



March 3, 2021

House Subcommittee on Equitable Policing
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill 2575 Directs Department of Justice to establish program for awarding grants to law enforcement agencies and local governments for training of groups and agencies that interact with persons who have experienced trauma

Dear Chair Bynum, Vice-Chair Noble, and Members of the House Subcommittee on Equitable Policing,

I am writing to express the City of Beaverton's support for House Bill 2575 and the establishment of a grant program focused on persons who have experienced trauma. The City of Beaverton has a long history of working innovatively in modernizing its public safety and the judicial systems. Our Municipal Court specifically looks for ways to better inform their interactions with community members. Recently, our court partnered with Bridges to Change to help connect people with resources, such as immediate food and clothing needs, and to help individuals engage with other local organizations.

Presently, our police department staffs bike teams which play a significant role in connecting vulnerable community members with resources, diverting them when possible from further involvement in the criminal justice system. One of the most visible programs surrounding trauma-informed work is the police department's participation with the Family Justice Center, working with domestic violence survivors. The availability of grants under HB 2575 has the potential to expand these types of successful programs into other needed service areas.

In September 2019, the Beaverton City Council and the Washington County Board of Commissioners allocated one full-time mental health liaison to work out of the Beaverton Municipal Court. The Mental Health Liaison attends most court sessions and regularly coordinates with defendants, the Judges, court staff and security, Beaverton Police Department (BPD), Victim Services, City Attorneys, Defense Counsel, Jail Medical Services, the BSOBR DUII Program, local treatment providers, and others to provide intervention for individuals needing behavioral

health support. Their presence within the Municipal Court lessens the risk of defendants not following through with referrals and builds a positive interaction between the defendant and the criminal justice system.

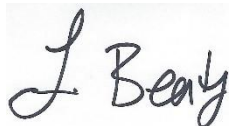
These programs offer huge benefits to our community members. With the additional opportunity, through House Bill 2575, to provide training for our Mental Health Liaison, our police officers, prosecutors and judges we can work to mitigate further harm while also lessening the negative interactions of defendants with the justice system. We recognize the positive impact of training staff to interact with persons who have experienced trauma, especially in the justice system. At the same time, providing these opportunities to staff is extremely costly and is often a barrier for local governments who want to explore additional trainings and chances for improved community relationships. House Bill 2575 offers an avenue to achieve those training benefits.

The calls for public safety reform are heard loud and clear here at the local level. To meet the emerging needs of our communities, policing agencies will need to have the right resources to embrace the community in many different capacities. The addition of financial support through a grant fund for trauma informed training, would allow us to launch meaningful opportunities for increased learning, positive interactions with the community, and lessening harm.

For these reasons, we support House Bill 2575.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lacey Beaty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lacey Beaty
Mayor