion to approve Resolution #977;
- Make changes and motion to approve Resolution #977 as amended;
- Take other action as desired by Council.

Recommended Motion: Staff recommends Council approve Resolution #977 to show support to our County Commissioners and represent continuity of need to the Governor.

Legal Analysis: N/A

Financial Analysis: Per the League of Oregon Cities:

The order also establishes a MAC team in the tri-county Metro region, led by Governor Kotek or her designee, and repurposes up to \$40 million of existing 2021-23 funds at Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) to respond to the emergency.

Governor Kotek had announced a \$130 million budget proposal [on inauguration day] to: support at least another 1,200 Oregonians experiencing unsheltered homelessness to move off the streets within a year; expand shelter capacity by 600 beds; and prevent homelessness for more than 8,000 households. In her inaugural address this week, she urged the Legislature to start the 2023 legislative session by taking up this investment package as quickly as possible, and to build upon it with a comprehensive housing and homelessness package by the end of the session. The full Governor's Recommended Budget is expected to be published on Feb. 1.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chad

Fwd: County Resolution - Request to be included in Homelessness Emergency Declaration

1 message

Chad Sweet <chadsweet@cityofgearhart.com>
To: Krysti Ficker <krysti@cityofgearhart.com>

Thu, Jan 26, 2023 at 10:20 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Don Bohn** <dbohn@clatsopcounty.gov>

Date: Tue, Jan 24, 2023, 8:58 AM

Subject: County Resolution - Request to be included in Homelessness Emergency Declaration

To: Spencer Kyle <skyle@cityofseaside.us>, Bruce St. Denis <stdenis@ci.cannon-beach.or.us>, Chad Sweet <chadsweet@cityofgearhart.com>, Scott Spence <sspence@astoria.or.us>, Esther Moberg <emoberg@ci.warrenton.or.us>

Cc: Mark Kujala <mkujala@clatsopcounty.gov>

Good Morning –

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners will be considering the attached Resolution (or slightly modified version thereof) as an off-docket item Wednesday evening. The Resolution requests the Governor include Clatsop County in the recent Executive Order declaring a homelessness emergency. Only 11 of the 36 counties were included in the original order – so many rural counties are now asking to be included. We are not sure what criteria will be used for inclusion– but wanted to start the process.

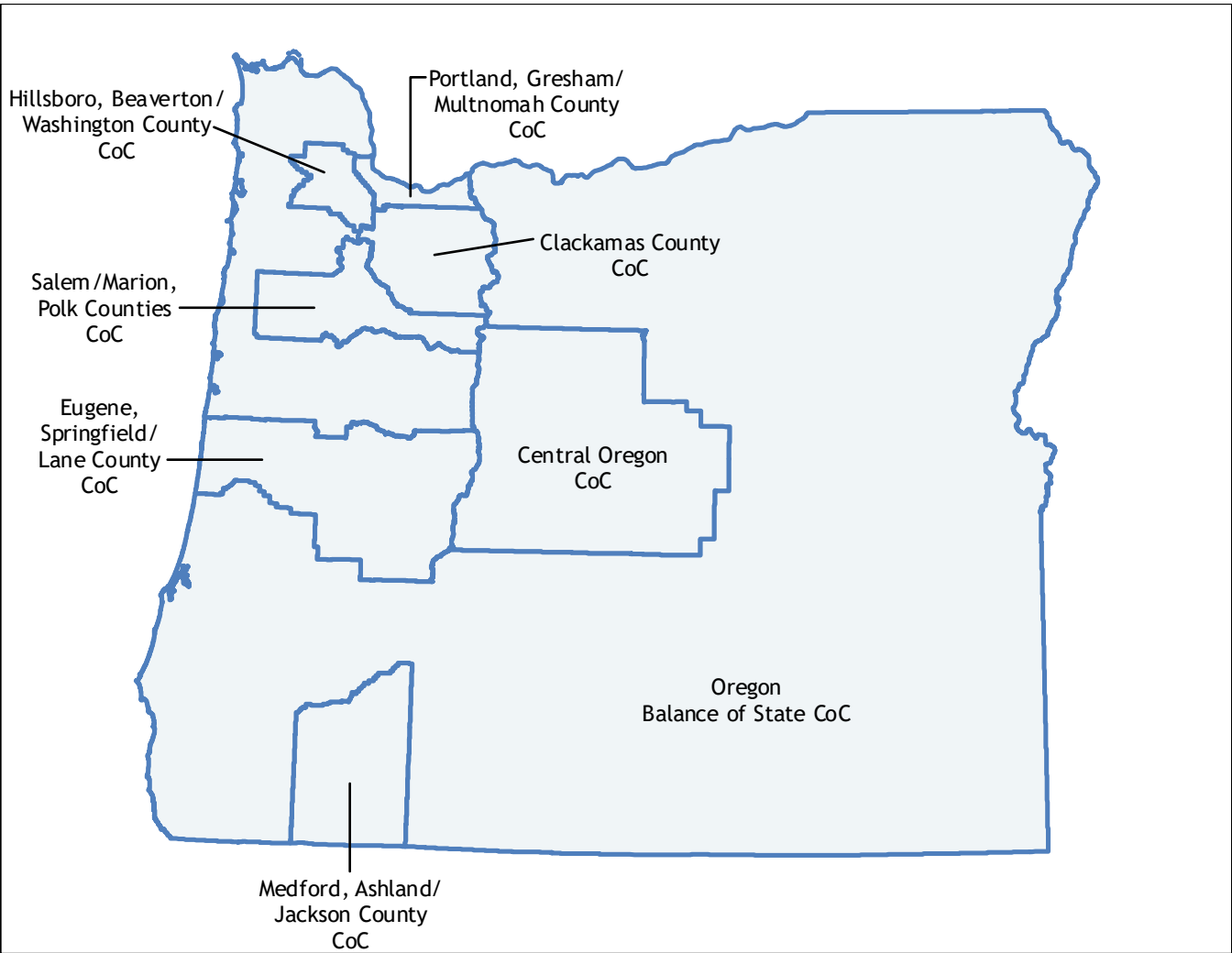
The County would appreciate the cities support through a letter or adoption of a similar resolution.

