

RESOLUTION 2024-005

DECLARING SUPPORT FOR THE WASHINGTON COUNTY JUSTICE SYSTEM; A COMMITMENT TO PARTNER WITH THE STATE AND COUNTY IN SECURING FUNDING AND BUILD SUPPORT; REQUESTING THE STATE FULLY FUND COURT SYSTEM

WHEREAS, We recognize that access to justice is a fundamental right of every community member and a core function of government. A right without a remedy is no right at all; and

WHEREAS, We recognize that a well working justice system requires services that are provided and funded by cities, counties and the state; and

WHEREAS, We are currently experiencing a critical loss of capacity in our justice system in Washington County leading to a system where our city's residents are not receiving adequate services or justice; and

WHEREAS, The data shows that Washington County has experienced a massive growth in population over the past three decades and the state has not allocated a like amount of increase in judicial resources, staffing and court facilities to our county; and

WHEREAS, State Court studies have shown that in comparison to other Oregon counties, Washington County needs four more judicial positions to provide services to our community commensurate to other Oregon counties.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF SHERWOOD RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

- <u>Section 1.</u> We pledge the city will support our part of the county justice system by continuing to adequately fund and support our law enforcement agency, our municipal court, and any other service that is part of a community justice system and which for which our city is responsible.
- <u>Section 2.</u> We call upon State Legislators representing Washington County to obtain adequate funding for Washington County Circuit Court, including but not limited to; four more judges, staffing to support those judicial offices and adequate courthouse facilities.
- <u>Section 3.</u> As part of our recognition that the county justice system requires a partnership between courts, cities, the county and the state, that we build a better dialogue between all of the justice system partners.
- Section 4. This Resolution shall become effective upon its approval and adoption.

Duly passed by the City Council this 6th day of February, 2024.

Tim Rosener/Mayor

Attest:

Sylvia Murphy, MMC, City Recorder