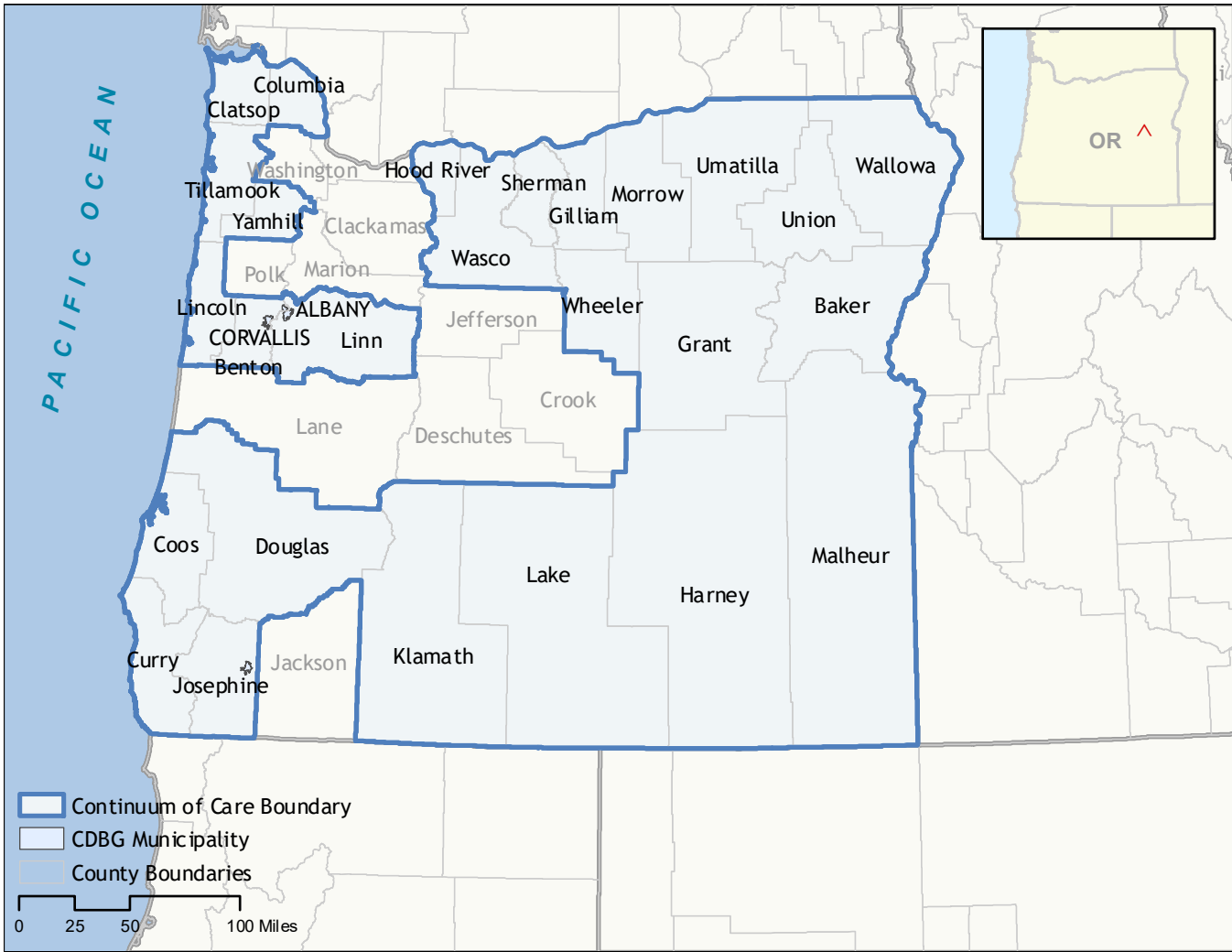
Please reach out with any questions or comments.

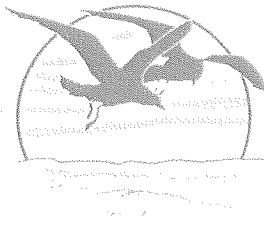
Thanks.

Don

Don Bohn







CITY OF
GEARHART

**A REQUEST FOR CLATSOP COUNTY TO)
BE INCLUDED IN STATE EMERGENCY) RESOLUTION #977
DECLARATION DUE TO)
HOMELESSNESS)**

Whereas, Governor Kotek issued a Homelessness State of Emergency on January 10, 2023, but did not include 25 of the 36 Oregon Counties (including Clatsop); and

Whereas, from 2017 to 2021, the number of people experiencing homelessness in Clatsop County increased by approximately 32%; and

Whereas, nearly 900 individuals experience homelessness in Clatsop County; representing 22.7 homeless people per 1,000 population; and

Whereas, Clatsop County has the highest per capita homelessness rate in the State of Oregon and this rate is nearly double the next highest county; and

Whereas, homelessness in Clatsop County has caused and is threatening to cause widespread injury to people and property, human suffering, and financial loss; and

Whereas, local jurisdictions and businesses have spent and continue to direct significant resources to address the impact of people experiencing homelessness, including but not limited to, collecting and disposing of debris, garbage, waste and biohazards to restore land to intended public purpose and use; and

Whereas, Clatsop County has prioritized funding for homeless services as part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding strategy and the Clatsop County Strategic Plan; and

Whereas, Clatsop County applied, and was selected to participate in Project Turnkey 2.0 to expand the number and availability of emergency shelter beds; and

Whereas, Clatsop County is over represented with the number of people experiencing homelessness and does not have adequate resources to address the critical services and infrastructure necessary to humanely serve this vulnerable population; and

Whereas, ORS 401.165 et seq. empowers the Governor to declare a state of emergency upon determining that an emergency has occurred or is imminent; and

Whereas, the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners has requested the Governor find that the unsheltered homeless in Clatsop County has caused and is threatening to

cause widespread injury to people and property, human suffering, and financial loss and thus constitutes an emergency under ORS 401.025(1); and

Whereas, the City Council of the City of Gearhart supports the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners request; and

Whereas, to reduce homelessness and its impacts, this declaration is necessary to expand local shelter capacity, to rehouse people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, and to prevent homelessness to the greatest extent possible; and

Whereas, Clatsop County and local jurisdictions do not have adequate resources to address this critical public health, public safety and humanitarian crisis.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Gearhart located within Clatsop County requests the following:

1. The Governor, through Oregon Emergency Management, include Clatsop County in the State of Emergency Due to Homelessness and for Clatsop County to have access to all subsequent programs, services, technical assistance and resources to address the homelessness crisis throughout Clatsop County, including municipalities.

ADOPTED this 1st day of February, 2023.

ATTEST:

Kerry Smith, Gearhart Mayor

Chad Sweet, City Administrator